



# **Playground Strategy and Action Plan 2013 - 2023**

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1.	Introduction .....	1
1.1.	Key Principles .....	1
1.2.	Strategic Context .....	2
1.2.1.	The Council Vision .....	2
1.2.2.	Background: Previous Council Playground Strategies .....	3
1.3.	The Benefits of Unstructured Play and Playgrounds .....	4
1.4.	Children and Play in the City of Greater Dandenong .....	5
2.	Playground Hierarchy and Distribution.....	8
2.1.	The City’s Existing Playground Stock.....	8
2.2.	Playground Hierarchy .....	9
2.3.	Proposed Playground Numbers .....	12
2.4.	District Playground Network.....	14
2.5.	Neighbourhood Playground Network.....	16
2.6.	Local Playgrounds Network .....	19
2.7.	Proposed Playground Removals .....	23
2.7.1.	Protocol for Removing Playground Equipment .....	25
3.	Playground Design and Management Guidelines .....	26
3.1.	Standards and Risk Management .....	27
3.2.	Play Value .....	28
3.3.	Community Safety .....	32
3.4.	Accessibility and All Abilities Play .....	33
3.5.	Play Setting and Whole Park Design .....	39
3.6.	Community Consultation .....	43
3.7.	Solar Radiation.....	44
3.8.	Integrated Artwork .....	45
3.9.	Playgrounds Directly Provided by Developers .....	46
3.10.	Environmental Considerations.....	47
3.11.	Urban Playgrounds .....	48
3.12.	Teenage Activities .....	48
3.13.	Playground Facilities that aren’t Council Owned or Managed .....	49
3.14.	Implications on Playground Maintenance .....	49
4.	Playground Development Action Plan .....	51
4.1.	Playground Lifespan and Upgrade Frequency .....	51
4.2.	Playground Assessments and Criteria.....	51
4.3.	Playground Development Action Plan .....	52
4.4.	Recommended Annual Funding Allocation.....	58
4.4.1.	Funding Mechanisms .....	58
4.4.2.	Funding for Supporting Park Infrastructure.....	58
4.5.	Reviewing the Strategy .....	59
5.	References .....	60
	Appendices.....	62
	APPENDIX 1: Playground Network by Suburb .....	63
	APPENDIX 2: Index of Playground Photos .....	70

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## TABLES

Table 1: Estimated Number of Children Aged 0-14 by Suburb (2011) .....	5
Table 2: Victoria in Future 2012 - Greater Dandenong Population Forecast .....	6
Table 3: Characteristics of District, Neighbourhood and Local Playgrounds.....	10
Table 4: Proposed Playground Numbers.....	12
Table 5: List of District Playgrounds .....	14
Table 6: List of Neighbourhood Playgrounds .....	17
Table 7: List of Local Playgrounds .....	20
Table 8: Proposed Playground Removals .....	23
Table 9: Design Principles for Children with a Disability .....	35
Table 10: Total Playground Asset Base .....	51
Table 11: Playground Development Action Plan.....	53

## FIGURES

Figure 1: Proposed Playground Network .....	13
Figure 2: Proposed District Playground Network .....	15
Figure 3: Proposed Neighbourhood Playground Network .....	18
Figure 4: Proposed Local Playground Network .....	22
Figure 5: Proposed Playground Removals.....	24
Figure 6: Playground Network - Dandenong North.....	63
Figure 7: Playground Network – Dandenong and Dandenong South .....	64
Figure 8: Playground Network - Noble Park North.....	65
Figure 9: Playground Network - Noble Park.....	66
Figure 10: Playground Network - Springvale.....	67
Figure 11: Playground Network - Springvale South .....	68
Figure 12: Playground Network - Keysborough .....	69

**2004 Playground Strategy prepared by:** Urban and Open Space Planning, City of Greater Dandenong

**Revised Playground Strategy (2013) prepared by:** Planning and Design Department, City of Greater Dandenong.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

The City of Greater Dandenong is committed to providing a diverse range of quality, fun, accessible, exceptionally designed and well maintained playgrounds. The City's playgrounds provide opportunities for unstructured play, which is essential for children's physical, cognitive, social and emotional development. Playgrounds can also serve as community focal points, facilitating social interaction and inclusion, thereby enhancing community wellbeing.

The *Playground Strategy and Action Plan 2013* sets out a long term plan to achieve a comprehensive playground network that meets the current and future recreational needs of Greater Dandenong residents over the next 20 years.

The key outcomes of this strategy include:

- a three-tiered playground hierarchy to guide future playground development;
- analysis of key issues affecting playground design, planning and management;
- *Playground Design and Management Guidelines* to inform the design and planning of all playground development and removals within the City;
- a community consultation protocol for playground redevelopments to ensure that residents can have input into the design of their local playground;
- a *Playground Development Action Plan* to facilitate the staged installation and upgrade of playgrounds across the City over the next 20 years, and
- provision for adequate ongoing capital funding for the establishment and redevelopment of playgrounds across the City, enabling direct linkages with Council's Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

The scope of this strategy is limited to public, freely accessible play facilities designed for children primarily between the ages of two and twelve. Playgrounds located on school grounds, kindergartens or those that can only be accessed via a fee have not been considered in this strategy. Likewise, recreational or sports facilities for youth (such as BMX tracks, skate parks and half basketball courts) are not addressed.

## 1.1. Key Principles

The following goals have underpinned the development of the *Playground Strategy and Action Plan 2013*:

- improve the design and standard of all playgrounds throughout the City as they become due for upgrading by focusing on enhancing play value, accessibility and integrated park design;
- provide an equitable distribution of playgrounds across the City and identify gaps in the playground network that Council can work toward rectifying over time;
- develop a comprehensive action and implementation plan for the staged upgrade and removal of existing playgrounds and the installation of new playgrounds, and
- retain the successful maintenance and inspection regime that ensures that the City's playgrounds are safe and structurally sound.

To deliver our vision, all playgrounds within the City will be developed in accordance with the following principles.

The City's playgrounds will:

- provide opportunities for children to engage in physical, cognitive, and social play, regardless of a child's age, capability or developmental stage and offer a diverse number of play activities, stimulating and challenging to the mind and body;
- demonstrate exemplary, innovative and contemporary design, offering a variety of unstructured, stimulating, challenging and fun play experiences;
- be distributed equitably throughout the city, within walking distance of most households;
- be utilised and accessible to all members of the community including children and carers

with physical, social and emotional disabilities;

- compliment, enhance and celebrate the unique qualities of each park location;
- contribute to the safety of each reserve and be located in accessible and inviting settings;
- be safe, readily repaired and maintained;
- consider community ideas on their design and siting;
- encourage “flow on” or complimentary uses in the City’s parks and reserves;
- be inclusive of supporting amenities such as seating, paths, shade trees, garden beds and drinking fountains;
- be themed in some way and, particularly for larger scale playgrounds, integrate artwork and natural elements (such as logs, planting, boulders, mounds etc.) into the play setting to inspire creative and sensory play responses and add value to the play experience;
- be environmentally sustainable where suitably durable and cost effective materials and processes are available;
- be developed in accordance with the three-tiered playground hierarchy established in this strategy and respond to Council’s capital works and maintenance budget.

## 1.2. Strategic Context

### 1.2.1. The Council Vision

An extensive community and stakeholder consultation process underpinned the development of Council’s overarching Community Plan – *Imagine 2030*. Community aspirations and priorities form a 20 year vision for the municipality. The importance of public parks and open spaces in the City were particularly stressed, not only as they enable residents to engage in recreation and physical activity, but also for the critical role they play for residents as social hubs and gathering places.

Community vision statements relating to outdoor activity and sports were developed as part of the *Imagine 2030* community consultation process. Statements pertinent to this strategy are:

*Sport and recreation opportunities will be affordable, diverse and accessible to all, especially for young people, families and those less well off than others. There will be opportunities for people of all backgrounds and ages to take part.*

*Everyone in Greater Dandenong will have access to parks and open space in their localities to enjoy and recreate in.*

The *Council Plan* provides a “four year road map” for the municipality via five strategic objectives which accord with and seek to implement the vision established in *Imagine 2030*. These strategic objectives guide all of Council’s activities, plans, strategies, priorities and budgets over this four year period. The *Playground Strategy* fits within and assists Council in achieving a ‘*City Planned for the Future*’ and ‘*A Healthy Community and Environment*’.

The vision and goals of the *Imagine 2030* and *Council Plan* have guided the preparation of this strategy.

The *Playground Strategy* does not sit in isolation from other Council programs and strategies. It is integrally linked with, and supports, many other Council plans including:

- Places for People: Open Space in Greater Dandenong, Open Space Strategy (2009)
- A Healthier Environment, A Healthier Community: Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2010)
- Community Wellbeing Plan (2010-2014)
- “The Future of Sport in CGD”: Sports Facilities Plan (2011)
- An Inclusive Model for Leisure (2004)
- Leisure Strategy (2003)

- Healthy Kids and Families: Where our Future Begins... Municipal Early Years Strategy 2010-2014
- Disability Action Plan 2009-2013
- Cultural Diversity Strategy 2010 – 2015
- Public Art Strategy 2008-2013

This strategy also:

- reflects the directions established in locality or parks specific master plans such the master plans for Ross Reserve and Dandenong (2007 and 2012) and the *Dandenong South Residential Area Urban Design and Social Needs Framework Plan* (2010);
- considers the outcomes of extensive community consultation undertaken as part of the *Imagine 2030* campaign, the *Open Space Strategy* (2009) and the *Sports Facility Plan* (2011), and
- is mindful of major Council's strategies currently being developed, including the *Recreation Strategy* and *Youth Strategy*.

### 1.2.2. Background: Previous Council Playground Strategies

In 1996 Council adopted a *Playground Hierarchy* document which was later updated in 1999 and 2001. These strategies:

- strategically addressed the range of issues relating to the playground location and provision in the municipality;
- included principles to determine the distribution of playgrounds, catchment areas and design;
- identified sites where play equipment should be phased out to ensure an even distribution of playgrounds across the community and reduce the overall number of sites to be maintained by the City, and
- incorporated detailed action plans outlining Council's playground redevelopment and removal priorities.

The *Playground Strategy and Action Plan 2004* provided a more balanced approach; emphasising asset maintenance and redevelopment as well as comprehensively addressing broader design issues. The strategy provided clear design guidelines to improve design standards around the themes of play value, accessibility, whole park design, artwork integration, community safety and environmental considerations. The *Playground Strategy and Action Plan 2004* reviewed the playground distribution and hierarchy, rationalising some facilities where necessary. The accompanying Action Plan assessed the physical condition and play value of each playground to determine upgrade priorities.

Implementation of *Playground Strategy and Action Plan 2004* - in accordance with *the Playground Design and Management Guidelines* - has led to improved design and play value outcomes and a more equitable distribution of safe playgrounds across the City.

The underlying principles of the 2004 strategy are still relevant and reflect current best practice in playground planning and development. The *Playground Strategy and Action Plan 2004* has been reviewed to:

- take into account recently adopted Council strategies and demographic trends;
- consider current trends in playground provision, siting and design;
- consider the outcomes of extensive community consultations undertaken as part of the *Imagine 2030* campaign, the *Open Space Strategy* (2009) and the *Sports Facility Plan* (2011);
- update the *Playground Development Action Plan* to:
  - reflect the age, condition, appearance and play value of the City's playgrounds;
  - ensure that the playground hierarchy and development priorities accord with park hierarchy established in Council's *Open Space Strategy* (2009) and takes into account other major open space and sports facility planning and developments that have occurred since 2004;
  - facilitate the equitable distribution of playgrounds across the City that takes into consideration newly emerging residential areas (such as the Somerfield Estate, Meridian and Metro 3175) and major infrastructure projects constructed since 2004 that may impact on local playground catchments and pedestrian accessibility (such as EastLink);

- reflect the current capital cost to redevelop play facilities that will deliver playgrounds of a scale, design and play value that meets the expectations of residents;
- considers the potential internal and external funding mechanisms to implement the Action Plan, and
- provide for the maintenance of a manageable number of playgrounds.

### 1.3. The Benefits of Unstructured Play and Playgrounds

#### The Right to Engage in Play and Recreation

The right to free and unstructured play has been enshrined in Article 31 of the *Convention of the Rights of the Child* (1989):

*State Parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts*

As a signatory to this convention, member states (including Australia) must:

*...respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life, and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.*

The City of Greater Dandenong has committed to working towards the development of a 'Child and Family Friendly City'; essentially, the embodiment of the Convention of the Rights of the Child at the local government level.

#### Play, Health and Wellbeing

In recent years, media attention and scholarly research have become consumed with the decline of children's health and wellbeing, particularly focusing on increasing rates of childhood obesity (Catford and Caterson 2003). Obesity can contribute to other chronic conditions including cardiovascular disease and diabetes (Catford and Caterson 2003, Frank, Engelke & Schmid 2003). Other Australian studies have revealed that 30% of children have low fitness levels, with 60% of children having moderate to poor fundamental motor skills (Timperio, Salmon and Ball 2004).

The *National Physical Activity Guidelines for Australians* recommend that children aged 5 to 12 should undertake a combination of moderate and vigorous activities for at least 60 minutes a day.

The benefits of unstructured play are well recognised. The *Good Play Space Guide: "I can play too"* (DPCD, 2007) notes that unstructured play is essential to children's physical, social, cognitive and emotional development:

*All children need to play. All children have the right to play. When children play they are not just filling in time, they are learning to interpret their world.*

*Play facilitates the learning of life skills and for this reason, the provision of quality outdoor play spaces is vitally important in local communities.*

However, the capacity of children to engage in unstructured play is impacted by a number of trends, including:

- parental fears around traffic and personal safety which, over time, has constrained children's independent access to the public realm;
- the increasing popularity of sedentary "screen" activities (such as video and computer games, TV etc);
- increasing urban consolidation which has diminished children's access to natural, unplanned and wild environments which, according to Richard Louv (2005), is contributing a new phenomena of "nature-deficit disorder" (Louv 2005);

- the increasingly structured nature of children’s play, involving play dates and organised sports activities, which has also been dubbed “turbo-charged childhood” (Malone 2007), and
- the diminishing role of the public street in children’s play geographies.

By providing an active environment for children to engage in safe, unstructured and stimulating outdoor play and physical activity, purpose built public playgrounds can positively contribute to children’s (and carers) health and wellbeing.

Moreover, playgrounds are not simply spaces for children to socialise and play; they can become community gathering places. These “community melting pots” provide opportunities for children, parents and carers of all ages and backgrounds to interact, socialise and form neighbourhood friendships. In this sense they are ideal vehicles for improving and enhancing community connectedness and social inclusion. This is further supported by the findings of Council’s *Imagine 2030* visioning which reported:

*Many multicultural communities placed special value on the opportunities which parks, outdoor facilities and green spaces give for families and social activity.*

*This links with the strong custom of gathering socially in public places – “street life” which characterises many migrant cultures.*

#### 1.4. Children and Play in the City of Greater Dandenong

A review of Greater Dandenong’s demographic and socio-economic profile is essential in determining the future demand for playgrounds and play spaces across the municipality. This section briefly outlines: the relevant demographic and socio-economic data driving the demand for play spaces in the City; the barriers to play and participation in sports and, use and perceptions of the City’s open space network. The implications for playground provision in the City are then discussed.

##### Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile

In 2012, there were approximately 9,600 children of 0 to 4 years in Greater Dandenong, 8,400 aged 5 to 9, and 8,200 aged 10 to 14 years. The concentration of children across the municipality varies (Table 1).

**Table 1: Estimated Number of Children Aged 0-14 by Suburb (2011)**

Suburb	Number of children aged 0-14
Dandenong	4,785
Dandenong North	4,055
Keysborough	3,854
Noble Park	4,909
Noble Park North	1,324
Springvale	3,261
Springvale South	2,320

The future population of children in the municipality is uncertain and will depend largely on the rate and level of new housing development in the City, and the proportion designed for, and marketed to, young families. Recently released state government population forecasts (DPCD 2012) expect the number of children aged 0 to 14 years to increase by 5,757 children by 2031 (Table 2). Despite this increase in raw numbers, it is expected that children aged 0 to 14 will make up a similar proportion of the total resident population in 2031.



**Table 2: Victoria in Future 2012 - Greater Dandenong Population Forecast**

Age Category	2011	2021	2031	Change: 2011-2031	% Change: 2011-2031
<b>0 – 4 years</b>	9,415	10,503	10,448	+1,033	11%
<b>5-9 years</b>	8,193	10,397	10,377	+2,184	27%
<b>10-14 years</b>	8,188	9,564	10,728	+2,540	31%

In 2011, nearly four-fifths of the 47,000 households in Greater Dandenong were families, and the balance lone person households. Among the 37,000 family households, 30% were couples, 46% couples with children, 19% headed by a single parent and 5% were other family types.

The City of Greater Dandenong is the most culturally diverse municipality in Victoria. In 2011, approximately 60% of Greater Dandenong residents were born overseas (in contrast to 33% in Melbourne); with residents drawn from over 150 different birthplaces. 19,000 residents, or one in seven residents, have limited fluency in the use of spoken English, around three times the metropolitan percentage.

While Greater Dandenong is a major source of jobs, the city experiences relatively higher levels of economic disadvantage than metropolitan Melbourne. At \$395 per week, median individual gross incomes in Greater Dandenong were the lowest in Melbourne in 2011, and 67% of the metropolitan Melbourne average of \$592. Local unemployment is substantially higher than metropolitan levels. In 2006 20% of two parent families did not have a parent in paid work, again, representing the highest proportion across Melbourne.

Access to private transport is limited for many families, especially those with young children and recently arrived settlers. In 2006, 37% of two parent families with children up to the age of six had either one or no car, compared to the 23% of such families across Melbourne. 17% of one parent families with children below the age of 6 did not have access to a car, compared to 14% in Melbourne.

In 2006, 2.7% of all children aged 0 to 14 living in the City of Greater Dandenong had a disability.

#### Use and Perceptions of Public Open Space in Greater Dandenong

Council has recently conducted significant community consultation and research to guide the preparation of the *Open Space Strategy* (2009) and *Sports Facilities Plan* (2011). The findings from these consultations (Stratcorp 2008; Sykes Consulting 2011) also shed light on the use of playgrounds across the City:

- While the majority of parks are used for less than 30 minutes or up to hour, the duration of the park visit increases in households with children. Park visits for households with families are likely to extend over one hour.
- Most residents surveyed use the parks closest to their home, with the majority living within 1km of the park they visit most often. Walking was the predominant mode of travel used, taking approximately 5 to 15 minutes.
- Playgrounds were cited by residents as one of the three best features nominated about parks visited most often (particularly in Noble Park North, Springvale South and Dandenong).
- One of the most popular activities or “attractors” for visiting the City’s parks is play (or supervising play).
- When residents were asked to nominate what improvements they would make to parks in the municipality, only 9% suggested “better playgrounds”. Making parks safer, planting more trees and better maintenance was suggested by 20%, 18% and 16% of residents respectively.
- Generally, residents are satisfied with the quality and distribution of parks and believe the City’s open space meets their recreational needs.
- Residents have suggested that provision of supporting amenities (such as drinking fountains and seating) and weather protection should be considered in the playground design and that the play facilities should be integrated with broader park infrastructure, recreational uses (particularly kick-about areas), picnic and amenity uses and path networks.

### Barriers to Play and Organised Sports

The City of Greater Dandenong *Leisure Strategy* (2003) and the *Sport and Recreation Participation Study* (2011) revealed the key barriers to participating in sport and leisure include cost, limited time, safety concerns, limited transport and a lack of awareness of recreational opportunities that currently exist in the city. Council's *An Inclusive Model for Leisure* (2004) further identified that participation in sport is lower for people with disabilities or from a CALD background.

A national study (ABS 2009) investigating children's participation in cultural and leisure activities found participation in organised sports is generally lower for:

- Children from one parent families;
- Children born overseas in non-English speaking countries;
- Children where both parents were born overseas in non English speaking countries; and
- Children where one or both parents are unemployed.

### The Way Forward – Implications for Playground Provision

In light of the barriers to participation in sport highlighted above, it would seem that not all children in the municipality may participate in recreational and sporting activities equally. Particularly affected are children with disabilities and children from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

The *Playground Design and Management Guidelines* (found in Section 3) emphasise the need to design inclusive play settings for children of all abilities and reduce the physical barriers to accessing playgrounds. The guidelines also detail a community consultation protocol for playground redevelopments to ensure that residents can have input into the design of their local playground. The diverse multicultural make up of the community particularly warrants community engagement, as play traditions and environments can be remarkably different in other cultures.

Other significant barriers affecting participation in sport and recreation, which particularly resonate with the socio-economic profile of Greater Dandenong, are limited access to private transport and limited disposable income to spend on organised sporting activities. In light of this, and the importance residents place on local open space; a comprehensive playground network that is equitably distributed across the city is essential to ensure easy access to local, free of charge, public play facilities.

Council recognises that playgrounds are an essential piece of community infrastructure providing vital, low cost and easily accessible family focused environments for people to participate in leisure. As play and supervising play is one of the most popular leisure activities occurring in the city's public open space network, and that playgrounds are key "attractors" to the city's parks, Council is committed to continuing to provide playgrounds of high design, quality and play value.

