

**City of Greater Dandenong**

**PLACES FOR PEOPLE:  
OPEN SPACE IN GREATER DANDENONG**

**Open Space Strategy**

**May 2009**



**GREATER  
DANDENONG**  
*City of Opportunity*



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## About the Strategy

The open space strategy comprises three parts:

1. Open space strategy,
2. Municipality open space analysis,
3. Costings and action plan (to be prepared).

Other information used to guide this strategy is the report on the community consultation carried out for Council by Stratcorp: "Open Space Strategy: Community Consultation Report".

For more information, please go to the Council's website at:

[www.greaterdandenong.com](http://www.greaterdandenong.com)

A separate open space strategy has been prepared for the central Dandenong area as part of the revitalisation programme for VicUrban. This document has been considered in the finalisation of this Strategy.

## Strategy Focus

This strategy maps out a way to achieve a quality public park and reserve network, to meet the recreational and social needs of the existing and future Greater Dandenong community, over the next 20 years.

The goals of the strategy are to provide:

- A range of public parks and reserves within walking distance from most residents that are attractive, interesting, safe, readily accessible and comfortable places to be.
- A comprehensive open space network that delivers environmental, social, health and well-being, and economic benefits to the community.

## What is Open Space

Quality public open space that is well located and well developed positively contributes to urban amenity as well as the environmental, social, health and well-being, and economic sustainability of the community.

For the purposes of this strategy, open space includes all land which is freely accessible that people can visit for recreation, relaxation and socialisation, including organised sporting activities and informal play.

'Traditional' types of open space include parks and gardens, playgrounds, sports fields & recreation facilities. These provide opportunities for activities such as organised sports, informal sports and play, socialising and relaxing.

Open spaces may also include 'green spaces', which can include areas of natural or cultural heritage value, habitat corridors, some easements, open water / wetlands and agricultural land.

'Hard urban spaces' also provide valuable open space opportunities in urban areas and include streetscapes, civic plazas and forecourts, and market areas. This also includes the streets surrounding and leading to parks and public open spaces. These types of open spaces are important to the appearance and liveability of urban areas, and will be important in the revitalisation of central Dandenong.

'Linear open spaces' can be linkages between open space areas and act as significant open spaces in their own right. This includes walking and bicycle trails, habitat and vegetation corridors and drainage easements. The open space strategy incorporates creeks (Mile, Yarraman, Dandenong and Eumemmerring Creeks), railway corridor, Eastlink and reserves located adjacent or within close proximity to these.

It is recognised that other areas can provide an amenity or recreation resource to the community. This includes recreation facilities accessed for a fee such as golf courses, or public cemeteries. These areas have been considered in the Strategy where appropriate; however the main focus is on freely accessible public open space.

Public open space should be 'fit for its purpose' and largely free from constraints and encumbrances which affect its primary purpose. Open space should also be integrated/connected to broader open space network via trails and corridors, which may also include the road network.

## Open Space in the City

Within the City of Greater Dandenong, there is approximately 580 hectares of land owned or managed by the Council for public open space, representing approximately 4.3% of the gross area of the municipality (this figure would be higher if based upon the developable area of the municipality). There are also significant areas of privately owned open space located in the region, such as golf courses.

The majority of existing open space is located in the north of the municipality near existing residential areas (refer to Figure 1). Significant areas of public open space include the Dandenong Creek and its tributaries; Greaves Reserve; Springvalley Reserve; Ross Reserve; Frederick Wachter Reserve; and Tatterson Park, all being larger than 7 hectares in area.

There are a number of new open spaces which will be developed in Dandenong as part of the revitalisation process, which comprise a range of urban areas.

In the southern part of the municipality there has historically been relatively less demand for open space, as this area largely comprises green belt and rural areas. However this will change with future industrial/commercial developments. New developments will be required to appropriately contribute to the public open space network.

The southern part of the municipality is currently affected by the current extent of Melbourne's urban growth boundary, which also defines the extent of non-urban land uses, or the South-East Green Wedge. As noted by SGS Economics and Planning (2008), green wedges were originally established "as non-urban zones for open space or parkland between Melbourne's main transport corridors. These areas were to provide for a range of non-urban uses including recreation, landscape protection, resource utilisation, farming, flora and fauna and conservation". In this municipality, the majority of land outside the urban growth boundary is zoned Green Wedge, however there is also substantial area zoned Public Use 1 for the treatment plant, and some areas zoned Urban Flood Zone. There is minimal land outside the urban growth boundary which is accessible to the community as open space, with the exception of private sports and leisure facilities.

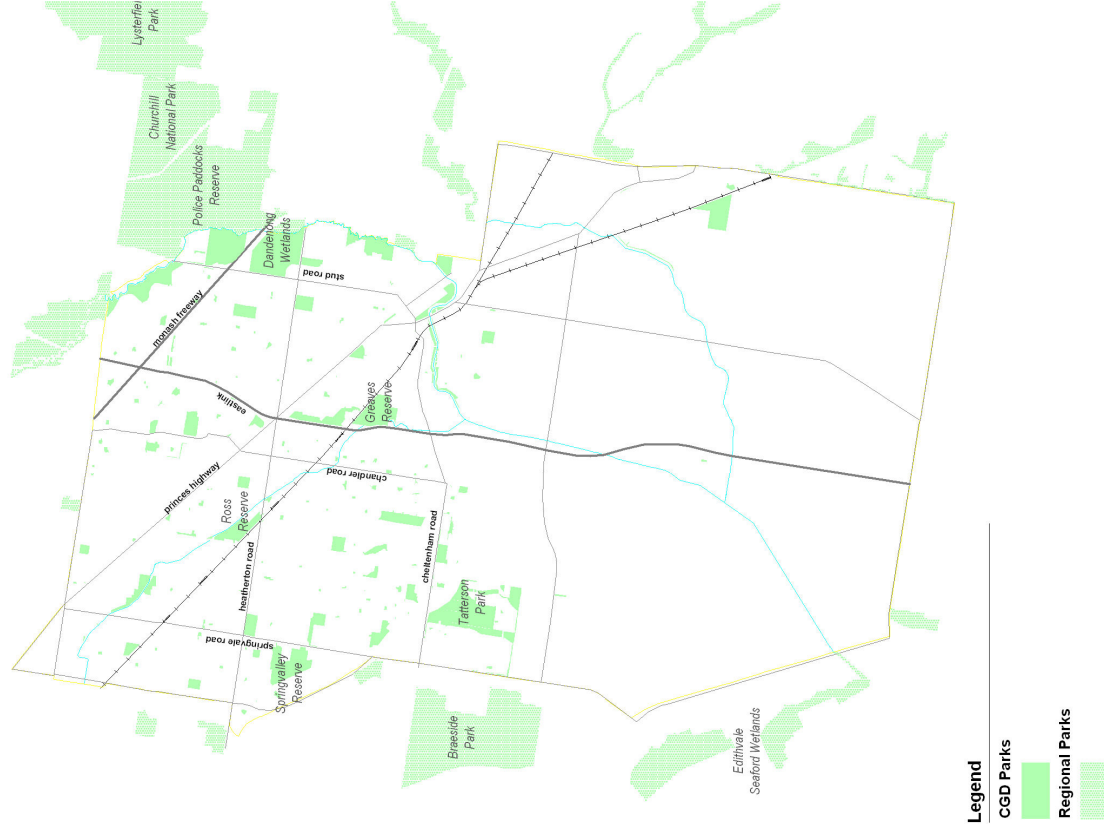


Figure 1: Parks within Greater Dandenong and Surrounding Region

There are several areas of significant ecological value in the municipality, including wetlands and remnant woodlands and grasslands communities. Major open space areas with significant biodiversity values include Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve, Tirhatuan Park, Fotheringham Reserve, Tatterson Park, Coomoora Woodland and the Dandenong Creek floodplain, which showcase natural bushland and wetland habitats. Greaves and Ross Reserves have significant areas of remnant vegetation. These sites are largely isolated, surrounded by urban development.

There are five main waterways in Greater Dandenong, which offer further significant recreational opportunities and form a major network of environmentally important areas. This comprises Dandenong Creek, Mile Creek, Eumemmerring Creek, Mordialloc Creek and Patterson River. Water quality issues in these creeks are common to many of Melbourne's urban streams. The Dandenong Creek floodplain plays a vital role in controlling the floodwaters of Dandenong Creek and provides opportunities for conservation of biodiversity, wetlands and passive recreation.

### **Regional open space opportunities**

There is a range of regional open space opportunities including the Police Paddocks Reserve, Churchill National Park and Lysterfield Park to the north of the municipality, and Braeside Park and the Edithvale-Seafood Wetlands to the south-west (refer to Figure 1).

Within the broader south-east region, regional open space opportunities are considered to be patchy. In this region, Parks Victoria is focussing on promoting existing parklands, such as Police Paddocks, which has generally low visitor numbers. Parks Victoria has also identified the need for a further regional park, which is proposed to be located within the Cranbourne area.

Some significant areas of extractive industry lands lie in the Dingley-Heatherton 'sand-belt' and the Frankston - Cranbourne area, which may offer opportunities for future open space provision.

There is an extensive trail system through the region, which is to be further augmented with the recent preparation of the Bicycle/Shared Path Facilities strategy. In the central areas, the spine provided by the Dandenong Creek trail provides links to a large number of parks and other trails throughout the area, such as the Bay to Ranges bicycle trail across the municipality.

### **Future open spaces**

New open spaces will be provided in the City as a result of a number of developments. This includes:

- 32 hectares of passive and linear open spaces to be provided with the development of new industrial land in Keysborough and Dandenong South.
- 41 hectares of passive and linear open spaces to be provided with the development of new residential areas in Keysborough.
- An area of urban open space is to be provided with the revitalisation of central Dandenong.

Although these areas have not been included in mapping (as their exact form is yet to be determined), they have been included in the analysis of open space against the 2029 population.

## Hierarchy of Open Space

Open space within the City is currently classified in two ways: by type and use (eg passive, bushland, playground, sports) and by catchment (eg district, neighbourhood or local).

The main **types** of open space include:

- Passive reserves
- Sports reserves, and
- Bushland reserves.

The **catchment** of open space refers to the infrastructure and facilities available within an open space, its area, and the number of people who use the space. The categories used in Greater Dandenong comprise District, Neighbourhood and Local parks. Generally, a District park will have a good range of facilities and activities, and will serve a much larger number of people than a local park.

A description of each type of park in the hierarchy is set out as follows:

### District Passive Parks

Passive reserves are those areas which provide opportunities for casual and informal recreational activities, such as walking, bike riding, picnics and play. The majority of parks and land in the open space network is classified as passive reserves (approximately 60% of land area).

District Parks are large sized open spaces, individually designed, which provide opportunities for a range of activities, comprising both passive and active recreation, and organised and informal play. Approximately 38% or 216 hectares of the total area of Greater Dandenong's open space has been identified as district passive reserves (excluding sports and bushland reserves).

District parks are generally larger in size and provided with a large range of facilities and activities for visitors. Examples of district passive reserves include Tatterson Park, Tirhatuan Reserve and Frederick Wächter Reserve. District Parks may serve as Neighbourhood and Local Parks for surrounding residents, where they meet the minimum amenity and facility requirements for these types of parks.

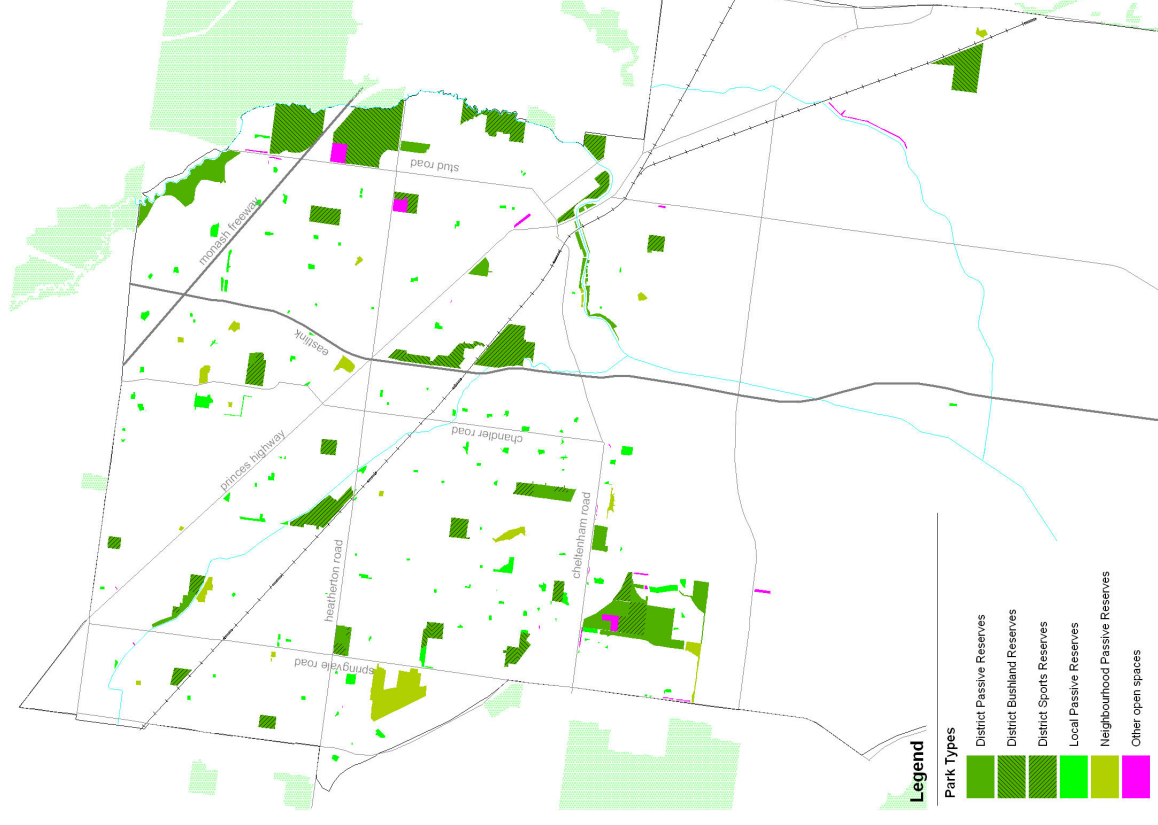


Figure 2: Types of Parks across Greater Dandenong



### **Neighbourhood Passive Parks**

Neighbourhood parks are medium sized open spaces which primarily provide opportunities for passive recreation, relaxation or play to neighbourhood residents. They are generally sized half a hectare - 1 hectare or greater, and serve those houses and premises within 500 metres safe walking distance.

Due to their size, neighbourhood parks may include a range of facilities and opportunities, such as a playground, amenity, casual sports, garden and park. Examples of Neighbourhood Parks include Lois Twohig Reserve and Warner Reserve. There are currently 66 hectares of neighbourhood passive reserves across Greater Dandenong.