## 2. PLAYGROUND HIERARCHY AND DISTRIBUTION

### 2.1. The City’s Existing Playground Stock

The City of Greater Dandenong currently has 107 playgrounds of varying sizes distributed across the city. Council’s playground maintenance program has ensured that playground stock is maintained to a high standard.

Playgrounds installed or redeveloped since 2004 have been guided by the comprehensive design guidelines contained in the 2004 *Playground Strategy and Action Plan*. Consequently, they have been designed to a higher standard, use contemporary design approaches and materials and, as a result, provide more stimulating, creative and challenging play environments for children.

**The redevelopment of the local level Kandra Street Reserve playground (Dandenong North):** Installed in 1980, by 2011 the playground had become outdated, offered little play interest, variety or value and was due to be redeveloped.

**Existing Kandra Street Playground**



In accordance with the 2004 *Playground Design and Management Guidelines*, the Kandra Street playground was redeveloped in 2011 with a view to introducing a variety of play activities appropriate for the playground’s local level classification. It incorporates standard play components (like a slide and swing), along with contemporary play elements such as crawling nets, a social swing, sensory play activities (including panel artwork and a sound activity) and an access path and small scale picnic area.

**Redeveloped Kandra Street Playground**



## 2.2. Playground Hierarchy

Three categories of playgrounds exist in the City – **district, neighbourhood and local**. The underlying principle behind these classifications is that the scale, variety and number of play activities available will reflect the size of the playground catchment.

District level playgrounds are the city's premium, large scale playgrounds. District playgrounds provide a range of diverse play equipment and experiences targeted to younger children; while also offering more challenging features to engage and attract children at the upper primary school level. As they are designed to serve residents within a 2 to 3 kilometre catchment, they have the highest budget allocation. Local level playgrounds are designed for residents within walking distance (generally, a 400 metre catchment) and, therefore, are typically small scale, junior playgrounds that cater to younger children. Neighbourhood playgrounds are the city's middle-tier, intermediate scale playgrounds serving a catchment of 800 metres. Neighbourhood playgrounds can also act as local playgrounds while district playgrounds can also function as both neighbourhood and local playgrounds.

Arranging the playground network into three categories ensures the affordable installation and maintenance of a diverse range of play facilities across the city. A summary of the key characteristics of each playground category is contained in Table 3, including the catchment size, budget allocations, the community consultation protocol and planning and design requirements. This strategy introduces more flexibility to playground design and construction by proposing a budget range for neighbourhood and district playgrounds.

The application of playground categories reflects, where appropriate, the open space hierarchy established in the *Open Space Strategy* (2009). This ensures, for instance, that district level playgrounds are located in an equivalent district level park.

In planning for the equitable distribution of playgrounds across the city, the catchment areas were drawn on a map as circles, with the aim of maximising the chances of any area within the municipality having access to one or more playgrounds and minimising the gaps between catchment areas (see Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4). However, as there is an uneven distribution of suitable and accessible parks across the city which can accommodate playgrounds, there will be sections of the city which are better catered for than others. The unavoidable gaps have been noted and it will be an aim of the *Open Space Strategy* to address these as much as is practical and affordable.

As part of assessing appropriate distribution, barriers to pedestrian connectivity have been taken into account (such as the location of freeways, rail lines and waterways). This may mean that in some circumstances playgrounds will be located closer to each other than a straight-line 400 metres.

In practice, the playground hierarchy and distribution criteria maximises the chance that residents will have easy access to playgrounds; while also ensuring that Council is not managing an excessive number of facilities. It also enables Council to offer a diversity of play activities and experiences.

Table 3: Characteristics of District, Neighbourhood and Local Playgrounds

Characteristics	District Playground	Neighbourhood Playground	Local Playground
<b>Size</b>	Large scale	Intermediate scale	Small scale
<b>Catchment</b>	2 to 3 kilometre radius (driving distance)	800 metre radius (10 minute walk or a quick bike/car journey)	400 metre radius (5 to 10 minute walk)
<b>Average Capital Cost per Playground</b>	\$500,000 (up to \$800,000 subject to external funding)*	\$100,00 (up to \$150,000 subject to external funding)*	\$50,000
<b>Approximate Recurrent Maintenance Cost**</b>	\$52,000	\$6,000	\$3,500.
<b>Target Age Group</b>	2 to 14 years	2 to 12 years	Generally below 8 years
<b>Location</b>	Primarily located in district reserves and generally co-located with other major recreational facilities and park infrastructure such as BBQs and picnic tables, toilets, sports fields, skate parks, basketball courts, car parks (etc.) as appropriate.	Generally located in district and neighbourhood reserves and co-located near other supporting recreational facilities and park infrastructure where possible (such as half basketball courts, sports fields, seating etc.)	Can be located on any size reserve, but often accommodated in local level parks.
<b>Expected Duration of Playground Visit</b>	A number of hours – though this may also be due to the range of other recreational activities offered in the park, such as sports facilities, BBQs and picnic areas etc.	Approximately one hour – though this may also be due to the range of other recreational activities offered in the park, such as basketball half-courts or picnic areas.	Short duration (approximately 30 minutes).
<b>Playground Equipment</b>	<p>Contain a large number of play activities (70+).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include custom designed equipment, strong themes and integrated artwork, along with standard play equipment.</li> <li>• At least 50% of activities (both at ground and elevated levels) can be utilised and accessed by children and carers with a range of physical, social or emotional disabilities in accordance with universal design principles.</li> </ul>	<p>At least 30+ play activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primarily comprising off-the-shelf / standard, themed play equipment, with custom designed pieces or artwork introduced where appropriate.</li> <li>• At least 25% of activities can be utilised and accessed by children and carers with a range of physical, social or emotional disabilities, in accordance with universal design principles.</li> </ul>	<p>At least 15+ different play activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Off-the-shelf / standard, themed play equipment.</li> <li>• Include as many activities as possible / practical which can be utilised by children and carers with range of physical, social or emotional disabilities, in accordance with universal design principles.</li> </ul>

Characteristics	District Playground	Neighbourhood Playground	Local Playground
<b>Planning and Design</b>	Preferably, a detailed or intermediate scale master plan for the whole park carried out the year prior to the playground construction. At least, a detailed concept plan of the immediate playground environment, assessing things such as playground siting, CPTED and accessibility principles, associated facilities and basic park elements such as trees / planting, paths, seating, tables, shelters, drinking fountains, BBQ's etc.	Preferably, an intermediate scale master plan for the whole park carried out the year prior to the playground construction. At least – a sketch master plan of the immediate playground environment (or the whole reserve if it is less than 1 ha in size), assessing things such as playground siting, CPTED and accessibility principles, associated facilities and basic park elements such as trees / planting, paths, seating, tables, shelters, drinking fountains, BBQ's etc.	At least – a sketch master plan of the immediate playground environment (or the whole reserve if the reserve is less than 1ha in size), assessing things such as playground siting, CPTED and accessibility principles and basic park elements such as trees / planting, paths and seating.
<b>Community Consultation Protocol for Playground Developments</b>	<p>Comprehensive community consultation process that may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An initial call for ideas and suggestions;</li> <li>• Exhibition of playground concept plan/s: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Display of the concept plan at appropriate locations (in-park signage and at Council offices), and</li> <li>○ Notification to local residents via local media and a mail out to residents within 600m-1000m radius of the proposed facility.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• On-site workshops or community forums;</li> </ul> <p>Consultation with local schools and disability services.</p>	<p>Intermediate community consultation process involving exhibition of a playground concept for community feedback via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Display at appropriate locations (such as in-park signage and at Council offices), and</li> <li>• Notification to local residents via a mail out to residents within 200m-400m radius of the proposed facility and possibly local media</li> </ul>	<p>Basic community consultation process involving exhibition of a playground concept via either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A mail out to residents in the immediate vicinity of the reserve (approximately 150-200m radius of the proposed facility), or</li> <li>• In-park signage.</li> </ul>

**Notes:**

\* The budgets for district and neighbourhood playgrounds can vary with the scale of the park and the intensity of playground use. The costs contained in the Playground Development Action Plan reflect the lower end of these budget ranges. Increasing the budget allocation to the higher end of the budget range will be determined on a case by case basis as the redevelopment opportunity arises and is subject to external funding (such as grants or sponsorship).

\*\* The recurrent maintenance cost refers to the approximate cost per playground. Maintenance costs for district playgrounds in particular vary from site to site. The figure includes items such as playground repairs and materials, mulch, daily inspections, daily or twice daily bin emptying, toilet cleaning, car park and site surrounds clearing, external playground auditor etc.

## 2.3. Proposed Playground Numbers

This 2013 strategy will result in a redistribution of the network with a nett gain of four playgrounds. The table below summarises the proposed local, neighbourhood and district playground numbers and describes the net change since the *Playground Strategy and Action Plan 2004*. The proposed playground network is illustrated in Figure 1.

**Table 4: Proposed Playground Numbers**

Category	Existing Playground Network	Proposed Playgrounds Numbers	Net Change
District	5	8	+3
Neighbourhood	26	29	+3
Local	76	74	-2
<b>Total</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>+4</b>

The proposed playground network includes:











- Eight new playgrounds on currently vacant sites comprising three new neighbourhood playgrounds and five local playgrounds;
- Three of the proposed new playgrounds (one neighbourhood and two local) will be installed in the Somerfield Estate in Keysborough by developers (at no cost to Council) as part of the development of this new residential area. Once installed, Council will be responsible for managing and maintaining these playgrounds over their lifespan.
- Three proposed new local playgrounds - Davis Way Reserve (Springvale), Springvale Reserve (Springvale) and Thomas Street (Noble Park) - will be installed by Council in accordance with the *Playground Development Action Plan* (Table 11).
- Two new neighbourhood playgrounds are proposed for Central Dandenong and Springvale Activity Centres. These are tentative proposals that are dependent on the development of activity centre structure plans for these localities.
- There are four proposed removals consisting of one neighbourhood and four local grade playgrounds (discussed further in Section 2.7).


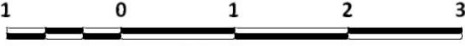
The *Ross Reserve Master Plan* (2012) will facilitate the development of an 'Urban Park'; comprising youth orientated play and recreation facilities, a formal community gathering place and an "older age play space". This youth play space is not addressed in this strategy, as its installation will occur as part of the implementation of the *Ross Reserve Master Plan*.

Figure 1: Proposed Playground Network



**LEGEND**

-  District Playground
    -  400m Radius from District Playground
    -  Neighbourhood Playground
    -  400m Radius from Neighbourhood Playground
    -  Local Playground
    -  400m Radius from Local Playground
  -  Council Reserve
    -  Suburb Boundaries
    -  Railway Line
    -  Major Roads
- N


- 

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Kilometres



## 2.4. District Playground Network

District Playgrounds are the premium playgrounds which the City provides the community. This 2013 strategy proposes to increase the number of district playgrounds from five to eight to ensure a more equitable distribution of playgrounds across the City. These playgrounds are large scale, individually designed with strong themes and integrated artwork. The range of equipment should cater for a wide range of age groups as well as children and carers with special needs, and contain a large number of play activities (70+). To cater for young teenagers, more challenging play features should be incorporated, with consideration given to co-locating these playgrounds with youth recreation facilities such as basketball half-court facilities, re-bound walls and skate parks.

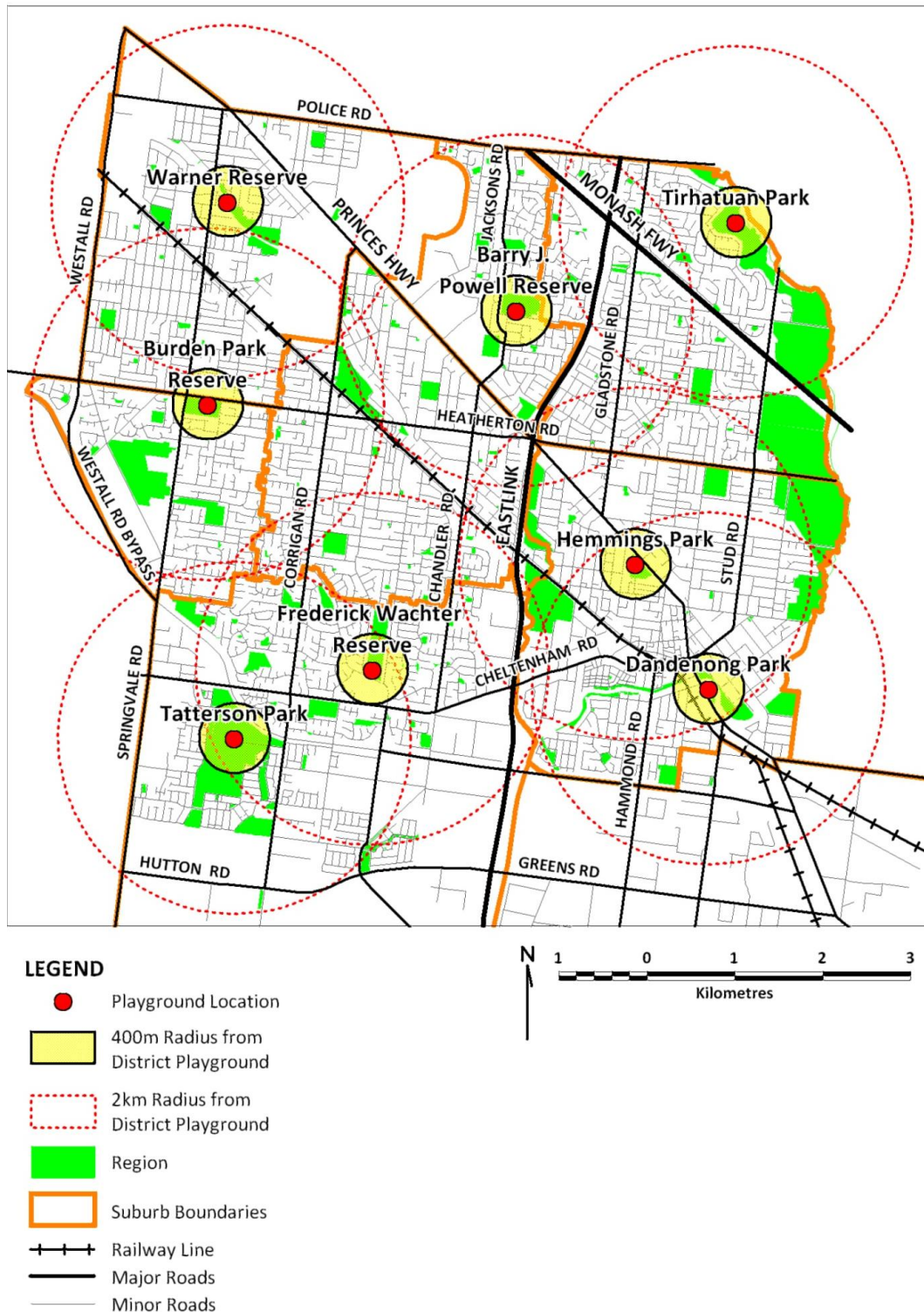
District playgrounds are located on larger district reserves, near other recreational activities, be easily accessible via main roads, and where possible public transport. They will generally have a large catchment area of 2-3 kilometres radius. Visitors, other than local residents, will generally make a special trip and may stay for a number of hours to enjoy the experience. Therefore district playgrounds should have associated facilities such as picnic facilities, BBQ's, shelters, toilets, seating and car parking, sports fields, club rooms and other similar infrastructure will also, often be nearby. Where possible, these playgrounds will be linked to the bicycle network.

**Table 5: List of District Playgrounds**

Code	Playground	Comments
92827	Burden Park (Springvale South)	Installed in 1994, this timber play structure is unique in the City, as it is one of the few play spaces not dominated by off-the-shelf, standard play equipment. The playground offers an adventure play experience. Its design and development was strongly driven by the community. Its redevelopment commenced in 2012 and is expected to be implemented in stages over a two year period. Its existing action and adventure theme will be incorporated into the new design, while an interpretation component will celebrate the significant history of the community's involvement in achieving the castle playground.
-	Dandenong Park (Dandenong)	This redevelopment commenced in 2010 and will be completed in stages in the coming years. This custom designed playground will seamlessly integrate into and respond to the urban intensification of the Central Dandenong Activity Area; while also celebrating the site's natural, indigenous and European heritage (including the history of the former Drill Hall) and industrial history.
92865	Warner Reserve West (Springvale)	The existing playground (installed in 2004) can currently be described as a large neighbourhood playground. At present, the playground is not themed and consists of off-the-shelf, standard play equipment. It is proposed to elevate this playground to a district level status to serve residents in the Springvale area. Its redevelopment (including design, play theme, siting and integration with the park surrounds) will be considered as part of a master planning process for the park.
92831	Hemmings Park (Dandenong)	This playground has developed incrementally, with play components added in 1989, 1991 and 2007. In 2007, new play equipment introduced an action / music theme, reinforcing the relationship between the playground and the adjacent youth recreational activities, including the skate park and The Castle (the City's premier music venue, which caters for the entire community while maintaining a strong focus on youth activity). The City's first liberty swing was installed in the playground in 2010. Given the youth and children-centric focus of the park, and that it already contains a liberty swing, this playground should be redeveloped in the future as Council's regional "all-abilities" playground.
92864	Barry J Powell Reserve Sth (Noble Park North)	The playground was installed in 2003 and currently only meets a neighbourhood standard. Like Warner Reserve, the design and redevelopment of the playground to a district level facility should be considered as part of the park master planning process. A sports theme could possibly be adopted to link the playground to the sport and recreational activities offered in the reserve.
261975	Tatterson Park (Keysborough)	A new playground was installed in 2009 with an insect theme. Additional works (including an internal playground path network and integrated landscaping) must still be completed.

Code	Playground	Comments
92841	Frederick Wachter Reserve (Keysborough)	This playground was installed in 1999 with a farm animal theme. It is proposed to elevate this neighbourhood playground to a lower end district level playground in the longer term.
155181	Tirhatuan Park (Dandenong North)	A new playground was installed 2004 with an ocean adventure theme. The redevelopment of this playground in the future should reinforce the environmental and natural values of the park.

Figure 2: Proposed District Playground Network



## 2.5. Neighbourhood Playground Network

Neighbourhood playgrounds are the city's intermediate "2nd tier" playgrounds, offering a varied mix of play activities catering for a broad range of children and carers. These playgrounds are designed to cater for a wider age group than the local playgrounds. Because of their size, they can be designed to attract an older age group (upper primary school level) who require greater complexity and challenge in their play environments as well targeting younger children.

Neighbourhood playgrounds will often be associated with other supporting and complimentary facilities such as sports fields, club rooms and activities for older children such as half basketball courts. They will generally be located on neighbourhood or district reserves, and will be distributed as equitably as possible across the city, depending on reserve size and location.

Associated picnic facilities should generally be limited to picnic benches and seating as it is anticipated visitors will generally use these areas for short to medium time periods (approximately one hour). Most visitors would be within walking distance of their own homes so additional facilities (such as toilets) are not recommended. Facilities such as shelters and barbeques would generally only be considered for high-end neighbourhood playgrounds and / or where playgrounds were located in a reserve with other facilities such as sports ovals and club rooms. The *Open Space Strategy (2009)* provides comprehensive *Park Development Standards* to guide the equitable provision of park infrastructure and facilities across the open space network.

This 2013 strategy proposes to expand the neighbourhood playground network from 26 to 29 playgrounds, in accordance with the following table and distribution map (over page). Three new neighbourhood playgrounds are proposed:

- One new neighbourhood level playground will be installed by developers (at no cost to Council) as part of the development of the Somerfield Estate in Keysborough. Following installation, Council will maintain and manage this facility.
- Two new neighbourhood playgrounds are proposed for Central Dandenong and Springvale Activity Centres. These are tentative proposals that are subject to the development of activity centre structure plans. Their location will be identified as part of the activity centre structure planning process, and, therefore, they have not been illustrated on the "Proposed Neighbourhood Playground Network" map (Figure 3). If they proceed, it is recommended that they offer a unique and innovative design that is responsive to their urban setting.



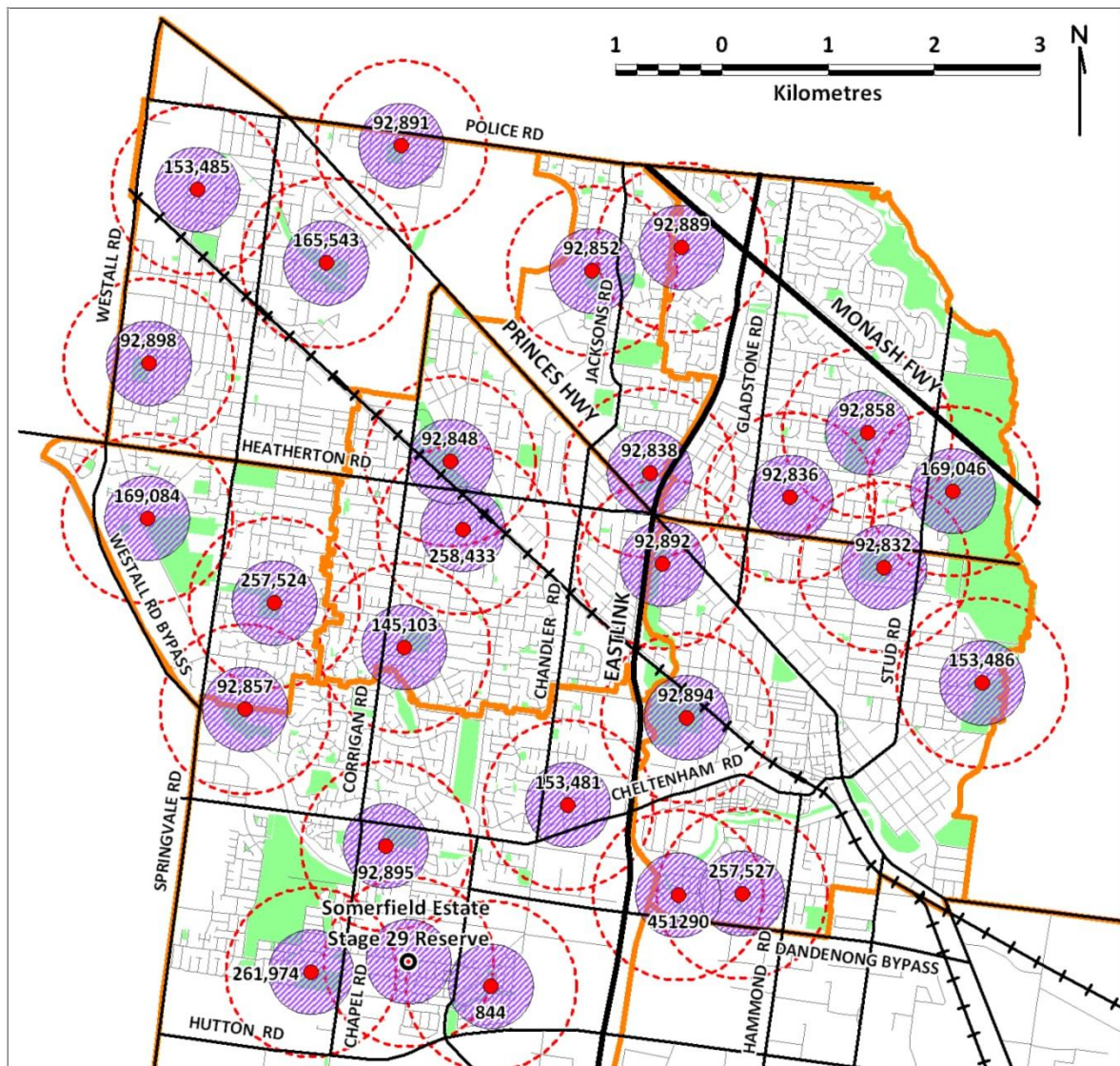
**Hidden Grove Playground (Keysborough)** – An example of high quality, small scale neighbourhood playground in Greater Dandenong that contains integrated landscaping and seating, artwork and a landmark feature (giant coloured pencils) so that children can identify the playground easily. The playground is well connected to existing park path networks. The playground materials and colour scheme compliment and blend into the natural park setting, while the giant pencils provide a spot of colour in the natural landscape.

Table 6: List of Neighbourhood Playgrounds

Code*	Playground	Suburb
92832	J.C. Mills Reserve	Dandenong
153486	Robert Booth Reserve Nth	Dandenong
92894	Greaves Reserve	Dandenong
261965	Fotheringham Reserve Nth	Dandenong
-	<b>New Site - Central Dandenong</b>	<b>Dandenong</b>
451290	Meridian Reserve	Dandenong South
257527	Noreen Cox Reserve	Dandenong South
92858	Lois Twohig Reserve	Dandenong North
92889	Bakers Rd Reserve	Dandenong North
92836	Menzies Ave Reserve	Dandenong North
169046	Dandenong Wetlands	Dandenong North
153481	Haldane St Reserve	Keysborough
92857	Coomoora Reserve	Keysborough
92895	Keysborough Reserve	Keysborough
261,974	Hidden Grove	Keysborough
-	<b>New Site - Somerfield Estate Stage 29 Reserve</b>	<b>Keysborough</b>
844	Somerfield Drive North Reserve	Keysborough
145103	Noble Park Reserve	Noble Park
92848	Ross Reserve Central	Noble Park
258433	Copas Park	Noble Park
92852	G.J. Duggan Reserve	Noble Park North
92838	Oakwood Park	Noble Park North
165543	Warner Reserve Central	Springvale
92891	Edinburgh Rd Reserve	Springvale
92898	Norman Luth Reserve	Springvale
153485	Glendale Reserve	Springvale
-	<b>Springvale Activity Centre</b>	<b>Springvale</b>
169084	Spring Valley Reserve	Springvale South
257524	Alex Nelson Reserve	Springvale South

\* The "codes" above correspond with the "Proposed Neighbourhood Playground Network" distribution map at Figure 3.

Figure 3: Proposed Neighbourhood Playground Network



**LEGEND**

- Playground Location
- Proposed New Neighbourhood Playground on Vacant Site
- 400m Radius from Neighbourhood Playground
- 800m Radius from Neighbourhood Playground
- Council Reserve
- Railway Line
- Major Roads
- Suburb Boundaries
- Minor Roads

\*\* This distribution map should be read in conjunction with the playground “codes” specified in the “List of Neighbourhood Playgrounds” at Table 6.

## 2.6. Local Playgrounds Network

Local playgrounds are small scale, junior play facilities, generally catering for children less than eight years of age. They are, as the name suggests, easily accessible playgrounds catering for the local community. These playgrounds may be located on any size reserve and will generally be designed and constructed using standardised, off-the-shelf play equipment. Most of the visitors to these playgrounds will be local residents living within a 5 to 10 minute easy walking distance of their homes. Where possible, and where locations of reserves permit, each local playground will have a catchment radius of approximately 400 to 500 metres.

There are 74 local playgrounds proposed for Greater Dandenong as outlined in the following table and distribution map (Figure 4). Five new local playgrounds are proposed on vacant sites as set out below.

- Thomas Street (Noble Park) – The 2004 Playground Strategy recommended that, in the long term, a new playground be installed at Thomas Street reserve in conjunction with the removal of a nearby local level playground at Avard Court. It was considered preferable to install a playground at Thomas Street Reserve rather than redevelop the existing play facility at Avard Court because Thomas Street Reserve is more accessible, is located near a school and is adjacent to an aged care facility. This proposal is still considered appropriate and will be undertaken as part of the implementation of this strategy.
- Two new local level playgrounds are proposed in Springvale (Davis Way and Springvale Reserve) to facilitate a more equitable distribution of playgrounds in this suburb. The Davis Way playground will serve the new residential infill development in this area, while the playground at Springvale Reserve will increase the number of local play opportunities available north of the railway line.
- Two local level playgrounds will be installed by developers as part of the development of the Somerfield Estate in Keysborough. Following their installation, Council will maintain and manage these facilities.

### Examples of local level playgrounds in Greater Dandenong



**Keneally Street (Metro 3175), Dandenong South:** Installed in 2007, this local playground facility is targeted to younger age children. The playground contains a mix of equipment encouraging active and social play. It demonstrates a contemporary, colourful design and is adjacent to a shaded picnic and BBQ area.



**Luxford Reserve, Noble Park:** Installed in 2010, this playground illustrates the play activities and equipment that will typically be provided in a local level playground. Using standardised play equipment, these playgrounds will offer a range of physical and social play activities. In this case, the colour palette was selected to compliment the natural park setting.

Table 7: List of Local Playgrounds

Code*	Playground	Suburb
92842	Thomas P. Carroll Reserve	Dandenong
92873	Gardiner Reserve	Dandenong
153487	Robert Booth Reserve Sth	Dandenong
153489	Falkiner Reserve	Dandenong
145111	Downard Pittman	Dandenong
169086	Apex Park	Dandenong
261,979	McFees Rd	Dandenong
92853	Gerard St Reserve	Dandenong
145069	Fotheringham Reserve Sth	Dandenong
92830	Dawn Ave Reserve	Dandenong South
261,977	Keneally Street (Metro 3175)	Dandenong South
92888	George Andrews Reserve	Dandenong South
92876	Kandra St Reserve	Dandenong North
92854	Golding Court Reserve	Dandenong North
92881	Rawdon Hill Drive Reserve	Dandenong North
92871	Currajong-Illawarra Reserve	Dandenong North
145068	Fillmore Reserve	Dandenong North
92878	Manks Ct Reserve	Dandenong North
92886	Tirhatuan Park (Somerset Dr)	Dandenong North
92835	McKeon Circuit Reserve	Dandenong North
92885	Thornton Ct Reserve	Dandenong North
153480	Purley Reserve	Dandenong North
165547	Dunern Reserve	Dandenong North
153484	Simpson Drive Reserve	Dandenong North
165546	Booth Cres Reserve	Dandenong North
169087	Briarhurst Ave Reserve	Dandenong North
92851	Blackmore-Madison Reserve	Dandenong North
92874	Gately Reserve	Dandenong North
92833	Keysborough Parish Church Grounds	Keysborough
92834	Markham Ct Reserve	Keysborough
92905	Geoffrey Carson Reserve	Keysborough
92875	Henderson Rd Reserve	Keysborough
165544	Bergen St Reserve	Keysborough
254543	Bilbungra Drive Reserve	Keysborough
92861	Rosene Ct Reserve	Keysborough
257525	Roth Hetherington Gardens	Keysborough
260960	Maralinga Reserve	Keysborough
261,978	Lake View Boulevard Reserve	Keysborough
261,976	Donnici Drive Reserve South	Keysborough
456045	Church Reserve	Keysborough
-	<b>New Site - Somerfield Estate Stage 24 Reserve</b>	<b>Keysborough</b>
-	<b>New Site - Somerfield Estate Stage 12 Reserve</b>	<b>Keysborough</b>
155180	Leon Trembath Reserve	Noble Park
92850	Naomi Ct Reserve	Noble Park
-	<b>New Site - Thomas St</b>	<b>Noble Park</b>

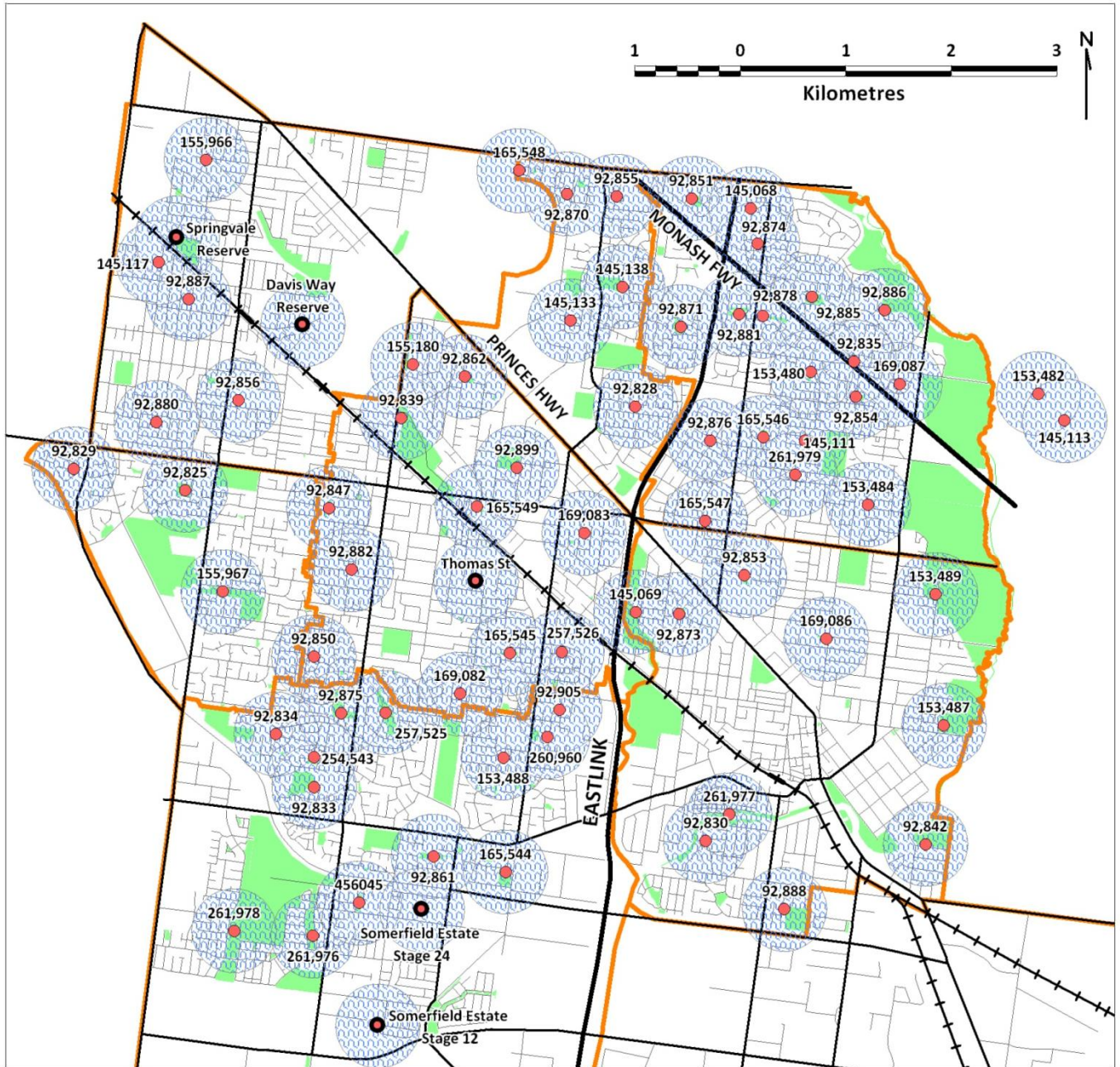
92839	Ross Reserve Nth	Noble Park
92862	Bowmore Reserve	Noble Park
92899	Parkfield Reserve	Noble Park
92882	Sandra Ave Reserve	Noble Park
153488	Kinnoul Ave Reserve	Noble Park
165545	Charnfield Cres Reserve	Noble Park
165549	Mills Reserve	Noble Park
169082	Greenglade Ct Reserve	Noble Park
169083	Edith McPherson Reserve	Noble Park
257526	Kiwanis Park	Noble Park
92847	Luxford Reserve	Noble Park
165548	Nimbin Reserve	Noble Park North
145133	Timberglade Drive Reserve	Noble Park North
92828	Coolivan Reserve	Noble Park North
92855	Shelton Reserve	Noble Park North
145138	W.J. Turner Reserve	Noble Park North
92870	Brown Rd Reserve	Noble Park North
92856	Springvale Civic Centre	Springvale
-	<b>New Site - Davis Way Reserve</b>	<b>Springvale</b>
92880	Olinda Ave Reserve	Springvale
145117	Regent Reserve	Springvale
-	<b>New Site - Springvale Reserve</b>	<b>Springvale</b>
92887	Victoria Ave Reserve	Springvale
155966	Mile Creek Reserve	Springvale
92829	Corio Drive Reserve	Springvale South
92825	Amersham Ave Reserve	Springvale South
155967	Springvale Sth Reserve	Springvale South
153482	Police Paddocks Reserve (North)	Endeavour Hills**
145113	Police Paddocks Reserve (South)	Endeavour Hills**

\* The "codes" above correspond with the "Proposed Local Playground Network" distribution map at Figure 4

\*\* Council currently manages two local level playgrounds in Police Paddocks (Endeavour Hills), which are located on Parks Victoria land, within the City of Casey. Council currently has a leasing arrangement with Parks Victoria for this land, which also includes softball and soccer facilities. Council is responsible for maintaining and redeveloping these playground facilities while this lease arrangement is in place. For this reason, the 2013 Playground Strategy and Action Plan includes these two facilities, despite that they are located outside the municipality.



Figure 4: Proposed Local Playground Network



**LEGEND**

- Playground Location
- Proposed New Local Playground on Vacant Site
- 400m Radius from Local Playground
- Council Reserve
- Suburb Boundaries
- +--- Railway Line
- Major Roads
- Minor Roads

\*\* This distribution map should be read in conjunction with the playground “codes” specified in the “List of Local Playgrounds” at Table 7.

## 2.7. Proposed Playground Removals

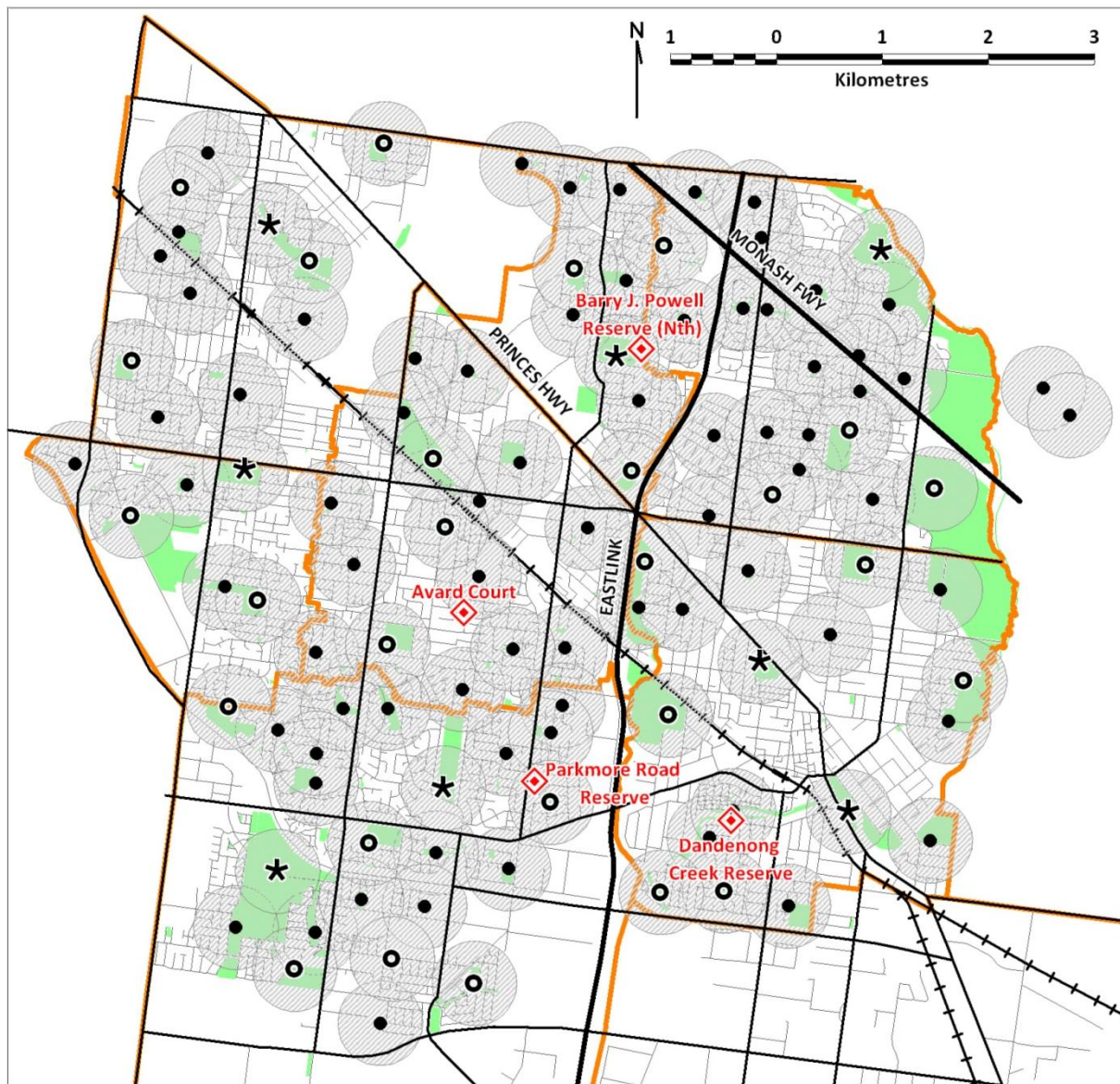
Four existing playgrounds have been identified across the City as candidates for retirement over time. These proposed removals represent a minor redistribution of playgrounds across the City, in an effort to improve fairness of access to facilities. The playgrounds proposed for retirement currently offer poor play value and are close to other reserves and playgrounds which will be able to better accommodate superior play facilities. The proposed removals will offset the proposed installation or expansion of playgrounds at nearby sites.

This redistribution will ensure that Council maintains a manageable number of good quality playgrounds (in terms of the capital upgrade and maintenance costs); thus, enabling the installation of eight new playgrounds on vacant sites and the achievement of an overall net gain of four playgrounds. The reasons for their removal have been explained in Table 8, and their locations identified in Figure 5.