Neighbourhood Parks may serve as Local Parks for surrounding residents, where they meet the minimum amenity and facility requirements for both Local Parks and Neighbourhood Parks.

### **Local Passive Parks**

Local parks are smaller sized open spaces which primarily provide opportunities for passive recreation, relaxation or play to local residents within 400 – 500 metres walking distance.

Those areas sized under 1,000 square metres have been defined as small local parks, sometimes referred to as 'pocket parks' and primarily serve those houses within close proximity to the park. It is not generally considered appropriate to provide additional parks of this size in residential areas of standard density, given the limited open space function that they serve and the cost to purchase and maintain such facilities. However small pocket parks may be suitable within activity centres, as they can provide for accessible and well used civic spaces and will service the higher density residential development envisaged as part of Melbourne 2030.

Facilities within local parks may include several of playground, amenity, casual sports, garden.

### **Sports Reserves**

Sports reserves include areas developed mainly for organised (club based) sporting purposes. Formal sports currently catered to comprise cricket, basketball, netball, softball, baseball, soccer, rugby, hockey, bowling and football.

All sports reserves are considered to be 'District Parks' as they have a broad catchment of users. Sports reserves may contain a variety of sporting facilities and associated infrastructure which are generally used and managed for organised sports. There is currently 165 hectares of sports reserves across the municipality.

### **Bushland/ Nature Conservation Reserves**

Bushland reserves include areas of remnant vegetation and indigenous flora and fauna.

Reserves for bushland and nature conservation place a high priority on conservation objectives, however provide opportunities for passive enjoyment and amenity. There are currently four such reserves in Greater Dandenong, comprising Fotheringham Reserve, Alex Wilkie Reserve, Dandenong Wetlands and Coomoora Woodland. These comprise approximately 10% of the open space network. These reserves are considered to serve the district community.



## Other park functions

In addition to the passive, sports and bushland/nature conservation types above, open spaces may serve a number of other functions, comprising:

- Play spaces – such as children’s playgrounds. Playgrounds mainly occur on passive and some sports reserves. The 2004 Playground Strategy is currently being implemented across the City.
- Linking and connectivity spaces – this includes long linear parks and parks mainly comprising a bicycle or walking trail. These are important connections between larger parks and other facilities and services in the community. In this regard,
- Dog off leash areas – currently located on Fotheringham, Tirhatuan, Lois Twohig, Spring Valley, Frederick Wachter, Warner and Police Paddocks Reserves.
- Cultural heritage values – Including parks of significance to the Aboriginal community, including Police Paddocks Reserve, Dandenong Floodplains, waterways and wetlands, and the edge of the alluvial plain. Parks with heritage significance to other parts of the community includes Pioneer Park Reserve.

Although not included in the above, community gardens have also been nominated as significant open space function which should be encouraged.

## Urban and civic spaces/streescapes

There are a number of urban forms, which although not open space in the traditional sense of a green park, may still perform valuable open space functions. This includes places such as formal malls and plazas, and streetscapes.

At present, urban and civic spaces currently comprise a very low proportion of all open space in the City. In future, it is expected that several more, very significant, open spaces will be created in central Dandenong as a result of the revitalising process, including an urban park, streetscapes, civic and plazas and market forecourt, which will increase the level of provision of this type of space.

As development occurs in the City, streetscapes may take on a greater role in the City, providing bicycle and pedestrian linkages, amenity value and open space for near by residents.

## Open Space and Land Use

The characteristics of and requirements for open space will vary depending upon the main land use, which in the urban setting broadly includes residential, commercial and industrial land uses. Open space thus is provided to serve the needs of residents, visitors and workers.

### Residential

In residential areas, there is a high demand for open space facilities to meet the recreational needs of a diverse resident population. Recreation needs occur during the day, but may be more likely during afternoons/evenings and on weekends. The time spent in a quality park serving a residential area is likely to be longer than in open spaces serving business or industrial areas.

Parks serving residential areas need to provide for a broad range of recreational and leisure opportunities, including passive and active open space. Sufficient space and infrastructure needs to be provided, for example, for relaxation, dog exercise, socialising, children’s play, access for elderly or disabled in addition to sports facilities.

There is also a requirement for open space to address landscape and conservation values, which contribute to the amenity and attractiveness of the open spaces areas as well as the general suburb.

### Commercial/activity centres

In commercial areas, the need and demand for open space is different to residential areas. At present, there is likely to be a much smaller resident population, hence the main requirement is for open space to serve the needs of visitors and workers to the area, primarily during business hours. Open space areas are likely to be used for brief periods during the day for activities such as rest and relaxation, eating lunch during breaks from work or shopping and socialising. The need for open space is more limited, and can be primarily for amenity and passive activities and civic spaces such as plazas, for broader community use.

However the character of Greater Dandenong is changing. It is likely that in the future, the commercial centres of Dandenong, Springvale and around Parkmore will house increasing numbers of permanent residents. The density of development is likely to result in more limited availability of private open space, resulting in an increasing need and demand for public open space in commercial areas to serve increasing residential populations. In Dandenong, new areas of

open space will be provided for residents, visitors and workers in the City, which will serve a range of transport, entertainment and civic roles. In addition, provision of appropriate and well connected public open spaces will be an important consideration in the development of new commercial / activity centres as part of new residential and industrial development.

### **Industrial**

Within industrial areas, the primary aim is to provide for public open space to meet the needs of workers and visitors to the industrial area in addition to facilitating linkages to the broader open space network.

Industrial open space should therefore include facilities and opportunities for passive and informal active recreation, while also addressing landscape and conservation values where applicable. Open space also provides the opportunity for buffers between potentially conflicting land uses.

Approximately 24,500 people are currently employed in the industrial areas of Greater Dandenong (based on the 2006 census), which represents a significant work force for the local region, and metropolitan Melbourne as a whole. In addition, Planning Scheme Amendment C87 proposes to rezone approximately 620 hectares of land in the South Dandenong area for industrial and commercial purposes, which is expected to significantly increase the industrial workforce by over the next 10 years.

### **Benefits of Open Space**

The benefits of open space are well recognised. As stated by Parks Victoria in their open space strategy for Melbourne, 'Linking People and Spaces': "*Open space is not only for recreation and conservation of environmental and cultural values; it is the foundation of urban liveability. It underpins many social, ecological and economic benefits that are essential to the healthy functioning of the urban environment.*" (Parks Victoria, 2002).

The benefits of open space occur not only when people are within and using open spaces, but also beyond the boundaries of the space.

### **Health and wellbeing**

Recreation and open space areas have a wide range of health and wellbeing benefits. Some benefits of open space include:

- Promotion of healthy physical activity such as walking and cycling, and taking part in sport,
- Stress relief and mental health benefits as a result of relaxation, contemplation and passive recreation, and
- Improvement in environmental conditions, which can have a corresponding improvement in health standards (Kit Campbell and Associates, 2001).

### **Economic benefits**

Open spaces and parks often produce a range of economic benefits. Attractive, well located urban parks and open spaces help to improve the appearance and general amenity of the suburb. This can be key ingredient of economic development and urban renewal, such is currently occurring in Dandenong. It is envisaged that a high quality open space network will assist economic revitalisation, and make Greater Dandenong a more attractive area for residents, visitors and businesses.