**Table 8: Proposed Playground Removals**

CODE	PLAYGROUND	KEY COMMENTS
92840	Dandenong Creek Reserve (Dandenong South)	Located on the south side of Dandenong Creek, this is one of the City's oldest playgrounds. It has limited play equipment and offers a very poor quality play experience. A new playground was installed in 2007 on the north side of Dandenong Creek at Keneally Street Reserve to service the new residential development, Metro 3175. The Keneally Street playground, offers a superior play experience (with a greater range of play activities available) as well as an extensive shaded BBQ and picnic area. It is proposed to remove the aging Dandenong Creek Reserve playground once the Allan Street Bridge is constructed, as this bridge will provide residents south of Dandenong Creek direct access to the playground facility at Keneally Street Reserve.
145110	Parkmore Road Reserve (Keysborough)	This playground is proposed to be removed in conjunction with a major upgrade of the nearby local level playground at Haldane Reserve. The removal of Parkmore Road Reserve Playground will enable the redevelopment of Haldane Reserve playground to a neighbourhood standard, thus resulting in improved play opportunities for local residents.
92867	Avard Court (Noble Park)	At present, only a swing remains at the Avard Court playground. It is proposed to remove this remaining structure at Avard Court in conjunction with the installation of a brand new playground at the nearby, and more accessible, Thomas Street Reserve.
153483	Barry J. Powell Reserve Nth (Noble Park North)	Barry J. Powell Reserve currently contains two playground facilities (a local and neighbourhood playground). Similar to Dandenong Park, it is proposed to remove the local level playground to the north of Barry J. Powell Reserve and redevelop and expand the playground to the south of the reserve to a district level facility. Its removal is subject to the outcome of master planning for Barry J. Powell Reserve.

Figure 5: Proposed Playground Removals



**LEGEND**

-  District Playground
-  Neighbourhood Playground
-  Local Playground
-  400m Radius from all Playgrounds
-  Council Reserve
-  Suburb Boundaries
-  Railway Line
-  Major Roads
-  Minor Roads
-  Proposed Playground Removals

### **2.7.1. Protocol for Removing Playground Equipment**

#### Coordination

The removal of playgrounds will be co-ordinated with the upgrade of specific nearby playgrounds or, in the case of Dandenong Creek Reserve, improved access to a nearby, existing playground (as outlined in Table 8). This will ensure that playgrounds nominated for removal are only dismantled following the upgrade of an adjacent playground. In some instances, a playground nominated for removal will not be removed for many years, as the nearby playground may not be scheduled for an upgrade for a number of years. Moreover, Council officers will assess playground usage levels prior to removing playground equipment.

#### Compensatory Park Improvements

The removal of a playground from a reserve does not mean that the park or reserve will be abandoned by Council. There are already many small parks across the City that do not contain playgrounds that are valuable open spaces to the local community.

Prior to removing a nominated playground from a park, a sketch landscape design will be undertaken to plan possible future improvements to the park. Some parks may require new paths, some seats or picnic benches. Other parks may be better suited to tree planting and reinstating the area left by the playground to provide a good quality kick-about or “muck around” space which may not have been possible when the playground was on the site. In short, the designs for the parks would be tailored to the needs of the local area and the local park conditions. These park improvements will be timed to occur immediately or shortly after a playground has been removed.

#### Consultation

Prior to the dismantling of a playground, local residents surrounding the park will be notified of the playground removal, with the reasons and rationale for Councils actions clearly explained. The residents will also be notified of likely landscape improvement works that will occur in the park once the playground is removed to ensure that they are given an opportunity to comment on these park improvement plans.

### 3. PLAYGROUND DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

This section summarises the design philosophy that will underpin the development and renewal of all playground facilities in the city. These *Playground Design and Management Guidelines* establish the minimum design standards for all new and upgraded playgrounds and will guide the development and maintenance of playgrounds over the next 10 to 20 years. It can be read and used separately from the rest of the strategy as a working reference for all relevant staff.

These guidelines have been developed around the following themes, with consideration to maintenance implications:

- Standards and Risk Management Guidelines.
- Play Value
- Community Safety
- Accessibility – All Abilities Play
- Play Setting Whole Park Design
- Community consultation
- Solar radiation
- Integrated Artwork
- Playgrounds Directly Provided by Developers
- Environmental Considerations
- Urban Playgrounds
- Teenage Activities
- Playground Facilities that aren't Council owned or managed

Each theme commences with a discussion on the key issues, followed by a policy response to guide the design and management of all Council's playgrounds (regardless of their classification in the playground hierarchy). Where appropriate, specific guidance for district, neighbourhood and local playgrounds is provided. A summary of the key characteristics of district, neighbourhood and local playgrounds is outlined earlier in this document in Table 3.

These guidelines seek to improve the overall quality of the play experience and environment, and at times refer to provision of general park infrastructure, artwork or other facilities that go beyond the scope of the playground renewal or development. Therefore, these recommendations should be read in conjunction with the *Park Development Standards* (contained in *the Open Space Strategy, 2009*), which guides the provision of park infrastructure and facilities across the open space network. The *Park Development Standards* generally take the approach that the larger the catchment of the park (or the number of park users it is expected to serve); the greater number of facilities and activities the park will contain.

The cost for some supporting infrastructure, such as an access path to the playground, adjacent seating and possibly some perimeter planting, can be absorbed in the *Playground Development Action Plan* (which will underpin the *Playground Renewal and Upgrade Program* within Council's annual CIP budget). However, other park infrastructure that go beyond the immediate play environment or are not essential to the functioning of the playground, will be provided via Council's *Park Improvement Program*. Where possible, park improvement projects will be timed to occur in conjunction with the playground redevelopments. Ultimately, the budget allocations for the playgrounds development and park improvement program must be balanced against other council projects and commitments. Ideally, the playground redevelopment and park improvement project will be timed to occur in the same financial year.

### 3.1. Standards and Risk Management

#### Key Issues - Standards and Risk Management

##### Playground Standards

National Standards and international standards for the design, siting and construction of playgrounds is a continually evolving area and there is also debate within the Australian playground industry regarding the appropriate interpretation and application of standards. The City of Greater Dandenong currently utilises a concise design specification developed by an external expert to clarify certain aspects of and build upon current Australian Standards.

While the application of playground standards can have a tendency to reduce the play value and individuality of playgrounds they are an important guide to ensuring well constructed and safe playground facilities for both children and carers. Appropriate use of standards is important to Council ensuring that it manages its duty of care to users of playground facilities and reduces the likelihood of claims due to injury.

The proper application of current Australian standards and ongoing risk management procedures is currently, and will continue to be, paramount to the installation and maintenance of safe playgrounds within the City of Greater Dandenong.

Council currently carries out regular inspection and maintenance audits of all playgrounds in the City, in accordance with Australian Standards. This is to ensure public safety is maintained and improved and to reduce risk to Council in terms of litigation. In general inspections are carried out and resourced as follows:

- Regular daily, fortnightly and monthly inspections of playgrounds (depending on playground size and location) on a rotational basis. Playground equipment is checked in terms of structural integrity, functionality and safety, with minor repairs carried out on site immediately. Soft-fall mulch levels are also monitored and topped up as required. More significant items are logged for action, and if necessary, damaged areas cordoned off to the public until repairs can be made.
- Six monthly audits of all playgrounds are undertaken by an external playground safety expert. The playground inventory is updated and safety related recommendations for improvements / rectifications are made to Council for prioritised action.
- Parks staff also regularly monitor play areas for syringes, glass, rocks and other potentially dangerous materials and remove them as required.

It is not generally the role of risk management and a maintenance audit program to assess play value and quality and make follow-up recommendations regarding the improved and innovative facilities design.

#### Policy Response – Standards and Risk Management

Council will apply the most current and best accepted industry standards and specifications to the design, siting, construction and maintenance of playgrounds throughout the City of Greater Dandenong.

From time to time, Council may introduce additional design standards to clarify or improve upon current Australian standards. Where Council develops standards and specifications of its own, these shall not contradict or contravene Australian Standards. Where Council standards may impact on public safety they shall be assessed by an independent expert in the field, external to Council, prior to being implemented.

All playgrounds are audited every six months by an external playground safety auditor to ensure they comply with Australian Standards. District, neighbourhood and local playgrounds are also inspected on a weekly, fortnightly and monthly basis respectively by trained Council staff.

## 3.2. Play Value

### Key Issues – Play Value

Unstructured play is essential for children’s physical, social, cognitive and emotional development. While play is basically a fun activity, it is also a primary way in which children learn about themselves, others and their world.

*Through play children develop qualities necessary in adulthood, such as:*

- problem solving;
- independence;
- self awareness;
- creativity;
- resilience;
- spatial knowledge; and
- flexibility to deal with change.

*(DPCD 2007)*

Well designed public playgrounds provide diverse opportunities for children to build these skills. Playgrounds offering high quality play experiences will:

- provide opportunities for children to engage in physical, cognitive and social play, regardless of a child’s age, capability or developmental stage;
- offer challenging and fun physical play including climbing, jumping, crawling, swinging, balancing, hanging and running;
- provide stimulation of the mind through free, explorative and imaginative play or encourage fantasy or role play through a themed play environment;
- include opportunities for natural and sensory play;
- enable interaction and utilisation by children of all ages, backgrounds and abilities;
- contain equipment and surrounding infrastructure that encourages interaction from and with carers;
- contain a diversity of play activities and settings within the one play space;
- provide play structures and equipment that enable “play from all sides and all levels” (or 360 degree and multi-level play) and allow children to manipulate their play environment, such as through movable features or parts;
- seamlessly integrate thematically or physically (via path networks) with other park activities, such as skate parks, basketball rings or sports facilities.

Play equipment is limited in that it only inspires play; it should not overtly direct play activity or limit children’s imaginations to explore on their own. Everything should not be explained and demystified for them.

*Play is not only physical, and play spaces are usually only the means to an end for children to use imagination and a range of other skills to create their own ‘play experience’.*

*(DPCD 2007)*

An over-reliance on off-the-shelf play equipment can lead to a boring play environment. Incorporating custom designed play structures, integrated artwork and natural elements (such as logs, planting, boulders, mounds and water features etc.) into these standardised playground settings can inspire creative and sensory play responses.

The entertainment value of a playground often depends on the number of children using a playground. Opportunities for social or group play is therefore critical in the success of a playground and should be designed with this in mind.

Using examples from Greater Dandenong and across Melbourne, the following pages illustrate how these design principles can be integrated into larger scale district and neighbourhood playgrounds.

**Examples of Challenging and Active Play in Greater Dandenong:** a range of climbing frames at Rawdon Hill Reserve (Dandenong North) Timberglade Drive Reserve (Noble Park North) and Hemmings Park (Dandenong) and Council's iconic adventure playground in Burden Park (Springvale).



**Incorporating natural and sensory play features:** Birrarung Marr playground (Melbourne – City of Melbourne), Alma Park (St Kilda East – City of Port Phillip) and Children's Garden (Royal Botanic Gardens – City of Melbourne) and sound play at Church Reserve (Keysborough – City of Greater Dandenong).





**Encouraging cognitive play:** - A red model train and giant elephant climbing frame at Bayswater Park playground (Bayswater – The City of Knox)



**Social gathering places and social play activities** – Keneally Street (Dandenong - City of Greater Dandenong), Hays Paddock (Kew East - City of Boroondara), Wombat Bend (Templestowe Lower – City of Manningham) and Fotheringham Reserve North (Dandenong, City of Greater Dandenong) playgrounds



### Policy Response- Play Value

Playground designs and play equipment will be selected to ensure the highest possible play value is provided at all playgrounds in the City of Greater Dandenong, within available resources. It is recognised that the greater dollar amounts available for district and neighbourhood playgrounds will mean that these facilities will provide a higher degree of play value than is able to be achieved at local level playgrounds.

Play equipment and playground designs shall be chosen to provide for and encourage:

- participation by a diverse range of children of various ages and developmental stages, as well as children and carers with disabilities;
- a range of play activities within each playground to maximise variability in child’s play behaviour;
- fun and unique play experiences, stimulating and challenging both the mind and body;

- unstructured, experimental, explorative and imaginative play, enabling children to experience a sense of discovery and surprise in the City's playgrounds;
- a variety of play environments including custom designed play settings and structures offering adventure play opportunities and sensory and natural play experiences;
- themed play environments to encourage creative, dramatic or fantasy role play;
- integration with other facilities and recreational activities within the reserve and, where appropriate, the playground theme should celebrate the qualities and values of the park;
- social interaction and co-operation among children from diverse age groups, backgrounds and abilities;
- the manipulation of the play equipment and features in a variety of ways;
- interaction from and with carers through well designed and located equipment and supporting infrastructure;
- "cubby spaces" that enable children to retreat and hide; yet are still visible to carers to enable easy supervision;
- multifunctional, multipurpose equipment that can be utilised differently by children of different ages and development capacities, and
- play structures and equipment that enable 360 degree play and multi-level play – "play from all sides and all levels."

Playground equipment choice shall respond to community ideas as part of the recommended consultation process for each playground type.

District level and higher order neighbourhood playgrounds should incorporate custom designed equipment to facilitate unique play experiences and environments. Local level and neighbourhood playgrounds are likely to rely on standard, off-the-shelf play equipment. Efforts will be made to ensure that there is a variation of play equipment utilised across the playground network.

District Playground Design Guidelines:

District playgrounds shall be custom designed, premium playgrounds, providing for:

- a large and diverse number of play activities or events (70+) stimulating and challenging both the mind and body;
- large scale themed environments, through unique, innovative, custom designed play structures and equipment (though this can be supplemented with standard equipment as appropriate);
- utilisation by children of diverse age groups (ranging from 2-14 years of age) and abilities, including children with a broad range of physical, social and emotional disabilities, and
- integrated landscaping and the incorporation of natural elements (such as logs, boulders, water features, mounds etc.) both within and around the playground to inspire natural or sensory play.

Neighbourhood Playground Design Guidelines:

Neighbourhood playgrounds shall consist of more standardised elements / equipment drawn from a mix of manufacturers and using a range of materials. They shall provide for and include:

- at least 30+ different play activities or events stimulating and challenging both the mind and body;
- specifically themed play using themed equipment;
- individually designed / and unique elements where possible;
- be suitable for diverse age groups ranging from 2-13 years of age, and
- integrated landscaping and the incorporation of natural elements (such as logs and boulders etc.) around the playground to inspire natural or sensory play.

Local Playground Design Guidelines:

Local playgrounds shall be standardised facilities (not withstanding requirements for play value, accessibility etc.). Local playgrounds will primarily be suitable for junior age groups ranging from 2-8 years of age. They shall provide for and include:

- At least 15+ different play activities or events stimulating and challenging both the mind and body.
- Themed play using themed equipment.
- Perimeter planting/screening.

### 3.3. Community Safety

#### Key Issues – Community Safety

A shared community priority identified during the Imagine 2030 consultation is:

*Feeling and being safe – Safety in streets and public places and improving perceptions of safety.*

Council officers and playground designers need to consider community safety in the design and siting of playgrounds and associated facilities. The community should expect to be able to access play areas without encountering crime, drug use and vandalism or feeling threatened.

The Victoria Police and Victorian Department of Justice (and other equivalent bodies Australia wide) are encouraging all designers and public officers to ensure the design and siting of public facilities take on board and utilise *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design* (CPTED) principles.

CPTED assumes that that the physical environment can be changed or managed to produce behavioural effects that will reduce the incidence and fear of crime. It aims to reduce the opportunity for specific crimes (or undesirable or threatening behaviour to occur). For instance, features that legitimise users of a space feel safe, (such as a busy picnic ground) can make abnormal or illegitimate users of the same space feel unsafe in pursuing undesirable behaviours (like stealing from motor vehicles).

The *Safer Design Guidelines for Victoria* (DSE and Crime Prevention Victoria, 2005) provides practical design suggestions to improve safety and perceptions of safety in public places. With regards to parks and open space the guidelines suggest the following:

- Maximise natural surveillance of parks and open spaces to encourage use and support people's perceptions of safety.
- To encourage use of parks and open space by a range of users at all times of day to improve the quality of life for the community and improve perceptions of safety in public places.
- To ensure landscaping maintains sightlines of paths in parks and open spaces and allows for natural surveillance.

#### Policy Response – Community Safety

Council will seek to design and upgrade all playgrounds using appropriate CPTED principles and relevant guiding documents such as *Safer Design Guidelines for Victoria* (DSE and Crime Prevention Victoria, 2005).

Council will seek to foster the enjoyment of playgrounds in a safe, enjoyable and comfortable environment for legitimate users by designing and upgrading all playgrounds using appropriate CPTED principles.

Basic CPTED principles which should be addressed as part of the playground (and whole park) design process include:

- Environment – a design or location decision that takes into account the surrounding environment and minimises the use of space by conflicting groups;

- Image / Maintenance – ensuring that a building or area is clean, well-maintained, and graffiti free.
- Territoriality – fostering stake holders (community) interaction, vigilance, and control over their environment.
- Informal Surveillance – maximising the ability to spot suspicious persons and activities by ensuring good sightlines / visibility.
- Activity Support – encouraging the positive intended use of public spaces by members of the public.
- Creating Hierarchy of Spaces – identifying ownership by delineating private space from public space through real or symbolic boundaries.
- Access Control / Target Hardening – using physical barriers, security devices and tamper-resistant materials to restrict entrance to a space or damage to structures.

The *Safer Design Guidelines for Victoria* (DSE, Crime Prevention Victoria 2005) guidelines suggest the most optimal location for playgrounds should:

- *[Be] visible from neighbouring streets, houses, schools and other buildings;*
- *Have active frontages on at least three sides to provide natural surveillance.*
- *[Be located] where they are clearly visible from surrounding properties and streets. Install see-through fencing to control access and prevent children from roaming while still providing visibility from the street and surrounding area.*

### 3.4. Accessibility and All Abilities Play

#### Key Issues – Accessibility and All Abilities Play

Local government is responsible for ensuring that all of its activities related to its infrastructure areas are as accessible as possible to, and consider the needs of, people with disabilities. The 1992 Federal Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) seeks to:

- *Eliminate, as far as possible, discrimination against persons on the ground of disability;*
- *Ensure, as far as practicable, that persons with disabilities have the same rights to equality before the law as the rest of the community; and*
- *Promote recognition and acceptance within the community of the principle that persons with disabilities have the same fundamental rights as the rest of the community.*

The DDA provides protection for everyone in Australia against discrimination based on disability. The DDA makes it unlawful to discriminate in the provision of goods, services or facilities against people on the basis that they have had, or may have, a disability. The Act also makes it unlawful to discriminate against an associate of a person who has a disability. Their definition of disability includes disabilities which are physical, intellectual, psychiatric, sensory (e.g. a hearing or vision impairment), neurological, learning related, physically disfiguring and the result of a disease causing organism.

Playground designs should minimise frustration to children caused by inappropriate design while maximising diverse play opportunities and social interactions between children, and carers and children. *The Good Play Space Guide* (DPCD 2007) states:

*Children with a disability may find it more difficult to:*

- *Communicate with other players;*
- *Engage in play for long periods;*
- *Be spontaneous;*
- *Draw on all senses to learn;*
- *Physically do many activities;*
- *Develop the skills to join in games;*

- *Play with other children without adult supervision; and*
- *Access nature and the multi-sensory stimulation it provides.*

Therefore, the guide recommends that universal design principles should underpin the design and development of all play facilities, to enable their use by children and carers of all abilities. The guide provides the following definition for universal design:

*Universal design means that environments, services and products are useable and accessible for people of any age and ability. Universal design improves the quality of life for everyone. Conventional design caters for the 'average' person, while universal design recognises that people have a range of capabilities.*

The Centre for Universal Design (1997) outlines seven principles of Universal Design:

- *Equitable Use – The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.*
- *Flexibility in Use - The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.*
- *Simple and Intuitive Use - Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.*
- *Perceptible Information - The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.*
- *Tolerance for Error - The design minimises hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions*
- *Low Physical Effort - The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.*
- *Size and Space for Approach and Use - Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility.*

These principles offer designers guidance to better integrate features at the outset that meet the needs of as many users as possible and consequently, people with disabilities.

Unfortunately, the application of “universal design” principles is often narrowly focused on wheelchair access. *The Good Play Space Guide: “I can play too”* (DPCD, 2007) clearly articulates how different disabilities may affect a child’s ability to access and utilise a play space and offers numerous targeted design solutions to maximise accessibility and play value. This has been summarised below in Table 9.

Table 9: Design Principles for Children with a Disability

Possible Impact on a Child's Ability to Access and Utilise a Play Space	Design Principles
Children with Vision, Hearing or Other Sensory Impediments.	
<p>Impairments to vision, hearing and touch have several implications for children's access to play, depending on their severity and whether children have a combined sensory loss.</p> <p>Children with varying degrees of sensory loss may be affected in their ability to communicate with others, balance, navigate a play space and find and use activities that interest them. They may also be more vulnerable to some hazards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use different textures, tactile indicators or strong colour cues on paths, steps and level changes to improve legibility and help children find different play activities.</li> <li>• Construct paths with raised edges, patterns and textures on paths which meet at right angles (instead of curves) to assist children who use canes to position themselves and gain a sense of direction.</li> <li>• Provide hand grips with high luminance contrast to help children orientate around a space.</li> <li>• Incorporate sensory play activities involving sound, texture, light, movement.</li> <li>• Consider using ramps to elevated areas (rather than ladders or stairs) to assist children with difficulties balancing.</li> </ul>
Children with a Range of Intellectual and Cognitive Abilities	
<p>Children with intellectual or cognitive impairments may have difficulties perceiving a challenging situation or potential hazard in a play space. They may find it difficult 'reading' social situations, so they may find it harder to play with a group or create their own imaginative play.</p> <p>Sometimes children who are physically older enjoy activities typically provided for younger children and, therefore, require larger seats or equipment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a good range of physical challenges, balancing and stepping activities so all children can find their own level of comfort with height and movement.</li> <li>• Provide adult-sized seats on play components to allow older children to use them.</li> <li>• Consider making elevated decks reachable by stairs and ramps (in addition to more challenging climbing equipment) to enable a greater range of children to access elevated activities.</li> <li>• Define clear boundaries to the play space (via fencing, vegetation etc.)</li> <li>• Provide good protection from falls, especially at the openings on elevated decks (including additional handgrips, a change of direction before encountering the opening, or a hurdle or a barrier over which children must climb before they can exit the deck).</li> <li>• Provide items and activities side-by-side (e.g. double slides, two-seater rockers, two steering wheels at a time).</li> <li>• Provide 'retreat spaces' where a frustrated child can have 'time out' with dignity.</li> </ul>
Children with a Range of Physical Abilities	
<p>Different types of physical ability that need to be considered when designing play spaces are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ambulant (i.e. able to walk) but possibly with some balance impairment and needing physical support such as rails;</li> <li>• ambulant, and using mobility aids such as walking frames or sticks;</li> <li>• dependant on a wheelchair, and including those needing support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide elements which are easy to manipulate for creative play and do not require great physical strength or fine motor skills. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• wheels, spinning items and steering wheels with spokes or knobs to grasp;</li> <li>• play panels and musical instruments which can be struck and continue to move for some time;</li> <li>• musical elements such as gongs, chimes and large key pianos, and</li> <li>• levers, pulleys and other gadgets.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Possible Impact on a Child's Ability to Access and Utilise a Play Space	Design Principles
<p>in sitting and head control;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>restricted in the use of their arms and hands.</li> </ul> <p>Limited ability to move freely often affects independence, access and participation. It also limits which parts of a play space a child can use, and the speed at which they can move around and play with a group.</p> <p>For children who use mobility aids such as sticks, wheelchairs or walking frames, there are minimum requirements for them to be able to fit into spaces. Designs may also need to accommodate someone to assist them.</p> <p>Frailty and limited muscle control affects some children's stamina, balance and coordination. They may need more support and time to use certain activities, and spaces to relax or gain their composure at intervals during play. Children who are frail or have limited muscle control are more vulnerable to being knocked down by others. Some children who have physical impairments may also have a sensory or intellectual disability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the degree of exertion required to reach special parts of a play space. Hand rails and grips on ramps, access ways and some play equipment provide added security for children with limited balance or muscle control.</li> <li>Easily-negotiated choices of route within climbing structures up to elevated levels, including ramps, wide step decks, flat treads and stairs.</li> <li>Back support and good handgrips on swings, spring rockers/ see saws, rocking and spinning items and sand pit edges to assist children with limited muscle control to sit independently, hang on or get on and off safely.</li> </ul> <p>For children using wheelchairs, provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A seamless path of travel (including impact absorbing 'wheelable' surface) into the park and to the play space from the footpath, street or car park into social areas (i.e. picnic shelters, BBQs) and into the play space and to a choice of key play activities.</li> <li>Items that can be reached or manipulated from a wheelchair such as a shelf, shop counter, steering wheels, drinking fountains, musical items, speaking tubes and other play things.</li> <li>Sufficient space to manoeuvre/turning spaces for wheelchair use.</li> <li>Adequate space to park the wheelchair or mobility aid at activities such as at swings and beside climbing structures.</li> <li>Access to natural elements such as dirt, sand, flowers, wildlife.</li> <li>A variety of swing types that can accommodate a wheelchair; or are low enough and stable enough to transfer onto; provide back support; or can be operated by hand.</li> </ul>

Source: *The Good Play Space Guide: "I can play too"* (DPCD, 2007), pp 50-57

Since the adoption of the 2004 Playground Strategy, Council has made significant strides in retrofitting older playgrounds to improve accessibility to older play facilities by installing paths to connect the playground to the street or car park and hardstand areas adjacent to the playground (containing picnic areas and seating). Council currently has a number of accessibility seats/swings across the City (including Hemmings Park, Tatterson Park, Dandenong Wetlands and Tirhatuan Park). The City's first liberty swing was installed in Hemmings Park in 2010. Smaller scale play elements designed for children with disabilities in mind (such as an accessible sand play area at Tatterson Park) are also available at some playgrounds. However, many of the City's playgrounds still offer limited play opportunities for children with disabilities.

**Examples of play features in the City of Greater Dandenong for children of all abilities:** The Liberty Swing at Hemmings Park (Dandenong) (installed 2010), and accessibility seat and accessible sand play area at Tatterson Park (Kesyborough)



**Examples of all-abilities playgrounds across Melbourne catering for children of all ages, abilities and developmental stages:** Stud Park (Rowville – City of Knox) Bayswater Park (Bayswater – City of Knox), Wombat Bend (Templestowe Lower – City of Manningham) Hays Paddock (Kew East – City of Boroondara) and Carlton Gardens (Melbourne – City of Melbourne)



### Policy Response – Accessibility and All Abilities Play

This strategy will compliment and reinforce the recommendations of the City of Greater Dandenong’s *An Inclusive Model for Leisure* and the *Disability Action Plan*.

Universal design and the design principles outlined in Table 9 should be considered as playgrounds are developed in the City. This will ensure that accessibility is improved at all playgrounds as they are constructed or upgraded for both persons with or without disabilities. It will also ensure Council is continually striving to comply with the DDA legislation. The principles of universal design can equally be applied to other facets of this strategy, to improve whole park design and play value.



All playground design should cater for children and carers with a range of physical, social and emotional disabilities. All playgrounds should include access paths, platform steps for walking frames and activities at ground and elevated levels stimulating both the mind and body such as sound, sight / colour, and tactile elements. Playground activities and features that specifically cater for children with disabilities should be integrated into the playground design where possible, at both ground and elevated levels, rather than included as “add-on” ad-hoc features isolated to the periphery of the playground and play activity.

Path and wheelchair access should:

- Provide an accessible path of travel from the car park / street to the playground; and
- Be particularly targeted to key activity points and social nodes within playgrounds.

It is recognised that Council has to operate within budgetary constraints. As such, while all playgrounds should maximise accessible design, larger district and neighbourhood playgrounds are likely to offer a greater variety of all abilities play features than local level playgrounds.

District Playground Design Guidelines:

District playgrounds should offer more comprehensive play opportunities and equipment for children with special needs. Elements that could be considered include: accessibility seats, accessible sand play and sensory or musical play features.

District playgrounds will be the most accessible playgrounds in the City and shall:

- Include a 1.8m wide (minimum) compacted gravel access path to the playground with compacted gravel or sealed gathering space adjacent to the playground. 1.8m width allows 2 wheelchairs to travel or pass side by side and comfortably allows a wheelchair to turn.
- Paths constructed will be no greater than 1 in 14 grade and will provide adequate turning spaces and resting platforms for every 7 metre length of path at a 1 in 14 grade.
- Include at least 50% of activities (both ground and elevated levels and integrated utilising universal design principles) which are able to be utilised and accessed by both children and carers with a broad range of physical, social and emotional disabilities.

At the planning stage, the playground design or concept plan will be developed in close consultation with Council’s Disability Services and, possibly, an external access consultant.

As already discussed, Council is currently lacking a regional, all abilities playground. It is proposed that the district level playground at Hemmings Park (which contains the City’s first Liberty Swing) will be redeveloped as the City’s regional all abilities playground.

Neighbourhood Playground Design Guidelines:

Neighbourhood playgrounds should offer play opportunities for children with special needs. Neighbourhood playgrounds will provide an intermediate level of accessibility and shall:

- Include a 1.5m wide (minimum) compacted gravel access path to the playground with a compacted gravel gathering space adjacent to the playground and near accessible play events.
- Include at least 25% of activities (integrated utilising universal design principles) which are able to be utilised by both children and carers with a range of physical, social and emotional disabilities.

At the planning stage, the playground design or concept plan will be developed in consultation with Council’s Disability Services.

Local Playground Design Guidelines:

Local playgrounds will provide a minimum level of accessibility, but will still be significantly more accessible than previous local playgrounds. Local playgrounds shall:

- Include a 1.5m wide (minimum) compacted gravel access path to the playground with a compacted gathering space adjacent to the playground and near accessible play events.
- Include as many activities as possible (utilising universal design principles) which are able to be used by both children and carers with a range of physical, social and emotional disabilities.

### 3.5. Play Setting and Whole Park Design

#### Key Issues – Play Setting and Whole Park Design

The relationship between a playground and the park in which it is located (no matter how large or small) is an important consideration when aiming to provide quality, integrated and fun recreational and play environments. A park where a playground is located should also be comfortable and aesthetically pleasing so that both children and carers have an enjoyable experience.

Playground design, siting and theme should integrate the playground into the broader park setting and respond to existing character, values, culture heritage and natural environment of that park and local area. Playground design and the manner that it is themed can be literal (e.g. taking on the form and shapes of things such as boats and trains) or purely based around groupings of play activities (e.g. climbing theme, sound theme etc).

Similarly, the layout and configuration of a park should complement and add value to a playground installation. Playgrounds act like hubs in parks, where people congregate and undertake other social and recreational activities. Playgrounds should encourage flow on activities to complimentary uses within a park and should therefore be connected to park path networks. Likely facilities which may be considered in the vicinity of or immediately surrounding playgrounds include, but are not limited to: barbeques, bins, shade trees, shelters, walking / cycling paths, open spaces for ball games, seating, fencing, tables, lighting, other active play facilities such as skate / BMX facilities, basketball hoops etc.

**Examples in Greater Dandenong where playgrounds are co-located complimentary uses (rebound walls and basketball hoops):**  
Mile Creek (Springvale) and Parkfield Reserve (Noble Park).



**Complimenting the existing natural character of the park through integrated landscaping and careful materials selection –**  
Tirhatuan Park (Dandenong North) and Alex Nelson Reserve (Springvale South) playgrounds in the City of Greater Dandenong.



Landscaping and Natural Features

A sprawling playground in a large, flat, undefined area of open space can be uninviting, unappealing and intimidating for children. Moreover, it suggests an overdependence on the play equipment alone to stimulate children’s play and limited attention to the importance of sensory or nature based play activities. Integrating landscaping and incorporating natural features (such as logs, vegetation rocks etc.) into a play environment can stimulate creative and explorative play. A playground should consist of multiple “rooms” or activity areas, thus creating smaller scale play settings in a large playground. Landscaping, taking advantage of the natural topography or mounding can be one technique to add a sense of intimacy to an otherwise undefined large area of open space and help define these rooms of play activity.

Providing shade trees in and around a playground can be a more cost effective way of shading playgrounds or adjacent seating areas than installing expensive shade structures.

**Integrated landscaping, creating “rooms of activity” and the incorporation of natural elements and topography into a play setting:** Stud Park (Rowville – City of Knox), Quarries Park (Clifton Hill – City of Yarra), Wombat Bend (Templestowe Lower – City of Manningham) and the Children’s Garden (Royal Botanic Gardens –City of Melbourne)



## Policy Response – Whole Park Design

The design of the whole park should be considered when designing new, relocating or upgrading playgrounds. Ideally a master plan would be developed for each park prior to or in conjunction with the installation or upgrading of playgrounds. As discussed below, the level and detail of master plans will vary from park to park and will depend on the playground classification, the type of park, the facilities it contains and availability of staffing and resources. The most basic, but essential, design elements to consider in a plan includes appropriate siting, trees and screen / perimeter planting, path routes and seating.

The design and siting of a playground should enable seamless connectivity to other areas of the park, sporting areas and natural areas via park path networks and appropriately themed playgrounds. The location, siting and design of playgrounds should:

- adhere to CPTED principles, particularly in maximising natural surveillance opportunities by maintaining clear sightlines and easy visibility to (and from) the playground;
- respect and contribute to the overall character of the park with consideration to playground theme or the types of materials or colours selected;
- be inclusive of landscaping to integrate the playground into the park surrounds, provide natural shade and offer opportunities for children to partake in natural and sensory play;
- incorporate and build on existing natural features and the topography of the park where appropriate;
- be located in prominent locations within the park, near hubs of activity and compatible park facilities (such as picnic areas, drinking taps, informal kick about areas etc);
- be located along bicycle and pedestrian path networks to enable easy connectivity to other activities within the park and beyond, to encourage “flow on” use of other park facilities, and
- Accord with Council’s *Park Development Standards* (contained in the Open Space Strategy).

In designing and siting a playground within a park, special consideration should be given to appropriately located seating so that children may be supervised in a safe and comfortable manner by carers. Seats should be located to maximise sightlines and comfort for carers, but should also be easily accessible to the playground should children need assistance. Play zones particularly targeting younger children should be located close to adjacent seating and picnic areas to enable easier supervision by carers. All park furniture adjacent to playgrounds should be positioned with consideration to maximising afternoon shade.

Although in some cases fencing may be warranted to minimise potential conflict from adjacent incompatible uses (such as sporting ovals) or hazards (such as major roads or creeks), completely enclosing playgrounds may be detrimental to the overall cohesion of the park and segregate park users and activities unnecessarily. Fencing is expensive, and should only be considered in circumstances where a playground is near a significant hazard and cannot be adequately relocated away from that hazard.

Where fencing is necessary, consideration should be given to fencing only half the playground perimeter adjacent to the hazard and possibly including play events on the fencing to better justify its inclusion. The siting of playgrounds should consider how natural barriers (such as the existing topography or landscaping) could be used to provide a softer barrier between playgrounds and incompatible park uses.

**Examples of playgrounds with integrated seating to enable easy supervision:** Stud Park (Rowville – City of Knox), Church Reserve (Keysborough – City of Greater Dandenong), Gerard Street Reserve (Dandenong - City of Greater Dandenong), Currajong-Illawarra Reserve (Dandenong North – City of Greater Dandenong), Birrarung Marr (Melbourne – City of Melbourne) and Maranoa (Balwyn – City of Boroondara) playgrounds



**District Playground Design Guidelines:**

- Preferably, a detailed or intermediate scale master plan for the whole park (depending on the reserve size and its facilities) carried out the year prior to the playground construction. At least, a detailed concept plan of the immediate playground environment, assessing things such as playground siting, CPTED and accessibility principles, associated facilities and basic park elements such as trees / planting, paths, seating, tables, shelters, drinking fountains, BBQ's etc.
- The playground should consist of a number of “rooms” or activity areas at a manageable scale for children to relate. Landscaping, planting or other natural features could be used to help delineate activity areas.
- Each district playground should include a feature element, landmark or icon that children can identify that playground with.
- Where possible, district playgrounds demonstrate a clear sense of entrance.

**A clear sense of entrance** at Tatterson Park (Keysborough – City of Greater Dandenong) and Wombat Bend (Templestowe Lower, City of Manningham) playgrounds.



Neighbourhood Playground Design Guidelines:

- Preferably, an intermediate scale master plan for the whole park (depending on the reserve size and its facilities) carried out the year prior to the playground construction. At least – a sketch master plan of the immediate playground environment (or the whole reserve if it is less than 1 ha in size), assessing things such as playground siting, CPTED and accessibility principles, associated facilities and basic park elements such as trees / planting, paths, seating, tables, shelters, drinking fountains, BBQ's etc.
- For neighbourhood playgrounds at the higher end of the budget range, a feature or landmark element that children can identify that playground with should be installed where possible.

Local Playground Design Guidelines:

At least – a sketch master plan of the immediate playground environment (or the whole reserve if the reserve is less than 1ha in size), assessing things such as playground siting, CPTED and accessibility principles and basic park elements such as trees / planting, paths and seating.

### 3.6. Community Consultation

#### Key Issues – Community Consultation

Inviting community input into such things as playground siting, equipment mix and colours can assist Council in providing facilities that better meet the needs and wishes of the local community, and can also foster a sense of community ownership over playground.

Community consultation is particularly important in a culturally diverse municipality like the City of Greater Dandenong as the concept of play or the types of play equipment and supporting infrastructure expected in other cultures may be radically different to Melbourne. Seeking community involvement early in the design process can ensure that community needs can be incorporated.

#### Policy Response – Community Consultation

Council will seek to undertake a level of community consultation on all playground projects to ascertain community preferences, ideas and suggestions and improve design outcomes. The type and extent of community consultation will reflect the size and type of playground being installed.

District Playground Design Guidelines:

Due to their greater individuality, budget and catchment, district playgrounds will have the most comprehensive community consultation process. Community consultation for district playgrounds may include:

- potentially, an initial call for ideas and suggestions to inform the playground design;
- on-site workshops and stakeholder / community forums;
- exhibition of playground concept plan/s via:
  - display at appropriate locations (such as a sign in the reserve and Council offices);
  - notification to local residents via local media and a mail out to residents within 600m-1000m radius of the proposed facility,

Where appropriate, the consultation may also specifically target disability services and local schools.

Neighbourhood Playground Design Guidelines:

Neighbourhood playgrounds will have an intermediate community consultation process; typically the exhibition of a playground concept for community feedback via:

- display of the concept at appropriate locations (such as a sign in the reserve and Council offices), and

- notification to local residents via a mail out to residents within 200m-400m radius of the proposed facility and, if necessary, local media.

Local Playground Design Guidelines:

Local playgrounds will have a basic community consultation process, targeted at identifying community preferences for their playground. However, being small scale facilities, it is more difficult to respond to requests than at larger playgrounds. Community consultation for local playgrounds will involve the exhibition of a concept for the playground via either:

- a mail out to residents in the immediate vicinity of the reserve (approximately 150-200m radius of the proposed facility), or
- a sign in the reserve with a sketch of the proposed playground facility.

### 3.7. Solar Radiation

#### Key Issues – Solar Radiation

There is an increased awareness by the community of the risks associated with prolonged exposure to solar radiation. Consequently, there is an increased expectation that shade and shelter will be provided in and around play areas. Council sees this issue as a joint responsibility between carers and the City.

There are budgetary and maintenance implications regarding the installation of shade structures at playgrounds. Shade structures are expensive to install, adding approximately 50% to the cost of a new playground. Their non-targeted installation will detract from the play value and quality of new or upgraded playground facilities. Shade structures (depending on their design and materials used) are often vandalised, which places further pressure on Council's playground maintenance budget.

Trees provide an effective and aesthetically pleasing form of shade which can contribute positively to the overall amenity of a park.

#### Policy Response– Solar Radiation

Where possible, the design and siting of playgrounds seek to locate facilities near existing shade providing features such as trees, or the planting of new trees. The impact of solar radiation at playgrounds will be reduced by implementing a range of siting and design initiatives, including:

- siting playgrounds close to existing (or proposed) shade providers (trees / buildings);
- siting and orienting playgrounds to avoid harsh north westerly and westerly sun, and
- planting of appropriate shade trees in the vicinity of all playgrounds and associated facilities such as seats.

Council will only consider the installation of shade structures over playgrounds in exceptional circumstances, on a site by site basis, and then only at larger neighbourhood and district playgrounds. Where shade structures are deemed necessary, consideration should be given to integrating them with other park shelters and picnic facilities.

As an overall approach to dealing with the hazards of solar radiation, Council endorses the Sun-Smart guidelines of the Anti Cancer Council of Victoria which recognises that carers should not solely rely on Council to provide shade and shelter from the sun, but should also consider and implement sun-smart practices such as:

- ensuring children (and carers) are wearing adequate protective clothing and hats;
- ensuring sunscreen is applied and re-applied, and
- timing visits to playgrounds where possible to avoid the hottest parts of the day.

### 3.8. Integrated Artwork

#### Key Issues – Integrated Artwork

The City of Greater Dandenong *Public Art Strategy* calls for public spaces to be enriched with art works that celebrate and reflect local cultures and values and enhance people’s daily experiences. The greatest impact from public art is achieved when it is integrated into projects such as the construction of new buildings, streetscapes, urban and parkland designs.

Playgrounds are an ideal vehicle for the integration of artwork into the play experience. Public art in playgrounds need not be something simply to look at. It has the potential to be, and should be, interactive and integral to the physical and cognitive play experiences offered by a playground. There is also potential for artwork to become an iconic landmark feature that children identify that playground with. Thus, the inclusion of artwork in playground developments will aid in the improvement of play value as well as the design of the whole park, and as such should be seen as an important consideration at the planning stages of playground developments.

Thematically designed public art has the potential to spark additional enthusiasm and interest of the local community in playground developments. Use of community artwork (such as specifically inviting artwork from local schools and other community agencies) can assist in fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility over a play space. As a community building project, it also has the potential to enhance feelings of social connectedness for those involved.

#### Policy Response – Integrated Artwork

The inclusion of public art in some form should be a consideration at all playgrounds. Council will consider and actively pursue the integration of artwork in playgrounds. Public art can be integrated into the playground design or can contribute to the design and fabrication of functional items such as sign, seats, drinking fountains, shelters etc.

*All playgrounds* will incorporate off-the-shelf artistic or themed elements such as structural play pieces and painted panels. As already outlined in *Section 3.2 – Play Value*, themed play environments can help deliver fun and creative play responses, stimulating and challenging the mind and body. Themed play equipment - along with colour, texture and material selection - can contribute to an overall aesthetic and appearance of a playground. For instance, the use of red, steel and other materials in the recently developed district playground at Dandenong Park has helped create a unique urban / industrial themed play environment.