In other cities, land value has been shown to increase when in close proximity to attractive, safe and useable open space areas, as people seek to live or work near these spaces. High quality urban open spaces can also facilitate higher density and infill development in adjacent areas by providing open space areas for additional residents and employees. This will be a significant consideration for suburbs which are expected to undergo significant change, including Dandenong, Noble Park and Springvale.

## Environmental benefits

The environmental benefits of open spaces may include conservation of flora and fauna and their habitat including wild life corridors. The level of benefit will depend upon the size and configuration of the areas and the quality of the remnant vegetation. Generally the larger, more intact and better connected a conservation land parcel is, the greater the viability of the flora and fauna contained within it.

Parks and open spaces are also important in urban areas such as Greater Dandenong, as they can provide services such as pollution abatement, contribute to carbon storage and oxygen production, and moderate against extremes in local microclimates. Some of Greater Dandenong's parks are also located within creek and floodplain areas, which provide for floodwater retardation and water quality enhancement services.

Urban open space, particularly associated with linear corridors, can contribute towards environmental sustainability by enabling walking and cycling to supplement or replace car travel, particularly for shorter journeys.

## Social benefits

Open spaces and parks have important social benefits for the wider community. They provide areas of refuge from built up urban settings (be they residential or commercial/ industrial); they contribute positively to aesthetics and amenity and provide opportunities for social interaction which promotes community cohesion. They may also assist in the protection of sites of cultural heritage and interest.

Well designed open space has also been shown in other urban areas to reduce crime and help achieve strong, stable communities. Conversely, poorly designed and located open space can have detrimental social side effects (Sherer, 2003)

The social benefits of open space is also recognised by Parks Victoria (2002) Melbourne's Open Space Strategy "Linking People and Spaces", which states that *"When a park network is well designed and well integrated, urban liveability and urban amenity are improved. Many people enjoy the aesthetic values of open space and it is widely accepted that how the urban community looks, feels and functions is influenced by how much open space there is."*

## Benefits of open space in industrial and commercial areas

Appropriate public open space provision which facilitates regular physical activity and mental relaxation can be a significant contributor to a healthier workforce that will benefit employers with:

- Improved productivity, staff morale, organisational image, ability for organisation to attract and retain employees, and employee and employer relationships.
- Decreased absenteeism through sickness and low morale and staff turnover.





## Community Use of Parks

Telephone and in-park surveys carried out by Stratcorp (2008) to help guide the preparation of the open space strategy indicate a generally high level of satisfaction with Greater Dandenong's parks. The majority of residents surveyed indicated that the park closest to home or in which they were surveyed generally meets their needs. With regards to community use of parks and open space, the survey results can be summarised as follows:

- Just over half of all residents surveyed use Greater Dandenong parks. Those who do not generally cite their age, lack of time or interest as reasons,
- Parks are used both on weekdays and on weekends, with higher usage tending to occur on weekends,
- The majority of people use parks for less than 30 minutes or up to 1 hour. The duration of the park visit increases in families with children,
- Most residents surveyed are using parks close to home, with the majority living within 1km of the park they visit most often. Most will walk to get to the park, taking between 5 – 15 minutes to get there, and
- The main parks nominated as being visited most often include: Burden Park, Dandenong Park, Hemmings Park, Wachter Reserve, Barry J Powell Reserve and Ross Reserve. A further 11 parks in the south-east region were also nominated.

The most popular activities or reasons for visiting parks are for exercise of self or the dog; play or supervising play; play or watch sports; enjoying the outdoors and generally relaxing. Age influences use of open space for fitness, with 46% of 25 – 34 year olds using parks mainly for fitness.

The best features nominated about parks visited most often include large open spaces, being close to home, nature areas, playgrounds, trees and gardens and activities. In terms of these features:

- Good playgrounds was more likely nominated by those aged 25 – 49 years, of Vietnamese origin, or living in the suburbs of Noble Park North and Springvale South. Safety was a feature most likely to be nominated by residents of Dandenong.

- Country of birth and the suburb in which residents currently live influences the importance of large open spaces: 72% of Vietnamese-born residents, and 71% of Springvale South and 61% of Keysborough residents nominating large open spaces as the main reason for visiting parks

- "Things to do" was more likely to be nominated by those aged 14 – 17 years.

Residents surveyed were asked to nominate the top three improvements they would make to parks and reserves in the municipality. The top response was to improve safety, which was suggested by respondents from all suburbs, but was particularly made by residents of Dandenong and Keysborough. Other responses included planting more trees, improved maintenance; do nothing, stop drug activity, more seats, better playgrounds, better bbq areas and more bike/walking paths. However almost 1 in 5 said do 'nothing – they are fine'.



## Principles

The broad principles for the open space network include:

### Accessibility

- To allow convenient access by as many of the community as possible. Provide a park within 500 metres safe walking distance of most residences in Greater Dandenong.
- To improve: access to, connectivity and continuous travel (with adequate rest and/or seating stops) between major parks and reserves and other destinations such as shops, schools and workplaces.
- In order to provide for a range of activities, residents should have local access to a park of minimum half (in existing subdivisions) to one hectare in area (in new subdivisions, consistent with Clause 56.05 or 'Rescode', of Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme).

### Diversity

- Provide a range of good quality open spaces which support a variety of activities and opportunities. This includes parks having one or more of a passive, sports, civic/urban, bushland/nature conservation, play or connecting function.
- Parks will be provided which serve one or more of the following purposes: sports, passive, playground, bushland/conservation and linking/linear reserves.
- Open spaces should be of appropriate dimensions and area to suit the intended purpose ('fit for purpose').
- The open space network should allow for a culturally diverse range of activities such as social gatherings and interaction, where appropriate.

### Functionality and Amenity

- Parks should have an identified primary purpose and function, and be used consistent with this.
- Provide a range of facilities and infrastructure within parks to support the intended purpose of the park.
- All parks as they are developed or redeveloped, should include, where appropriate:
  - Areas for informal play and relaxation (including sports reserves, where a component of the park should be set aside for passive enjoyment),
  - Areas with scattered trees and tree groups to provide areas of both sun and shade,
  - Wheelchair accessible pedestrian circulation paths, and
  - Seating.

- Where appropriate, parks should be designed and constructed to ensure a high carrying capacity.

### Design

- Park design should:
  - Create safe, clean and enjoyable places which encourage use and social interaction, avoiding areas within the park which have poor surveillance or are relatively un-used.
  - Separate non-complimentary uses.
  - Enable flexible spaces, which have the ability to be altered to cater to changing needs and patterns of use over time.
  - Respond to the character of the park and its surrounds, and/or contribute to the desired character of the area.
  - Accommodate multiple uses and activities, particularly those uses in accordance with the primary purpose and function of the site.
- Parks should be designed to enable use by the whole community, including all abilities and less-abled (42% of the community either have a disability or long-term health condition (City of Greater Dandenong, 2006)), and the aged (in accordance with principles for universal design, (The Centre for Universal Design, 1997)).
- Parks should be designed to be safe for users and the community within and surrounding the site (in accordance with CPTED principles).

### Sustainability

- Parks should be designed and maintained in a socially, economic and environmentally sustainable manner:
  - Incorporate ecologically sensitive design principles, including water sensitive urban design, into the construction and maintenance of open spaces, facilities and infrastructure.
  - Create connections between existing areas of remnant vegetation. Revegetate gaps and improve habitat conditions within and between bushland reserves, creek corridors and parks with ecological value.
  - Identify, protect and manage significant vegetation. Native vegetation conservation areas may be used for passive recreation purposes, such as minimal and low impact and complementary recreation facilities.
- Parks must be designed and managed to respond to the effects of climate change particularly in terms of reduced water and increased temperatures (for example, more resilient landscaping, facility design, changes in recreation behaviours and need for more shade).