#### District and Major Neighbourhood Playground Design Guidelines:

Where possible, custom designed artwork will be incorporated into major neighbourhood and district playground facilities:

- Opportunities to build in custom design artwork that can add to the overall playground theme will be considered from the outset of planning for and designing a district and major neighbourhood play space.
- An artist may be employed - either directly or via the playground manufacturer – to design or craft components of the playground in conjunction with the playground designer (subject to budget) to ensure that the public artwork is thoroughly integrated into the play space.
- The community, led by the design team, should have an opportunity to input into the design process for significant art installations or for play spaces with a rich community history. Community involvement will be based on the principles of Council’s *Public Art Strategy* and may be focused on identifying themes, colours or messages to incorporate in public art.



Local and metropolitan Melbourne examples of **integrated artwork**, including local level playground on the off-the-shelf panels, functional artwork that children can interact with and climb on, mosaic way-finding signage and static art installations adding visual interest to playgrounds and stimulating creative and cognitive play: Stud Park (Rowville – City of Knox) Packer Park (Carnegie – City of Glen Eira), Tatterson Park m(Keysborough –City of Greater Dandenong), Wombat Bend (Templestowe Lower – City of Manningham), the Children’s Garden (Royal Botanic Gardens- City of Melbourne) and Birrarung Marr (Melbourne – City of Melbourne) playgrounds



### 3.9. Playgrounds Directly Provided by Developers

#### Key Issues – Playground Directly Provided By Developers

In some new residential subdivisions across the municipality, developers are directly responsible for installing new playgrounds such as the Meridian development (Dandenong South) and the Somerfield Estate residential development in Keysborough. As Council takes ownership of these playgrounds following their installation and becomes responsible for their ongoing management and maintenance in the long term, it is of critical importance that Council works in partnership with developers to guide the siting, design and development of these facilities.

#### Policy Response – Playground Directly Provided By Developers

Council will work in partnership with developers installing playgrounds across the City to guide the siting, design and development of all playgrounds to ensure that:

- The location and scale of the playground contributes to the playground network;
- the scale of the playground, the number of play activities offered and the broader park facilities meet the standards established in these *Playground Design and Management Guidelines* and the *Park Development Standards* (contained in the *Open Space Strategy, 2009*);
- they meet the Australian standards and Council’s playground design specifications, and

- They are sustainable in the long term and enable easy maintenance and management for Council over their 20 year lifespan.

### 3.10. Environmental Considerations

#### Key Issues – Environmental Considerations

The City of Greater Dandenong is committed to achieving strong reductions in its environmental impacts and demonstrating environmental leadership to the community. Council's *Environmental Sustainability Strategy* (2010) provides the strategic framework and policy direction to facilitate a healthier environment and more sustainable City. Council has a key role to play in mitigating environmental impacts and taking action to adapt to the impacts that are unavoidable. Council's role in addressing this includes the reduction of environmental risks associated with its operations and assets.

Like all physical infrastructure, the construction of playgrounds has environmental impacts. The environmental costs of playground manufacture and installation need to be understood in the context of the availability and dollar cost of more environmentally sustainable alternatives and the longevity (durability), reparability and recyclability of materials used.

Materials used for the construction of playgrounds need to be very durable, long lived and able to be repaired easily. This means that materials choice for construction is often limited. It does not mean that there are no choices, however, and where appropriate, careful selection of materials, or minimal use of high impact materials, can reduce environmental impacts.

#### Recycled Products

There are a number of recycled and composite materials on the market which may be suitable for some aspects of playground construction.

Recycled products offer an alternative to timber edging, bollards and possibly decking, but are not always suitable for structural components. Recycled plastics, particularly in the larger section sizes required in playgrounds, are also more expensive than most alternatives at the moment.

#### Policy Response – Environmental Considerations

Council's playground network will demonstrate Council's commitment to sustainability by:

- choosing construction materials and methods appropriately and researching and trialling more sustainable products from time to time;
- incorporating drought tolerant plant species, and
- applying Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles to landscaped areas in play spaces to capture site water run-off;

Where possible, Council will consider the use of recycled materials and materials with low embodied energy use in playground developments.

Timber used in playgrounds needs to be of the highest durability levels. Native cypress pine is the most commonly available untreated durable timber available in Australia. It is also the most widely used timber for playground construction. Where timber is required in playground construction, Council will utilise plantation grown hardwood timbers and native cypress pine. The availability and possible use of plantation grown durable hardwoods will also be monitored. Given the uncertainty about the long term safety of CCA treated pine, Council will invoke the "precautionary principle" and will not use CCA treated pine in the construction of any playgrounds.

While Council will seek to undertake the above, in doing so it should not compromise on the play value, safety and durability of playgrounds and should take into account the whole of lifetime cost of a playground facility.

### 3.11. Urban Playgrounds

#### Key issues – Urban Playgrounds

Freely accessible play facilities are generally located in public parks. Despite increasing urban consolidation and residential intensification of established areas, play spaces have not been widely incorporated into “hard urban spaces”. While Central Dandenong contains multi-purpose public art, that can also be adapted as a play facility (see below), additional urban play opportunities could be investigated and implemented in major activity centres.

One issue with introducing play spaces into urban environments relates to the difficulty of applying Australian Standards to multifunctional facilities, which may function as artwork, street furniture and play facility.

#### Policy Response– urban playgrounds

Council will consider how an element of play can be incorporated into hard urban spaces as part of the structure planning processes for Council’s major activity centres, the development of civic spaces and place making initiatives. Council will apply the most current and best accepted industry standards and specifications to the design, siting, construction and maintenance of play spaces and infrastructure and will work closely with an external playground safety auditor throughout the design, development and construction process to ensure that Australian Standards are satisfied.

**Multi-purpose public art in Central Dandenong which can also be used for informal, imaginative play: moveable blocks (installed 2010) and lounge set and egg display (installed 2008)**



**Carnegie Library Playground (Carnegie – City of Glen Eira):** An example of an innovative play space located in the heart of an activity centre



### 3.12. Teenage Activities

#### Key Issues – Teenage Activities

While this strategy primarily targets children aged two to twelve years, there are strong linkages with the provision and siting of recreational facilities for teenagers and young adults such as skate facilities, BMX tracks and half basketball courts.

In most cases, teenage recreational facilities will be co-located with playgrounds, as there is a gradual transition in the types of play children participate in as they grow. Co-locating facilities also encourages interaction between age groups and enables older brothers / sisters to play in a stimulating environment while supervising their siblings.

#### Policy Response– Teenage Activities

Playgrounds should be co-located with teenage recreational facilities where appropriate.

A Teenage Recreational Facility Strategy should be developed to compliment this Playground Strategy.

### 3.13. Playground Facilities that aren't Council Owned or Managed

#### Key Issues – Playground Facilities that aren't Council Owned or Managed

There are playground facilities provided across the City by organisations other than Council. While these are not a substitute for fully publicly accessible playgrounds on public reserves, it is worth noting their contribution. There are three main providers of alternative playgrounds:

- Childcare Centres provide playground facilities for very young children in the care of professional staff. These play facilities are fully fenced and are not accessible to the general public. In most cases, these playgrounds can only be accessed by passing through the childcare building itself. In this regard, childcare facility playgrounds do not provide an alternative to Council playgrounds at all.
- Fast food outlets, such as McDonalds and Hungry Jacks, provide high quality and safe playground facilities associated with their restaurants. Due to space limitations, the playgrounds are usually very compact. While their use is nominally “free” there is an implicit rule that use of a playground in a fast food outlet will be associated with the purchase of meals. In this sense, such playgrounds are not free; they are effectively hired for a period by purchasing food. It is not recommended that Council should see such playgrounds as alternatives to Council facilities.
- Schools, particularly primary schools, usually have a range of playground facilities available to their students. Public access to these playgrounds varies from school to school, with many being fenced off. The quality and safety of school playgrounds is also variable, as the expertise to design and maintain quality facilities is often not available within the school community. In this sense it would be difficult to advocate school playgrounds as alternatives to Council facilities. There may be opportunities, however, where schools are located in areas of the City deficient in public reserves, and where there is adequate space, for Council to enter into partnership arrangements with schools to upgrade and assist in the maintenance of playgrounds on School owned land, pending the playground being accessible to the public after hours.

#### Policy Response – Playground Facilities that aren't Council Owned or Managed

Council recognises that playgrounds should be placed in public reserves which can be freely accessed by everyone. There are, however gaps in the equitable distribution of playgrounds throughout the city, primarily caused by the location and distribution of public reserves.

The joint use or sharing of school campuses to enable community use for passive and active activities outside school hours in areas lacking sufficient public open space has already been identified as an Action in the *Open Space Strategy* (2009). As part of this investigation, the sharing of playground facilities should be considered. If formal agreements for the sharing of school campuses are developed, this could be incorporated into this strategy as a minor update.

### 3.14. Implications on Playground Maintenance

These *Playground Design and Management Guidelines* codify many of the design considerations which are undertaken as a matter of course in the playground program as it currently stands. While the

recommendations do not seek to unnecessarily raise maintenance requirements, it is acknowledged, however, that some of the design guidelines may have some impact on the playground maintenance regime.

On the other hand, the proposed rationalisation and minor redistribution of playgrounds will aid in controlling maintenance costs to Council by ensuring that Council is not continuing to manage a range of poorly located facilities.

Approximate recurrent maintenance costs for each playground category were outlined earlier in Table 3. As part of the design process for each new playground installation or upgrade, draft designs, construction methods and proposed materials will be assessed by relevant Council officers to ensure that future maintenance requirements are minimised. Maintenance requirements will be balanced against the need to properly address other design criteria outlined in this strategy such as play value and accessibility.

Addressing accessibility will involve the construction of access paths to and within each playground as they are upgraded and may involve the installation of more rubber surfacing. These will require maintenance, however they will be installed to a high standard so as to minimise the level of maintenance required. Addressing accessibility adequately, will also mean an increase in the amount of diverse or individually designed equipment.

It is expected that local level and neighbourhood playgrounds will largely be designed and manufactured using the standard, off-the-shelf play equipment. While it is still the intention of this strategy to lift the design quality and play value of play facilities, by keeping this standard approach for neighbourhood and local playgrounds, it is expected that maintenance implications of the increased standards will be minimal at this level.

As district and higher order neighbourhood playgrounds will incorporate individual, custom designed structures and include a greater diversity of equipment and manufacturer, this will require Council to invest greater resources to ensure that they are maintained to a high standard. From time to time some specialists' skills or contractors may be required to service or replace some of the equipment.

As the importance natural and sensory play gain increasing currency, this strategy seeks to integrate landscaping and natural elements within and around the play environment. Use of landscaping and the incorporation of natural elements will be more prominent in district and larger neighbourhood level playgrounds while use of perimeter planting/screening will be incorporated where possible in local playgrounds. As this landscaping will require ongoing maintenance and management, this preparation of landscape plans (to occur in tandem with the design of the playground) will be coordinated with Council's Park Services Unit to ensure that the landscaping envisaged can be incorporated into their long term maintenance program.

## 4. PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN

### 4.1. Playground Lifespan and Upgrade Frequency

The following pages outline the development and retention of 111 playgrounds across the City of Greater Dandenong. This represents a total playground asset base of approximately \$10.6 million (using replacement costs once all playgrounds are installed and including the value of playgrounds that will be installed at a developer's expense). The breakdown has been outlined in Table 10.

**Table 10: Total Playground Asset Base**

Playground Category	Proposed Quantity	Nominal Average Replacement Value (per playground)	Total Nominal Replacement Value
District	8	\$500,000	\$4,000,000
Neighbourhood	29	\$100,000	\$2,900,000
Local	74	\$50,000	\$3,700,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>111</b>	-	<b>\$10,600,000</b>

Different playgrounds, constructed of different materials and by different manufacturers, age at different rates. For example, whole sections of the standardised steel bracket and post type equipment currently widely used by Council, can often be removed, reconditioned and re-installed as part of an upgrade. This aids in the reduction of capital upgrade costs and effectively extends the lifespan of the equipment. However, while this is the type of standardised equipment that is proposed to be most commonly used on local scale playgrounds, a drawback of its wider application is that it is more difficult to achieve diverse, good quality, play outcomes.

Conversely, providing more diverse, individually designed and interesting play experiences in neighbourhood and district type playgrounds often involves the utilisation of different design approaches, construction techniques and materials use, some of which may have a lesser life expectancy.

Experience shows, that the average life expectancy of a municipal playground, before it requires replacement or a full upgrade / refurbishment, is approximately 15 to 20 years.

### 4.2. Playground Assessments and Criteria

To inform the development of this strategy, Council's existing 107 playgrounds have been assessed using the following criteria:

- physical condition (including its age, condition, structural integrity and visual appearance);
- the play value and accessibility it offers;
- its classification within the hierarchy (district, neighbourhood or local), and
- its location in the City and in relation to other playgrounds.

At a more strategic level, the playground hierarchy and the distribution of playgrounds across the city was reviewed in light of:

- the park hierarchy established in Council's *Open Space Strategy* (2009);
- other major open space and sports facility planning and developments that have occurred since 2004 (such as park master plans and other initiatives);
- newly emerging residential areas (such as the Somerfield Estate, Meridian and Metro 3175), and

- major infrastructure projects constructed since 2004 that may impact on local playground catchments and pedestrian accessibility (such as EastLink).

Some broad points can be drawn from this assessment:

- playgrounds are well maintained and meet acceptable safety standards;
- many older playgrounds do not meet the design standards outlined in this strategy or the play level / equipment mix expected of each playground category in the hierarchy, and therefore will require upgrading over time;
- some existing hierarchy classifications are not appropriate and need to be altered;
- some playgrounds are located far closer than necessary to other playgrounds and therefore are proposed to be removed over time;
- new sites have been identified where additional playgrounds are required or would be beneficial, and
- there are a number of gaps across the city where there are no public reserves, which in-turn means that it is difficult to achieve an even distribution of playgrounds.

This assessment has contributed to the development of a playground installation and upgrade program (Table 11 - the *Playground Development Action Plan*), which will guide the installation and upgrade of playgrounds across the city for 20 years.

### **4.3. Playground Development Action Plan**

The Playground Development Action Plan (Table 11) outlines the recommendations for each existing and proposed playground throughout the City of Greater Dandenong for the next 20 years. This timeline is based on the approximate lifespan of a playground.

Following the physical assessment of each playground and a review of the playground distribution across the City; playground redevelopment and installation priorities were established. In principle, those playgrounds in worse condition should be installed or upgraded before those in better condition. Given the quantity and age structure of the playground stock, priorities for installation and upgrades were determined by taking into account:

- the condition of playgrounds in the immediate vicinity;
- the location of the playground (is it isolated or part of a cluster),
- the type and use of the reserve in which it is situated (e.g. will upgrading playground "A" in a well used reserve benefit more people than upgrading playground "B" in a less frequented park?).

This comprehensive listing of priorities for upgrading playgrounds is designed to ensure that playground upgrades and installations are appropriately sequenced so that the redevelopments occur in accordance with the priority rankings.

The *Playground Development Action Plan* (Table 11) is outlined on the following pages. The playground name or code number of each playground in the table should be used to locate each playground in the playground network maps (found earlier in this strategy at Figures 2, 3, 4 and 5).

Table 11: Playground Development Action Plan

Priority Number	Code	Playground	Street	Suburb	Current Classification	Proposed Classification	Installation Year	Cost
1	92827	Burden Park Reserve	Heatherton Rd	Springvale South	District	District	1994	\$500,000
2	92828	Coolivan Reserve	Coolivan Rd	Noble Park North	Local	Local	1993	\$50,000
3	311735	Dandenong Park Stage 2 – Youth Precinct	Lonsdale Street	Dandenong	District	District	2012 (Stage 1)	\$200,000
4	153481	Haldane St Reserve	Haldane St	Keysborough	Local	Neighbourhood	2003	\$100,000
5	-	Davis Way Reserve	Davis Way	Springvale	-	Local	-	\$50,000
6	-	Thomas St	Thomas St	Noble Park	-	Local	-	\$50,000
7	92830	Dawn Ave Reserve	Dawn Ave	Dandenong South	Local	Local	1994	\$50,000
8	92855	Shelton Reserve	Shelton Cres	Noble Park North	Local	Local	1994	\$50,000
9	92833	Keysborough Parish Church Grounds	Loxwood Ave	Keysborough	Neighbourhood	Local	1994	\$50,000
10	261974	Hidden Grove	Hidden Grove BVD	Keysborough	Local	Neighbourhood	2004	\$100,000
11	92842	Thomas P. Carroll Reserve	Box St	Dandenong	Local	Local	2000 - onsite refurbishment	\$50,000
12	92858	Lois Twohig Reserve	Carlton Rd	Dandenong North	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	1995	\$100,000
13	145138	W.J. Turner Reserve	Jackson's Rd	Noble Park North	Local	Local	2000 - onsite refurbishment	\$50,000
14	92856	Springvale Civic Centre	Hillcrest Grove	Springvale (Major Activity Area)	Neighbourhood	Local	2000 - onsite refurbishment	\$50,000
15	92829	Corio Drive Reserve	Corio Drive	Springvale South	Local	Local	1995	\$50,000
16	92854	Golding Court Reserve	Golding Court	Dandenong North	Local	Local	1995	\$50,000
17	92839	Ross Reserve Nth	Memorial Drive	Noble Park	Local	Local	1995	\$50,000
18	92857	Coomoora Reserve	Coomoora Rd	Keysborough	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	1995	\$100,000
19	92825	Amersham Ave Reserve	Amersham Ave	Springvale South	Local	Local	1995	\$50,000
20	92832	J.C. Mills Reserve	Cleeland St	Dandenong	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	1995	\$100,000
21	92834	Markham Ct Reserve	Markham Ct	Keysborough	Local	Local	1995	\$50,000
22	92841	Frederick Wachter Reserve	Bloomfield Rd	Keysborough	Neighbourhood	District	1999	\$500,000
23	92905	Geoffrey Carson Reserve	Woomera Ave	Keysborough	Local	Local	1999	\$50,000



Priority Number	Code	Playground	Street	Suburb	Current Classification	Proposed Classification	Installation Year	Cost
24	92880	Olinda Ave Reserve	Olinda Ave	Springvale	Local	Local	1999	\$50,000
25	145117	Regent Reserve	Regent Ave	Springvale	Local	Local	1999	\$50,000
26	145103	Noble Park Reserve	Aenone Ave	Noble Park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	1999	\$100,000
27	92862	Bowmore Reserve	Bowmore Rd	Noble Park	Local	Local	1999	\$50,000
28	92899	Parkfield Reserve	Dunblane Rd	Noble Park	Local	Local	1999	\$50,000
29	92882	Sandra Ave Reserve	Sandra Ave	Noble Park	Local	Local	1999	\$50,000
30	-	Springvale Reserve	Ericksen Street	Springvale	-	Local	-	\$50,000
31	92889	Bakers Rd Reserve	Bakers Road	Dandenong North	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2000	\$100,000
32	92870	Brown Rd Reserve	Browns Rd	Noble Park North	Local	Local	2000	\$50,000
33	92895	Keysborough Reserve	Cheltenham Road / Sunnyvale Cres	Keysborough	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2000	\$100,000
34	92891	Edinburgh Rd Reserve	Edinburgh Road	Springvale	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2000	\$100,000
35	92898	Norman Luth Reserve	Heritage Ave	Springvale	Local	Neighbourhood	2001	\$100,000
36	92885	Thornton Ct Reserve	Thornton Ct	Dandenong North	Local	Local	2001	\$50,000
37	92887	Victoria Ave Reserve	Victoria Ave	Springvale	Local	Local	2001	\$50,000
38	155180	Leon Trembath Reserve	Elt Cres / Corrigan Rd	Noble Park	Local	Local	2001	\$50,000
39	92875	Henderson Rd Reserve	Henderson Road	Keysborough	Local	Local	2001	\$50,000
40	92888	George Andrews Reserve	Vivien St	Dandenong South	Neighbourhood	Local	2002	\$50,000
41	92873	Gardiner Reserve	Rylands Rd	Dandenong	Local	Local	2002	\$50,000
42	153486	Robert Booth Reserve Nth	Bess Ct	Dandenong	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2002	\$100,000
43	92894	Greaves Reserve	Bennet St	Dandenong	Local	Neighbourhood	2002	\$100,000
44	92848	Ross Reserve Central	Memorial Drive	Noble Park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2003	\$100,000
45	153480	Purley Reserve	Purley Drive	Dandenong North	Local	Local	2003	\$50,000
46	153485	Glendale Reserve	Whitworth Ave	Springvale	Local	Neighbourhood	2003	\$100,000
47	153487	Robert Booth Reserve Sth	Clow St	Dandenong	Local	Local	2003	\$50,000
48	153482	Police Paddocks Reserve (North)	Brady Rd	Endeavour Hills	Local	Local	2003	\$50,000
49	92864	Barry J. Powell Reserve (South)	Halton Rd	Noble Park North	Neighbourhood	District	2003	\$500,000
50	153489	Falkiner Reserve	Falkiner Cres	Dandenong	Local	Local	2003	\$50,000
51	153488	Kinnoul Ave Reserve	Kinnoul Ave	Keysborough	Local	Local	2003	\$50,000

Priority Number	Code	Playground	Street	Suburb	Current Classification	Proposed Classification	Installation Year	Cost
52	145111	Downard Pittman	Downard St	Dandenong North	Local	Local	2003	\$50,000
53	145113	Police Paddocks Reserve (South)	The Lea	Endeavour Hills	Local	Local	2003	\$50,000
54	155967	Springvale Sth Reserve	Mackay St	Springvale South	Local	Local	2004	\$50,000
55	92865	Warner Reserve West	Furnew St	Springvale	Neighbourhood	District	2004	\$500,000
56	155966	Mile Creek Reserve	Hope St	Springvale	Local	Local	2004	\$50,000
57	155181	Tirhatuan Park	Kriegel Way	Dandenong North	District	District	2004	\$500,000
58	153484	Simpson Drive Reserve	Simpson Drive	Dandenong North	Local	Local	2004	\$50,000
59	165544	Bergen St Reserve	Bergen St	Keysborough	Local	Local	2004	\$50,000
60	165547	Dunern Reserve	Dunern Rd	Dandenong North	Local	Local	2004	\$50,000
61	165545	Charnfield Cres Reserve	Charnfield Cres	Noble Park	Local	Local	2004	\$50,000
62	165546	Booth Cres Reserve	Booth Cres	Dandenong North	Local	Local	2004	\$50,000
63	165549	Mills Reserve	Pau St	Noble Park	Local	Local	2004	\$50,000
64	261978	Lake View Boulevard Reserve	Lake View Bvd	Keysborough	Local	Local	2004	\$50,000
65	165548	Nimbin Reserve	Nimbin Court	Noble Park North	Local	Local	2004	\$50,000
66	92836	Menzies Ave Reserve	Menzies Ave	Dandenong North	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2004	\$100,000
67	261976	Donnici Drive Reserve South	Cafardi Bvd	Keysborough	Local	Local	2005	\$50,000
68	169082	Greenglade Ct Reserve	Greenglade Ct	Noble Park	Local	Local	2006	\$50,000
69	169084	Spring Valley Reserve	Clarke Rd	Springvale South	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2006	\$100,000
70	169087	Briarhurst Ave Reserve	Briarhurst Ave	Dandenong North	Local	Local	2006	\$50,000
71	169086	Apex Park	Cleeland St	Dandenong	Local	Local	2006	\$50,000
72	169083	Edith McPherson Reserve	Namur St	Noble Park	Local	Local	2006	\$50,000
73	92831	Hemmings Park	Princes Hwy	Dandenong	District	District	1989, 1991 and 2007	\$500,000
74	254543	Bilbungra Drive Reserve	Bilbungra Drive	Keysborough	Local	Local	2007	\$50,000
75	169046	Dandenong Wetlands	Stud Rd	Dandenong North	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2007	\$100,000
76	92851	Blackmore-Madison Reserve	Madison Avenue	Dandenong North	Local	Local	2007	\$50,000
77	92874	Gately Reserve	Gladstone Rd / Gately Ct	Dandenong North	Local	Local	2007	\$50,000
78	92861	Rosene Ct Reserve	Rosene Ct	Keysborough	Local	Local	2007	\$50,000

Priority Number	Code	Playground	Street	Suburb	Current Classification	Proposed Classification	Installation Year	Cost
79	261977	Keneally Street (Metro 3175)	Keneally Street	Dandenong South	Local	Local	2007	\$50,000
80	261979	McFees Rd	McFees Rd	Dandenong North	Local	Local	2008	\$50,000
81	92838	Oakwood Park	Joan Court	Noble Park North	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2008	\$100,000
82	257527	Noreen Cox Reserve	Patchell Road / Tarene St	Dandenong South	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2008	\$100,000
83	257524	Alex Nelson Reserve	Harold Rd	Springvale South	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2008	\$100,000
84	92853	Gerard St Reserve	Gerard St	Dandenong	Local	Local	2008	\$50,000
85	257526	Kiwanis Park	Goodman Drive	Noble Park	Local	Local	2008	\$50,000
86	258433	Copas Park	Buckley St	Noble Park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2008	\$100,000
87	261975	Tatterson Park	Cheltenham Rd	Keysborough	District	District	2009	\$500,000
88	257525	Roth Hetherington Gardens	Woollahra Ave	Keysborough	Local	Local	2008	\$50,000
89	260960	Maralinga Reserve	Maralinga Ave	Keysborough	Local	Local	2009	\$50,000
90	261965	Fotheringham Reserve Nth	Alexander Ave	Dandenong	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2010	\$100,000
91	145069	Fotheringham Reserve Sth	Pyke St	Dandenong	Local	Local	2010	\$50,000
92	92847	Luxford Reserve	Noble Street / Jennings St	Noble Park	Local	Local	2010	\$50,000
93	165543	Warner Reserve Central	Davidson St	Springvale	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2010	\$100,000
94	92871	Currajong-Illawarra Reserve	Currajong Street	Dandenong North	Local	Local	2010	\$50,000
95	145133	Timberglade Drive Reserve	Timberglade Dve	Noble Park North	Local	Local	2011	\$50,000
96	92876	Kandra St Reserve	Kandra St	Dandenong North	Local	Local	2011	\$50,000
97	92881	Rawdon Hill Drive Reserve	Rawdon Hill Dve	Dandenong North	Local	Local	2011	\$50,000
98	456045	Church Reserve	Church Road/Harlequin Drive	Keysborough	Local	Local	2011	\$50,000
99	145068	Fillmore Reserve	Fillmore rd	Dandenong North	Local	Local	2012	\$50,000
100	92878	Manks Ct Reserve	Manks Ct	Dandenong North	Local	Local	2012	\$50,000
101	92886	Tirhatuan Park (Somerset Dr)	Somerset Drive	Dandenong North	Local	Local	2012	\$50,000
102	92835	McKeon Circuit Reserve	McKeon Circuit	Dandenong North	Local	Local	2012	\$50,000
103	92852	G.J. Duggan Reserve	Browns Rd	Noble Park North	Local	Neighbourhood	2012	\$100,000
104	92850	Naomi Ct Reserve	Naomi Ct	Noble Park	Local	Local	2012	\$50,000
105	451290	Meridian Reserve	Keshava Grove	Dandenong South	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2012	\$100,000

Priority Number	Code	Playground	Street	Suburb	Current Classification	Proposed Classification	Installation Year	Cost
106	844	Somerfield Drive North Reserve	Somerfield Drive North / Newbury Street	Keysborough	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2012	\$100,000
	-	Somerfield Estate Stage 24 Reserve	-	Keysborough	-	Local	-	\$0
	-	Somerfield Estate Stage 12 Reserve	-	Keysborough	-	Local	-	\$0
	-	Somerfield Estate Stage 29 Reserve	-	Keysborough	-	Neighbourhood	-	\$0
	-	Central Dandenong	-	Dandenong	-	Neighbourhood	-	\$0
	-	Springvale Activity Centre	-	Springvale	-	Neighbourhood	-	\$0
<b>Total Cost to Council</b>								<b>\$9,900,000</b>

General Notes:

- This Action Plan may be reviewed and changed as part of Council's CIP process.
- The above budgets and timings are recommendations, which will necessarily have to be balanced against other projects in Council's CIP process.
- The amounts shown on the attached table are 2013 dollars and it is envisaged that they would be adjusted annually in accordance with the CPI.
- The above costs include some supporting infrastructure, such as an access path to the playground, adjacent seating and possibly some perimeter planting. Generally speaking, other park infrastructure beyond the immediate play environment will be provided via Council's Park Improvement Program, with park improvement projects timed to occur in conjunction with the playground redevelopments where possible. Park infrastructure will be provided in accordance with the Playground Design and Management Guidelines and the Park Development Standards (contained in the Open Space Strategy (2009).

Notes for Specific Playgrounds

- Priority 3, **Dandenong Park**: Typically, a district playground has a budget range of \$500,000 to \$800,000 (subject to external funding). However, as the redevelopment of Dandenong Park Playground has already commenced, the Playground Development Action Plan allocates \$200,000 for the completion of Stage 2 (the Youth Precinct).
- Two local playgrounds and one neighbourhood playground in the **Somerfield Estate** (Keysborough) have been allocated \$0 in this redevelopment program as they will be installed by developers, at no cost to Council, and their subsequent redevelopment is unlikely to occur during the lifespan of this strategy.
- The proposed playgrounds at **Central Dandenong and Springvale Activity Centres** have not been allocated a priority rating or budget allocation as these are tentative proposals that are subject to activity centre structure planning processes.
- Council currently manages two local level playgrounds in **Police Paddocks** (Endeavour Hills), which are located on Parks Victoria land, within the City of Casey. Council currently has a leasing arrangement with Parks Victoria for this land, which also includes softball and soccer facilities. Council is responsible for maintaining and redeveloping these playground facilities while this lease arrangement is in place. For this reason, the 2013 Playground Strategy and Action Plan includes these two facilities, despite that they are located outside the municipality.

## 4.4. Recommended Annual Funding Allocation

Given an eventual playground asset base of \$10.6 million and an estimated playground lifespan of 20 years, the expected annual capital works allocation required to replace and upgrade the playground asset base is in the order of \$530,000 per annum. However, the *Playground Development Action Plan* discounts three playgrounds that will be installed by developers (in the Somerfield Estate, Keysborough) along with two tentative playground proposals in Central Dandenong and Springvale Activity Centres. As a result, the *Playground Development Action Plan* amounts to \$9,900,000. Thus, the real figure required to retain and renew Council's playgrounds assets is actually \$495,000 per annum over twenty years.

As a point of comparison, Councils 2012/2013 Budget had an allocation of \$300,000 for the "Playground Renewal and Upgrade Program". This is significantly less than the \$495,000 per annum required to ensure the adequate replacement and renewal of the playground asset base.

Failure to expend an amount in the vicinity of \$495,000 per annum will ultimately result in the running down of the playground asset base and subsequent reduction in play value and possibly playground safety. A significant backlog of playground developments will arise if the development program is not implemented annually as recommended. Left unchecked, this could result in a significant asset redevelopment gap as fewer playgrounds are renewed within the 20 year timeframe. Council should provide adequate ongoing capital funding for the playground upgrade and installation program so that the asset base is improved and maintained to the standards outlined in this strategy

### 4.4.1. Funding Mechanisms

Council's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) has traditionally been the primary funding mechanism to implement Council's playground strategies. The CIP funds all of Council's capital works projects and is developed via a whole of Council application process. All capital bids are measured against weighted ranking criteria, which determine the relative priority of all capital projects and, consequently, their success in a given financial year. Successful capital works bids are then presented to Council for consideration as part of the overall *Annual Budget*. This funding model does not guarantee recurrent funding for Council's playground facilities as the funding allocation for playground renewals and development must be balanced against competing capital projects and commitments each year. Council will explore alternative funding mechanisms to secure recurrent annual funding, including its incorporation into the *Long Term Financial Strategy* (LTFS).

Additionally there may be opportunities to utilise funding from developer contributions for playgrounds that service new residential areas. This is what has, and will continue, to occur in the Somerfield Estate (Keysborough) and the Meridian development (Dandenong South).

In April 2011, Planning Scheme Amendment C114 introduced a public open space contribution of 5% on all residential zoned land (excluding land that is already subject to a development contributions overlay). The funds generated from this levy will be used to improve the existing open space network, which can potentially include improvements to the City's playground network.

Additionally, external funding can sometimes be sought to help offset the cost to Council of major district (and possibly neighbourhood) scale playground facilities, however it is far less likely that Council would be able to obtain any external funding for local facilities.

Table 3 outlined the budget ranges for neighbourhood and district playgrounds. The costs specified in the *Playground Development Action Plan* reflect the lower end of these budget ranges as this is considered the minimum base line amount necessary to install neighbourhood and district playgrounds. Council will investigate and actively pursue external funding opportunities and grants to supplement CIP funding for neighbourhood and district playgrounds.

### 4.4.2. Funding for Supporting Park Infrastructure

The *Playground Design and Management Guidelines* seek to improve the overall quality of the play experience and environment by establishing minimum design standards for all new and upgraded playgrounds. Park infrastructure will be provided in accordance with these guidelines and the *Park Development Standards* (contained in the *Open*

*Space Strategy*, 2009) to ensure that the facilities and infrastructure provided is appropriate to the classification of the park and playground.

The cost for some supporting infrastructure, such as an access path to the playground, adjacent seating and possibly some perimeter planting can be absorbed in the *Playground Development Action Plan* (which will underpin the *Playground Renewal and Upgrade Program* within Council's annual CIP budget). However, other park infrastructure beyond the immediate play environment will be provided via Council's *Park Improvement Program*. Where possible, park improvement projects will be timed to occur in conjunction with the playground redevelopments.

#### **4.5. Reviewing the Strategy**

The *Playground Development Action Plan* will be subject to review and adjustment annually at the time of CIP development. While the strategy provides the overarching strategic framework for playground redevelopment across the City, the *Playground Development Action Plan* shall be flexible to enable new or revised recommendations to be endorsed or modified as required. While it is recommended that budget allocations for playgrounds remains closely linked to the *Playground Development Action Plan*, expenditure on the playground renewal and upgrade program will need to be balanced against other council projects and commitments.

This strategy will be reviewed every four years to ensure that underlying principles of the plan remain sound and that the playground network and redevelopment priorities are appropriate. This four year review will involve a report to Council evaluating how well the strategy is being implemented. This report to Council may also recommend an adjustment to the annual CIP requirement if the capital cost to develop playgrounds increases or reduces substantially during that four period.

Building on the annual and four yearly reviews, a new strategy will be presented to Council for consideration and adoption in ten years time.

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## **APPENDICES**

## APPENDIX 1: Playground Network by Suburb

### Legend for all Playground Network Suburb Maps

- ★ District Playground
-  400 Metre Radius from a District Playground
- Neighbourhood Playground
-  400 Metre Radius from a Neighbourhood Playground
- Local Playground
-  400 Metre Radius from a Local Playground
- ◇ Proposed Playground Removals
-  Open Space
-  Railway
-  Major Roads and Freeways
-  Minor Roads