### Open space provision goals

Following a review of the existing level of provision of parks in Greater Dandenong, and against benchmarks which have been established elsewhere in Melbourne and other areas, it is considered appropriate to aim for (except as otherwise required by Clause 56.05 or 'Rescode', of Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme):

- a) A minimum average of 4.5 hectares of parks and reserves per 1,000 residents across the municipality (current provision level is 4.3 hectares).
- b) Included in the above, a minimum of 1.5 hectares of parks for sports, and 2 hectares for all other types of activities.
- c) An easily accessible park (generally 5,000 square metres minimum) within 500m of most houses.
- d) A minimum average of 2,500 square metres for local parks, 5,000 – 10,000 square metres for neighbourhood parks, and 3 hectares for district parks.

In the context of activity centres and areas designated for high change, industrial and commercial areas, it may be appropriate to consider alternate provision of parks, such as more compact spaces within lesser walking distances.

- e) To provide parks with a good range of appropriate facilities and activities, with at least 50% of parks at a medium or higher quantity level.

These provision goals aim to balance the quantity of open space and its quality.

These goals will not be directly applicable to industrial and commercial (including central activity) areas. In these areas, it is considered appropriate to provide:

- Up to 5% of developable land being utilised for public parks and other open space types, such as civic and urban spaces.
- Appropriate open spaces for workers and visitors for rest and recreation during breaks or before and after work, contributing to the health and well being of the workforce.
- Appropriate open space for residents, for passive and active uses both during the day, evenings and weekends.
- Ensuring reserves are equitably distributed to promote accessibility.
- Ensuring that reserves are adequately linked and connected to the broader open space network, maximising potential use, and

- Where possible and appropriate, utilising existing features such as drainage reserves, remnant vegetation, and streetscapes within the open space network. This maximises availability of developable land while also enabling the development of a connected open space network.

Table 1: Open Space Provision Goals		
Open Space Type and Function	Catchment	Provision Goals
Passive reserves Bushland/Natural conservation	Local Neighbourhood, and District	Minimum combined 2 hectares (inc. associated infrastructure) per 1,000 residents.
	Local Neighbourhood, and District	
Urban and civic spaces	Local Neighbourhood, and District	
Play spaces	Local Neighbourhood, and District	In accordance with the Playground Strategy (2004)
	District	As significance is identified.
Cultural heritage spaces	Local Neighbourhood, and District	In accordance with a dog off leash policy to be developed
	District	Minimum 1.5 hectares (inc. associated infrastructure) per 1,000 residents.
Dog off Leash areas	Local Neighbourhood, and District	No minimum provision.
	District	In accordance with the Bicycle/ Shared Path Network Plan (2008)
Sports reserves	Immediately adjoining and broader community for passive recreation and movement/connectivity.	
Linking and connecting spaces		

Table 1: Open Space Provision Goals cont....		
Open Space Hierarchy	Catchment	Provision Goals
Small Local Passive ('pocket park') space	Immediately adjoining area.	<i>Provision:</i> No additional facilities. <i>Area:</i> No minimum area.
Local Passive space	400 - 500 m safe walking distance.	<i>Area:</i> Minimum 2,500 square metres.
Neighbourhood Passive space	500 m safe walking distance.	<i>Area:</i> Minimum 5,000 square metres.
District Passive space	500m + safe walking distance. Also serves broader South-East region.	<i>Area:</i> Minimum 3 hectares.
District Sports reserve	500m + distance Also serves broader South-East region.	<i>Area:</i> Minimum 3 hectares.
District Bushland reserve	500m + distance Also serves broader South-East region.	<i>Area:</i> No minimum.

### Park development standards

It is expected that all parks and reserves in Greater Dandenong will be of good quality. However each type of open space will have a different range of facilities and activities, which relate to the catchment or community the park serves (eg Neighbourhood, District) and the main purpose of the park (eg Sports reserve).

Development standards have been established for District Passive, District Sports, District Bushland, Neighbourhood Passive and Local Passive parks. Generally the larger the community the park serves, the more facilities and activities will be present in the park.

#### Urban and civic spaces

These standards do not directly apply to urban and civic spaces, although many of the items will be provided as a minimum, including:

- Seating
- Rubbish and recycling bins
- Signage
- Fencing and bollards
- Shade, provided by either shade structures or trees
- Garden beds

Other amenities to be supplied where appropriate include drinking fountains, paved surfaces, bicycle racks, public toilets and art.

Urban spaces will be developed according to master plans prepared for each place or type of plan, and urban design guidelines prepared or endorsed by the Council.

**Table 2: Park Development Standards**

Description	District Passive	N/hood Passive	Local Passive	Sports Reserves	Bushland
Park seats in picnic area and along path network	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pedestrian circulation paths (wheelchair accessible)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bollards and fencing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BBQ	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
Granitic gravel picnic area	✓	✓	may have	✓	x
Rubbish bins	✓	✓	may have	✓	✓
Picnic tables / benches	✓	✓	may have	✓	✓
Park shelter	✓	✓	may have	✓	✓
Signage	✓	✓	may have	✓	✓
Advanced tree planting	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
Warm season grasses	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
Public toilets	✓	may have	x	✓	✓
Drinking fountain	✓	may have	may have	✓	✓
Bike racks	✓	✓	x	✓	x
Garden beds	✓	may have	✓	✓	x
Mulched revegetation areas	✓	may have	may have	✓	✓
Recreation exercise equipment	✓	may have	may have	✓	x
Power outlets	✓	may have	x	✓	x
Water taps	✓	may have	may have	✓	x
Carparking and lighting	✓	may have	may have	✓	x
Lighting along paths	✓	may have	may have	✓	may have
Public Art	✓	may have	may have	may have	x
Sports courts and playing fields & associated facilities	x	x	x	✓	x
Change rooms/Club rooms	x	x	x	✓	x
Wildlife viewing areas	x	x	x	x	may have
Water sensitive design elements, such as wetlands	may have	may have	may have	may have	may have
Security fencing for fauna management	x	x	x	x	may have
Playgrounds	may have	may have	may have	may have	x

**Table Notes:**

- ✓ The feature will be present in the park
- x The feature will not be present in the park
- 'may have' The feature may be present in the park

## Native vegetation

Many reserves contain remnants of vegetation communities that are endangered and are of high conservation value. Reserves with significant conservation values include Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve, Tirhatuan Park, Fotheringham Reserve, Tatterson Park, Coomoora Woodland, Greaves Reserve, the Dandenong Creek floodplain and the newly created conservation reserve in Dandenong South on National Drive.

These reserves contain patches of the vegetation once found across Greater Dandenong, including wetlands and remnant woodlands and grasslands communities. These comprise: Red Gum Woodland (Endangered), Heathy Woodland, Herb-rich Plains Grassy Wetland, and Swamp Scrub communities, most of which are severely depleted across the region. The remnants of these vegetation communities on private land will come under more pressure as further development occurs within the municipality, particularly to the south.

### *Principles for protection of native vegetation in reserves*

The broad principles under which remnant vegetation may be considered for incorporation into public open space include:

- The local and regional significance of the type of vegetation and or habitat value represented.
- The size and quality of the vegetation.
- Linkages and connections to existing or proposed open space areas, roadsides and waterways.
- The ability to adequately protect and manage the vegetation, including the costs of management of the offset.
- The provision of sufficient areas to provide adequately for other open space uses compatible with nature conservation. Open space area adjoining the vegetation patches should be suitable for low impact complementary recreation. Higher impact or formal activities to be located further away from conservation areas.
- Uses of adjoining and nearby land areas.
- Safety and security for the reserve and its users.