Figure 6: Playground Network - Dandenong North

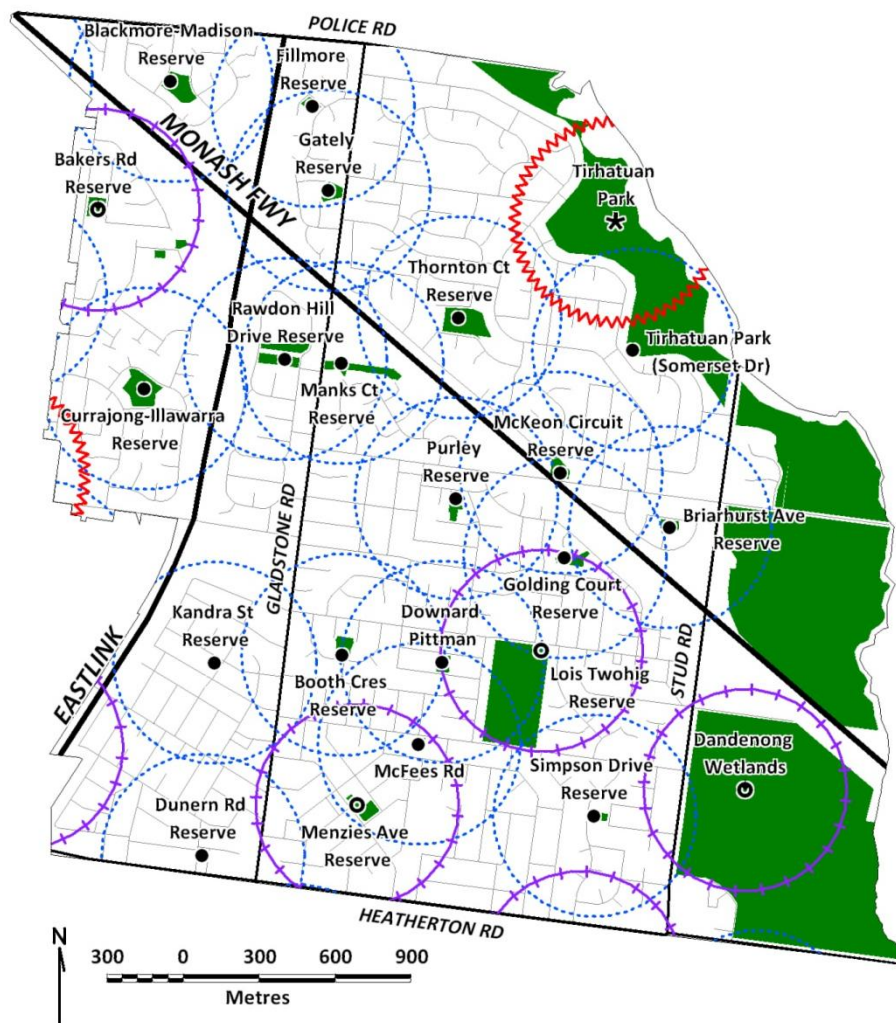


Figure 7: Playground Network – Dandenong and Dandenong South

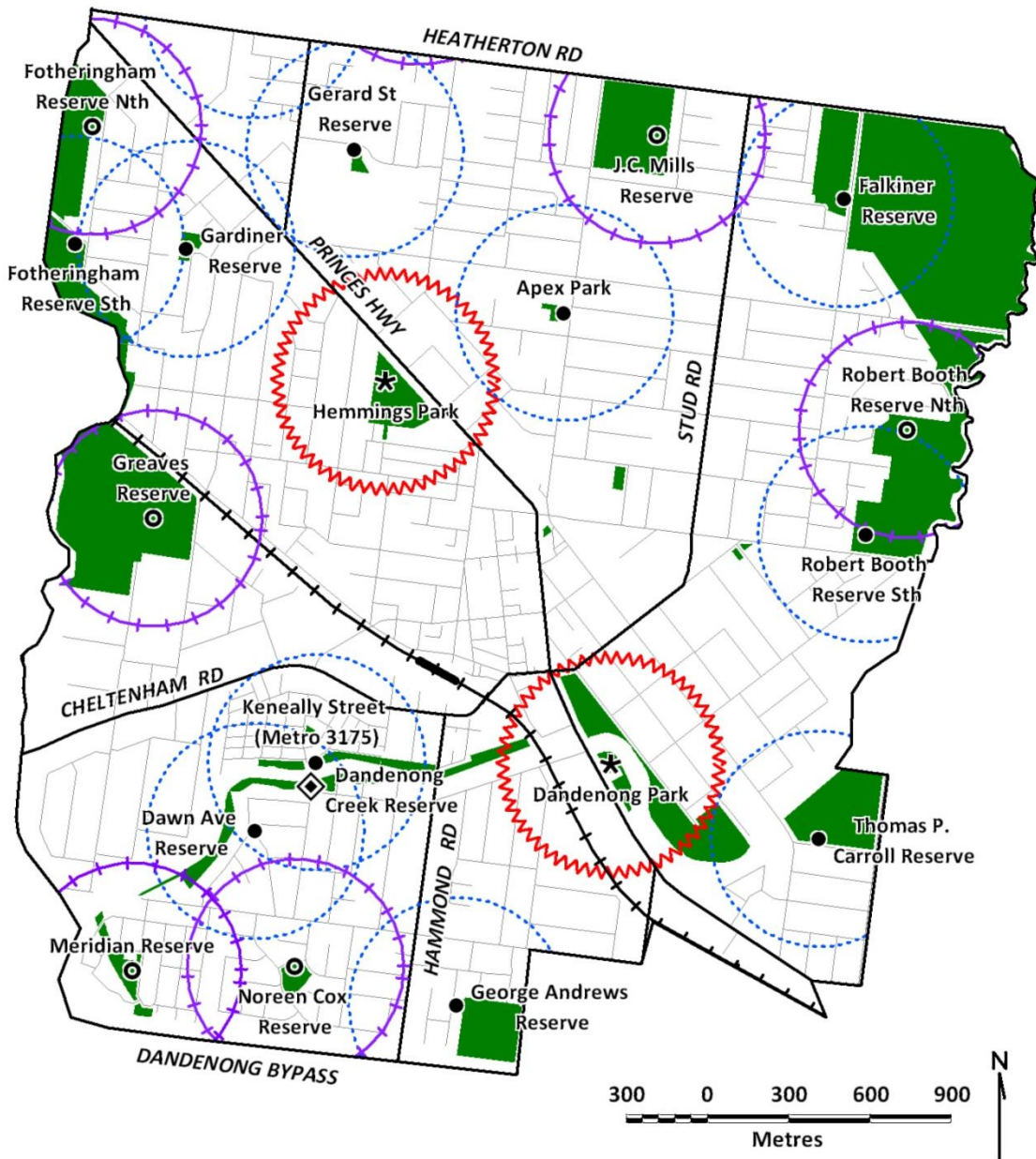


Figure 8: Playground Network - Noble Park North

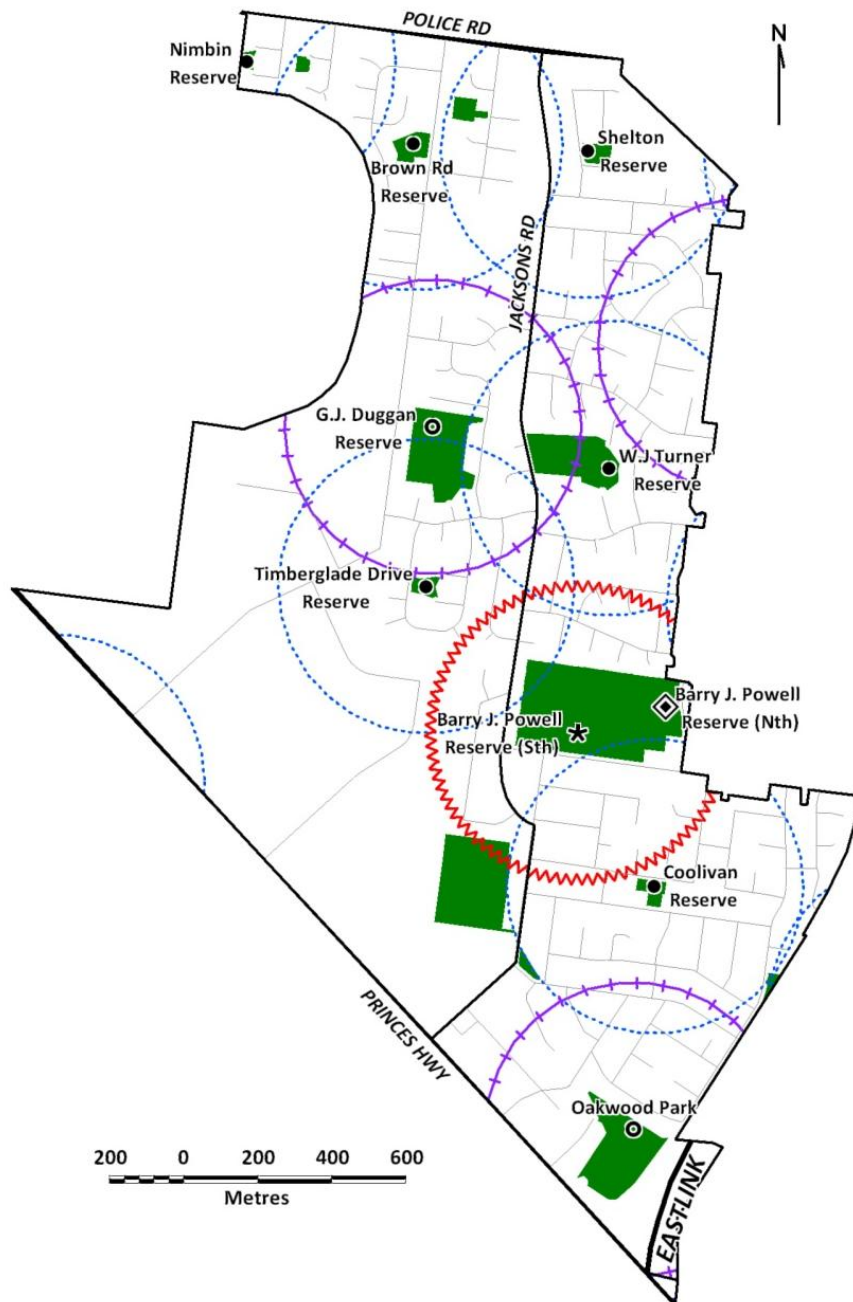


Figure 9: Playground Network - Noble Park

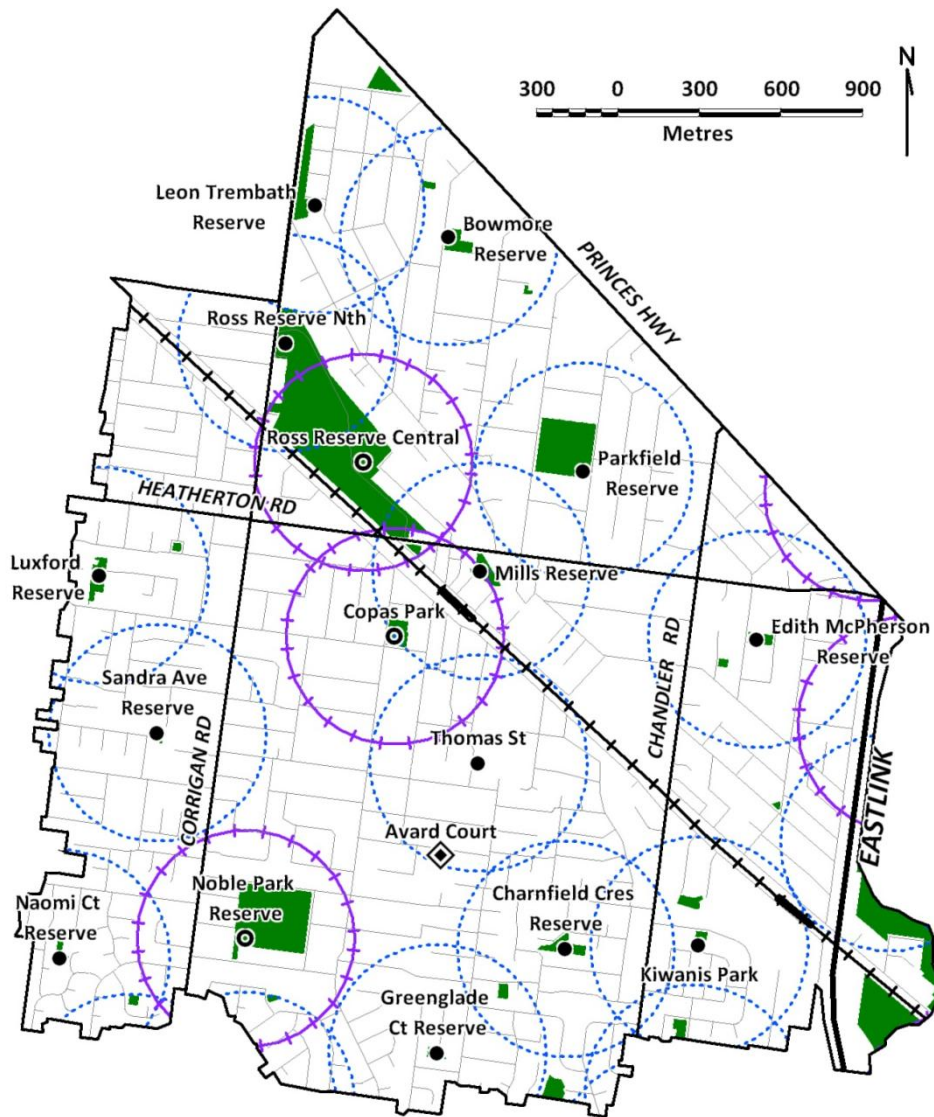


Figure 10: Playground Network - Springvale

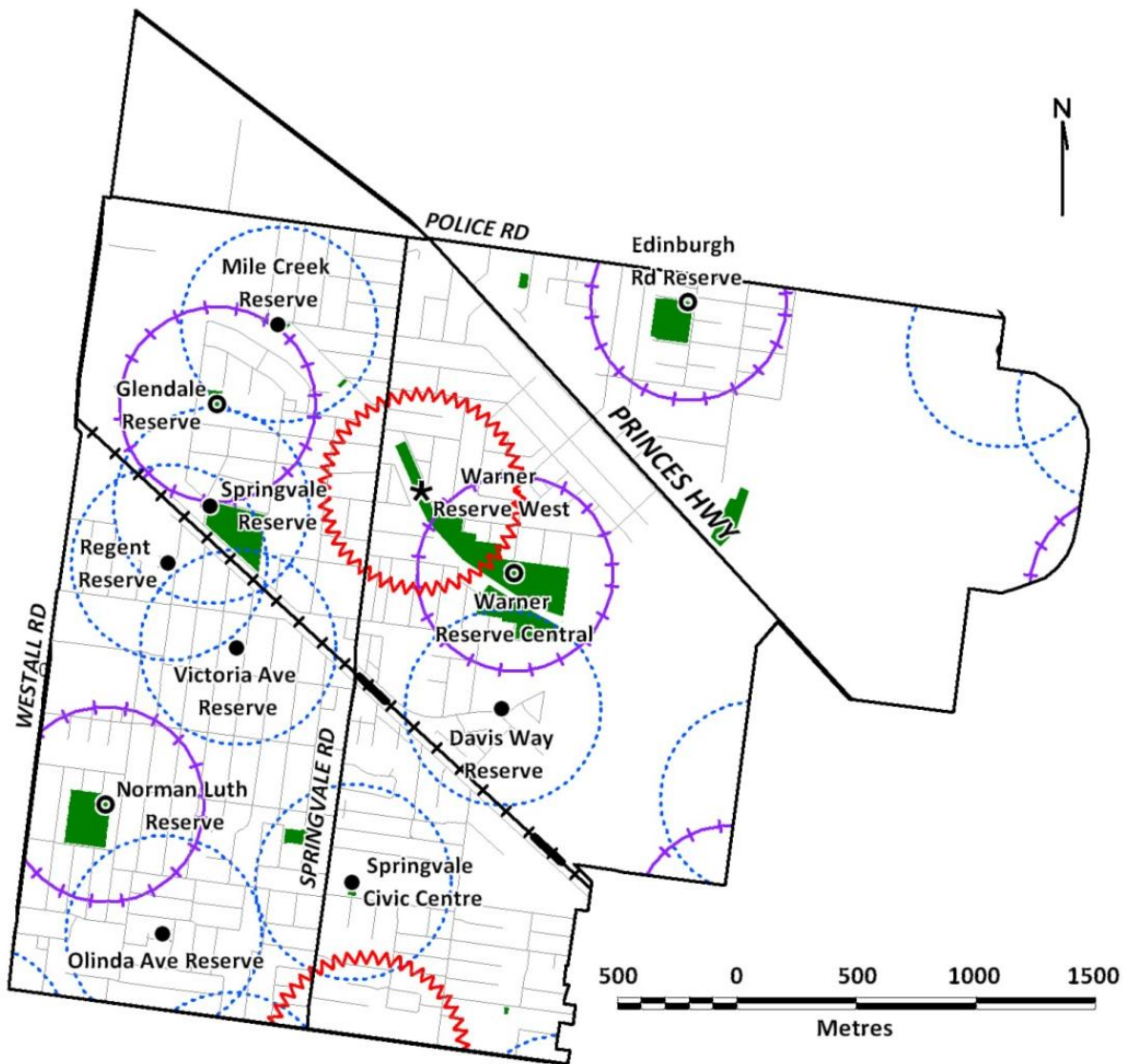


Figure 11: Playground Network - Springvale South

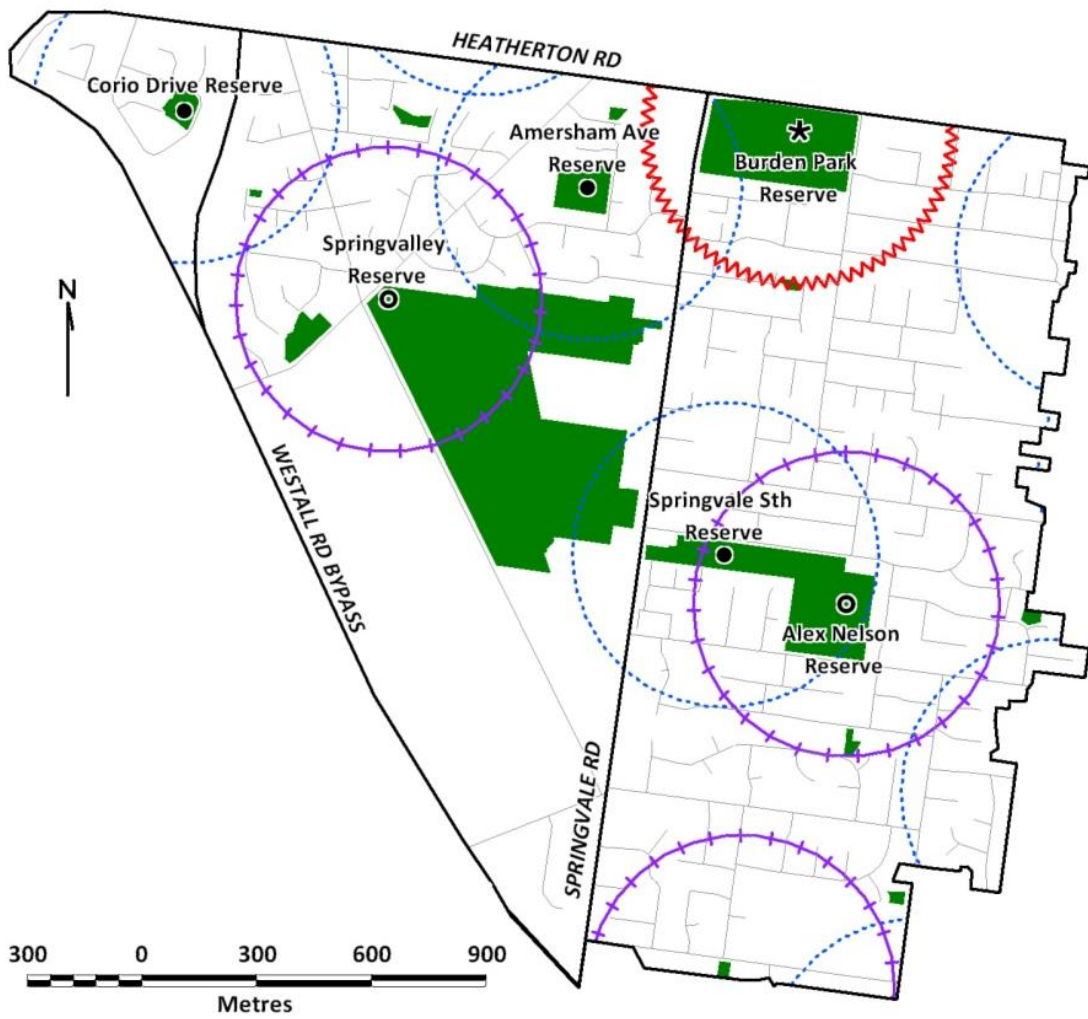
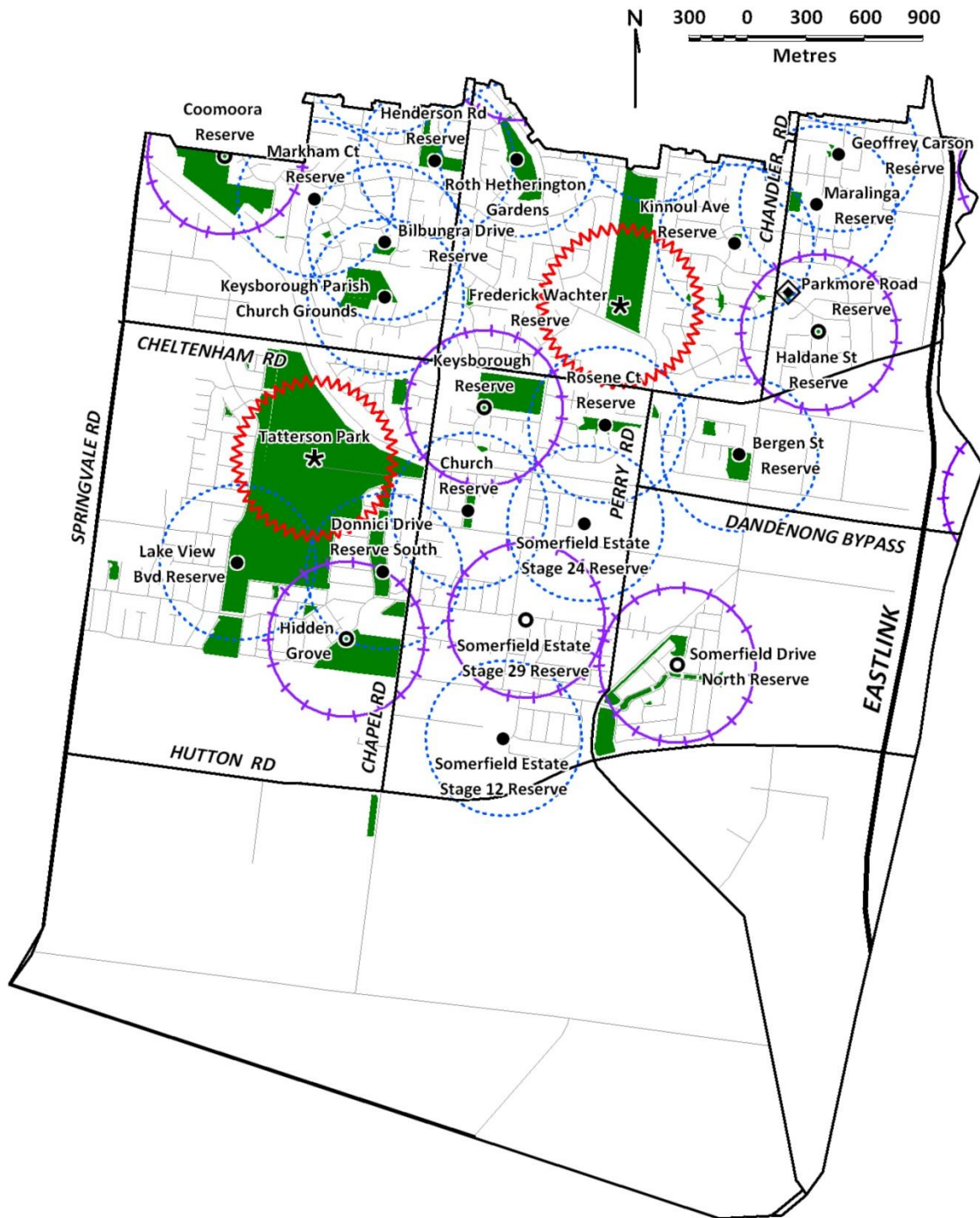


Figure 12: Playground Network - Keysborough





## APPENDIX 2: Index of Playground Photos

Playground/Park	Council	Address
Alex Nelson Reserve	Greater Dandenong	Harold Road, Springvale South (Mel Ref: 89 A4)
Alma Park	Port Phillip	Alma Road, St Kilda East (Mel Ref: 58 E9)
Bayswater Park	Knox	King Street, Bayswater (Mel Ref: 64 F4)
Beckett Park	Boroondara	Parring Road, Balwyn (Mel Ref: 46 F7)
Birrarung Marr Playground	Melbourne	Artplay Playground, Birrarung Marr (Mel Ref: 2F H6.)
Burden Park	Greater Dandenong	Heatherton Road, Springvale South (Mel Ref: 88 K1)
Carlton Gardens	Melbourne	Rathdowne Street, Carlton (Mel Ref: 2B H11)
Carnegie Library Playground	Glen Eira	Shepparson Avenue, Carnegie (Mel Ref: 68 J5)
Children's Playground - Royal Botanic Gardens	Melbourne	Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra (Mel Ref: 2F K12).
Church Reserve	Greater Dandenong	Church Road / Harlequin Drive, Keysborough (Mel Ref: 89 C11)
Currajong – Illawarra Reserve	Greater Dandenong	Currajong Street, Dandenong North (Mel Ref: 81 A10)
Fotheringham Reserve North	Greater Dandenong	Alexander Avenue, Dandenong (Mel Ref 89 K3)
Hays Paddock	Boroondara	Longstaff Street, Kew East (Mel Ref: 45 J1-2)
Gerard Street Reserve	Greater Dandenong	Gerard Street, Dandenong (Mel Ref: 90 C3)
Hemmings Park	Greater Dandenong	Princes Highway, Dandenong (Mel Ref: 90 C6)
Hidden Grove Playground	Greater Dandenong	Hidden Grove Boulevard, Keysborough South (Mel Ref: 89 A12)
Kandra Street Reserve	Greater Dandenong	Kandra Street, Dandenong (Mel Ref: 81 B12)
Keneally Street (Metro 3175)	Greater Dandenong	Keneally Street, Dandenong (Mel Ref: 90 B9)
Luxford Reserve	Greater Dandenong	Noble Street / Jennings Street, Noble Park (Mel Ref: 89 B2)
Maranoa Gardens	Boroondara	Yarrbat Avenue, Balwyn (Mel Ref: 46 F7)
Mile Creek	Greater Dandenong	Hope Street, Springvale (Mel Ref: 79 K5)
Quarries Park	Yarra	Ramsden Street, Clifton Hill (Mel Ref 2C C2)
Parkifeld Reserve	Greater Dandenong	Dunblane Road, Noble Park (Mel Ref: 89 G1)
Rawdon Hill Drive Reserve	Greater Dandenong	Rawdon Hill Drive, Dandenong North (Mel Ref: 81 C9)
Robert Booth Reserve South	Greater Dandenong	Clow Street, Dandenong (Mel Ref: 90 G7)
Stud Park	Knox	Fulham Road, Rowville (Mel Ref: 81 K1)
Tatterson Park	Greater Dandenong	Cheltenham Road, Keysborough (Mel Ref: 89 A10 )
Tiimberglade Drive Reserve	Greater Dandenong	Timberglade Drive, Noble Park North (Mel Ref: 80 J9)
Tirhatuan Park	Greater Dandenong	Kriegal Way, Dandenong North (Mel Ref: 81 F8)
Victoria Avenue	Greater Dandenong	Victoria Avenue, Springvale (Mel Ref: 79 J9)
Wombat Bend (Finns Reserve)	Manningham	Duncan Street, Templestowe Lower (Mel Ref. 33 B4)

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