### *Native vegetation offsets in public open space*

The removal of native vegetation in many circumstances requires a planning permit, and should be avoided as much as possible. Where it cannot be avoided, removal should be minimised, and of the native vegetation that is removed, appropriate native vegetation offsets made.

Where native vegetation is permitted to be removed, it is Council's preference that required native vegetation offsets occur within the municipality to reduce the local loss in biodiversity and conservation.

The City of Greater Dandenong may allow native vegetation offsets to be located on appropriate parks and reserves in accordance with Council's standards and guidelines and costs.

Reserves which are potentially suitable for native vegetation offsets, subject to further investigation include: Tirhatuan, Dandenong Wetlands, Dandenong Wetlands (south of Heatherton Road), Falkiner Reserve, Tatterson Park, Coomoora Reserve, Greaves Reserve, Fotheringham Reserve.

### *Key actions for protection of native vegetation in reserves*

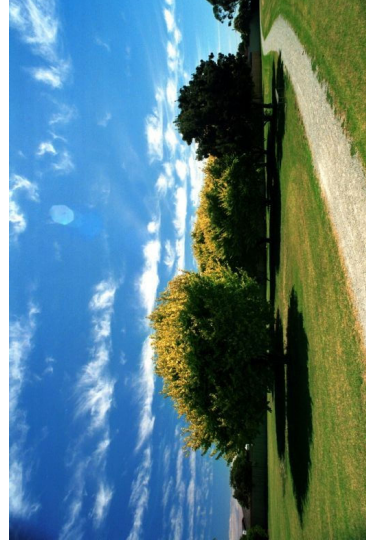
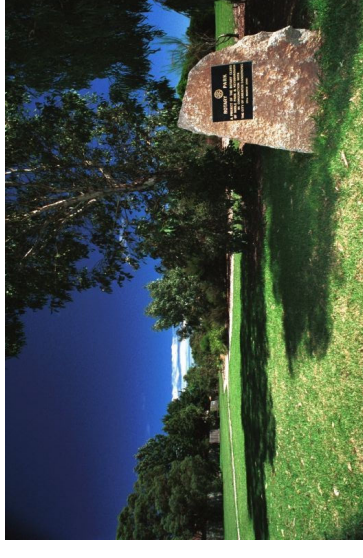
- Assist in creating linkages between open spaces and native vegetation across the South-East region.
- Strengthen natural habitats in bushland/conservation reserves, along creeks and the railway line where appropriate.



## Municipality Open Space Analysis

### Summary

- Population growth will result in a decline in the ratio of open space provision including sports reserves across the municipality over the next ten years.
- There are gaps in access to open space in areas of Dandenong, Dandenong North, Keysborough, Noble Park, Nobel Park North and Springvale.
- At present or in the future, there is expected to be a relatively lower level of passive open spaces in Dandenong, Noble Park, Noble Park North, Springvale and Springvale South.
- At present or in the future, there is expected to be a relatively lower level of sports open space in Dandenong North, Keysborough, Noble Park, Noble Park North, Springvale and Springvale South.
- Reserves generally have a lower level of activities and facilities in Springvale South.
- It is likely that many reserves will not meet the park development standards set out above and will need to be upgraded as appropriate.



## Greater Dandenong

There is approximately 580 hectares of Council owned or managed parks and reserves across the municipality, providing for the needs of the current population of around 130,000 people. Every year, around 1,500 people are expected to move into Greater Dandenong. The population is projected to reach just over 157,000 people by 2029.

An additional 41 hectares of open space will be created as part of new residential development in the C36 area in Keysborough, and an additional 32 hectares of open space will be created in new industrial land in Dandenong South and Keysborough. An area of urban open space will be created as part of the revitalisation of central Dandenong. These developments will increase the amount of Council owned or managed open space to approximately 653 hectares.

☹️ **Quantity:** There is currently 4.4 hectares of public open space for every 1,000 residents, which approximately meets the goal for quantity. By 2029 this is expected to reduce to 3.8 hectares.

☹️ **Primary function:** There is 1.3 hectares of sports reserves per 1,000 residents, which is just below the goal. This is expected to decline to 1.0 hectares by 2029.

☹️ **Distribution:** Does not meet goal for distribution and accessibility to parks in several suburbs, comprising Dandenong, Dandenong North, Noble Park and Springvale (shown outlined in red in Figure 3).

😊 **Size:** The average size of parks meets the goals for minimum size for each type of park across the municipality.

☹️ **Facilities:** The range of facilities present in parks is generally considered to be medium overall. Some parks require improvements to achieve standards.

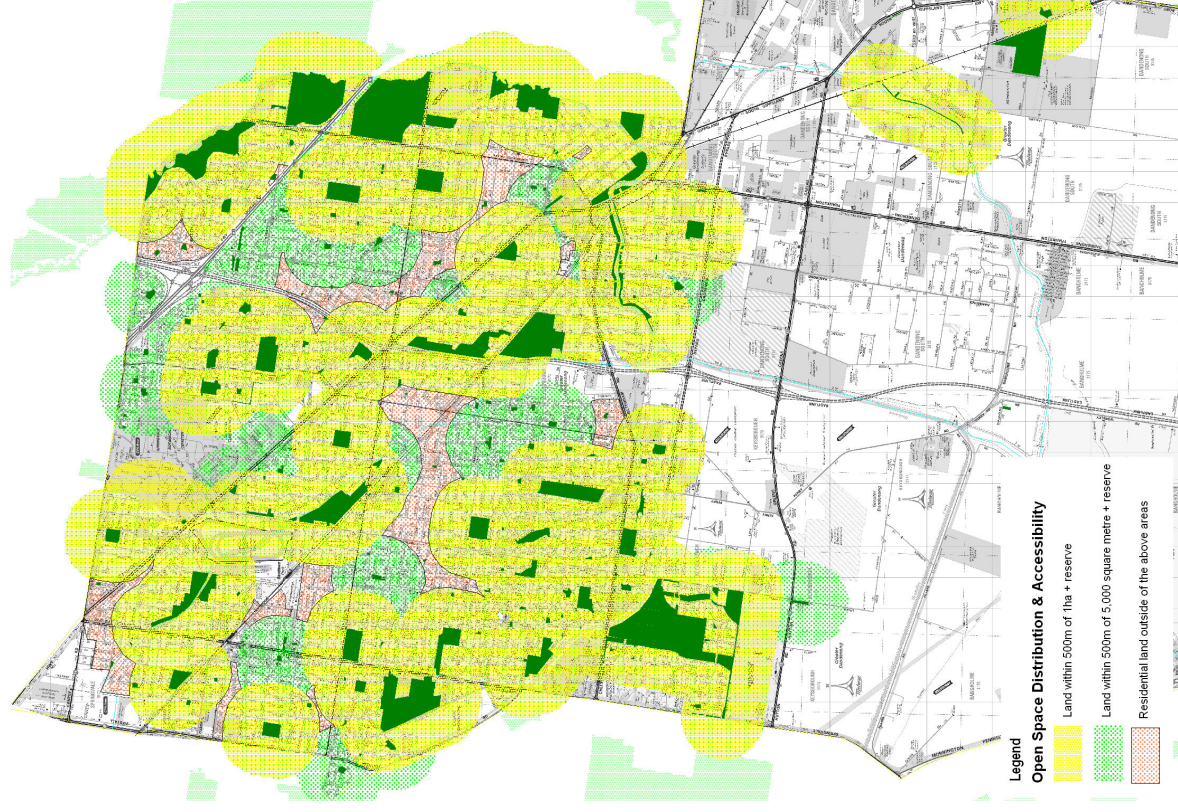


Figure 3: Distribution and Accessibility of Parks



## Dandenong

Dandenong contains 111 hectares of public parks and reserves comprising 22 passive reserves, 7 sports reserves, 2 civic reserves and 1 bushland reserve. Dandenong is also home to the Oasis Leisure Centre.

Dandenong is currently undergoing a broadscale revitalisation process, which is likely to bring approximately 5,000 additional workers to the City, and further residential development resulting in an additional 4,000 residents over the next 15 – 20 years. Further urban open space will be created as part of the revitalisation of central Dandenong.

☹️ **Quantity:** There is currently 4.8 hectares of parks per 1,000 residents, which is expected to decline to 3.7 hectares by 2029 following population growth in Dandenong.

😊 **Primary function:** At present, Dandenong meets the goals for all types of parks. There are currently 3.0 hectares for sports per 1,000 residents and 1.8 hectares for all other types. Provision for sports is expected to decline to 2.3 hectares per 1,000 residents by 2029.

☹️ **Distribution:** Several areas are located greater than 500 metres walking distance from a park of at least 5,000 square metres (shown outlined in white in Figure 4). This includes land:

- To the north-west of the Dandenong Railway Station (it is likely that this area will be addressed by the revitalisation of the central Dandenong area).
- Along Masters Street, Dandenong.
- Around David Street, bounded by Cleeland Street and Stud Road.
- At the eastern corner of Heatherton and Gladstone Roads, and nearby around James and Gerard Streets.

😊 **Size:** The average size of parks meets the goals for minimum size for each type of park across the municipality.

😊 **Facilities:** Dandenong parks are primarily of medium standard, meeting the goals for facilities present in parks.

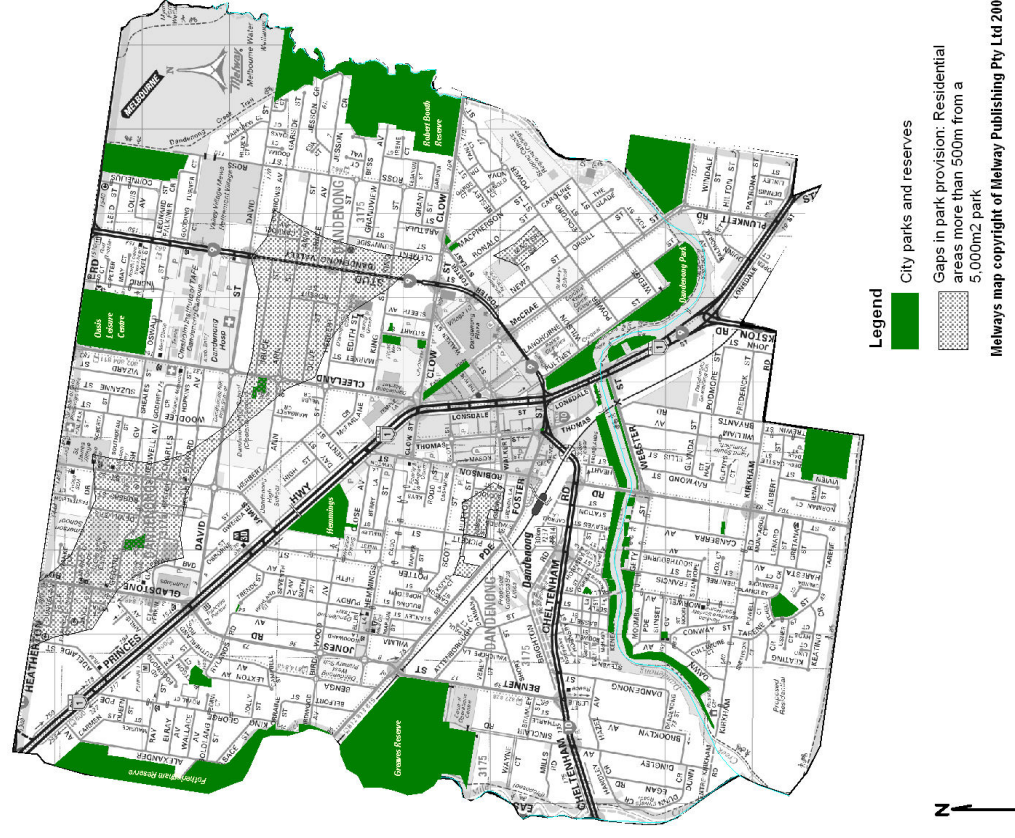


Figure 4: Provision of Parks in Dandenong

## Dandenong North

Dandenong North has 148 hectares of public parks comprising 30 passive reserves, 1 sports reserve and 1 bushland reserve, much of which is located along the Dandenong Creek. Dandenong North is also home to the Dandenong Basketball and Volleyball Stadium.

Dandenong North is split by the Monash Freeway and Eastlink, which create major barriers to accessing parks in the suburb. For the purposes of this Strategy, it is considered that residents should have adequate access to a park without need to cross the Monash Freeway or Eastlink.

😊 **Quantity:** Park provision substantially exceeds the goals, with 6.3 hectares of parks for every 1,000 residents. The ratio of open space to population is expected to remain high, at 5.8 hectares in 2029..

😞 **Primary function:** There is substantial deficiency in sports reserves within Dandenong North, with Lois Twohig providing the only formal sports opportunities. This represents 0.4 hectares per 1,000 residents.

😞 **Distribution:** Several areas are located greater than 500 metres walking distance from a parks or reserve of at least 5,000 square metres (shown outlined in white in Figure 5). This includes land:

- In the south-west of Dandenong North along the Eastlink alignment.
- Bounded by Gladstone Road, the Monash Freeway and Eastlink.

😊 **Size:** The average size of parks meets the goals for minimum size for each type of park across the municipality.

😊 **Facilities:** Meets the goals for facilities present in parks, with a quarter of all parks and reserves being of premium standard.

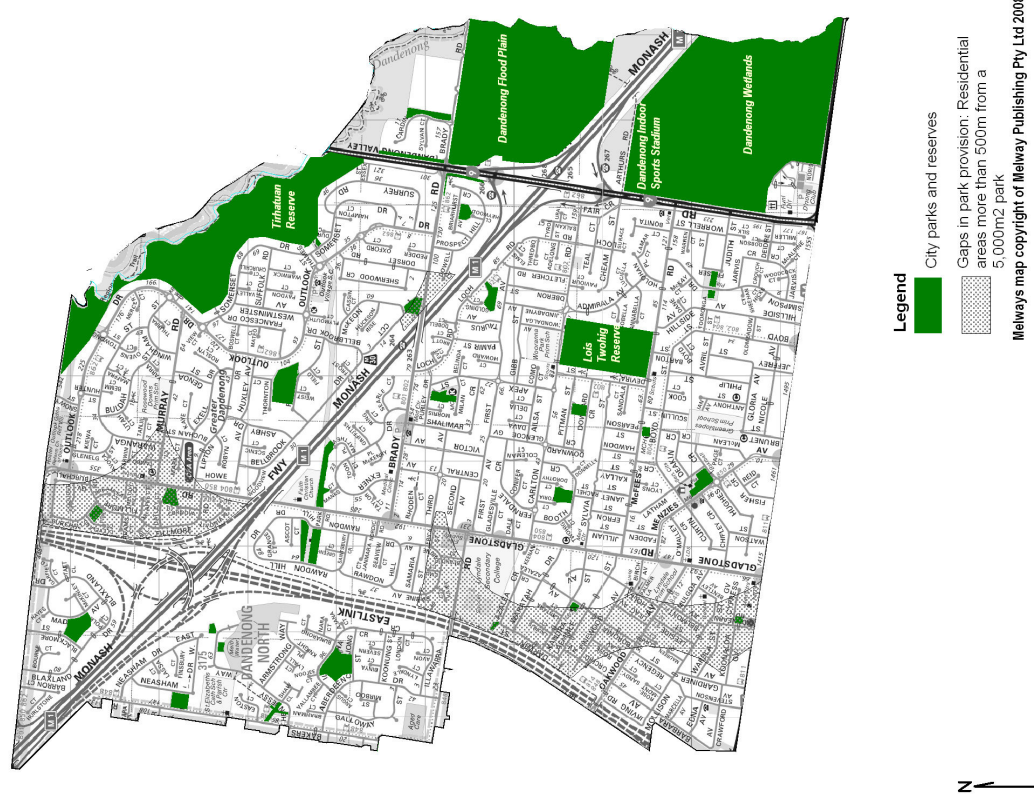


Figure 5: Provision of Parks in Dandenong North

## Dandenong South

Dandenong South consists of a mix of rural land, small, medium and large-scale industrial land. With the recent rezoning of land for industrial uses, there will be approximately 52 hectares of public open space in Dandenong South. There is no open space located to the south in Bangholme to serve the resident population.

- ☺ **Quantity:** Quantity for parks and reserves is based on a resident population, and current provision meets these goals, and with the introduction of additional open space in the newly zoned industrial land, there will be adequate provision of public reserves to serve the worker population.
- ☺ **Primary function:** Does not meet goals for sports reserves, however given the nature of use of open space in industrial areas, the need for formal sports reserves is not expected to be needed.
- ☺ **Distribution:** With the introduction of additional open space in the newly zoned industrial land, there will be adequate distribution of public reserves to serve the worker population.
- ☺ **Size:** The average size of parks meets the goals for minimum size for each type of park across the municipality.
- ☺ **Facilities:** With the introduction of additional open space in the newly zoned industrial land, there will be adequate facilities present in parks.

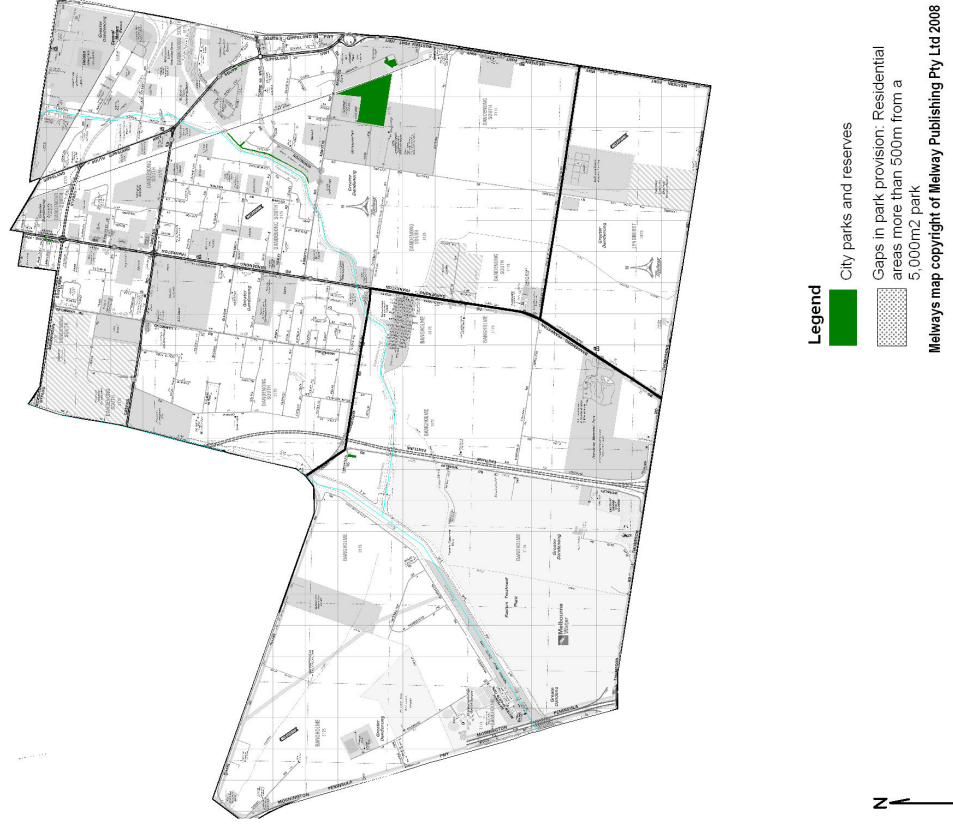


Figure 6: Provision of Parks in Dandenong South



## Keysborough

Keysborough consists of newer areas of residential development, rural areas to the south, and a small industrial area to the east along the Eastlink alignment. Keysborough is well serviced with public parks and reserves, with 151 hectares comprising 58 passive reserves and 5 sports reserves. Significant parks facilities include Tatterson Park, and the Tatterson Park Leisure Centre.

An additional 4.85 hectares will be provided in the new industrial land in the C87 area, and 41 hectares will be provided in new residential development in the C36 area, bringing the total open space provision in Keysborough to 192 hectares.



**Quantity:** Park provision substantially exceeds goals, with 8.5 hectares of parks and reserves per 1,000 residents. This ratio will decline as Keysborough grows, but is still expected to be 6.4 hectares for every 1,000 residents by 2029.



**Primary function:** Meets the goals for provision sports reserves (1.4 hectares per 1,000 residents) and passive reserves. However by 2029, it is expected that the ratio of sports open space will decline to 0.9 hectares.



**Distribution:** One residential area is located greater than 500 metres walking distance from a park or reserve of at least 5,000 square metres (shown outlined in white in Figure 7). This is in the north-east of the suburb, bounded by Chandler, Cheltenham and Cambria Road and Finchaven Avenue.



**Size:** The average size of parks exceeds the goals for minimum size for each type of park across the municipality.



**Facilities:** Facilities present in Keysborough parks and reserves is overall high, exceeding minimum goals.



Figure 7: Provision of Parks in Keysborough

## Noble Park

Noble Park consists predominantly of residential development, and there is small area of industrial land in the east. There is a lesser amount of public parks and reserves available in Noble Park: there is presently 34 hectares of reserves comprising 29 passive reserves and 4 sports reserves. The suburb also contains an outdoor aquatic and skating facility.



**Quantity:** Park provision is substantially lower than the goals for quantity (1.4 hectares). With significant population growth predicted for the suburb, this is expected to decline to 1.1 hectares per 1,000 residents by 2029.



**Primary function:** The level of provision of sports reserves is slightly lower than the goal, with 1.1 hectares per 1,000 residents, and this ratio is expected to further decline to 0.8 hectares by 2029.



**Distribution:** A large area in the centre of the suburb has poor access to parks and reserves and other opportunities are limited (shown outlined in white in Figure 8).



**Size:** The average for neighbourhood passive reserves are smaller than the goal for reserve sizes, however this is compensated by larger local and district parks.



**Facilities:** Meets the goals for facilities present in parks.

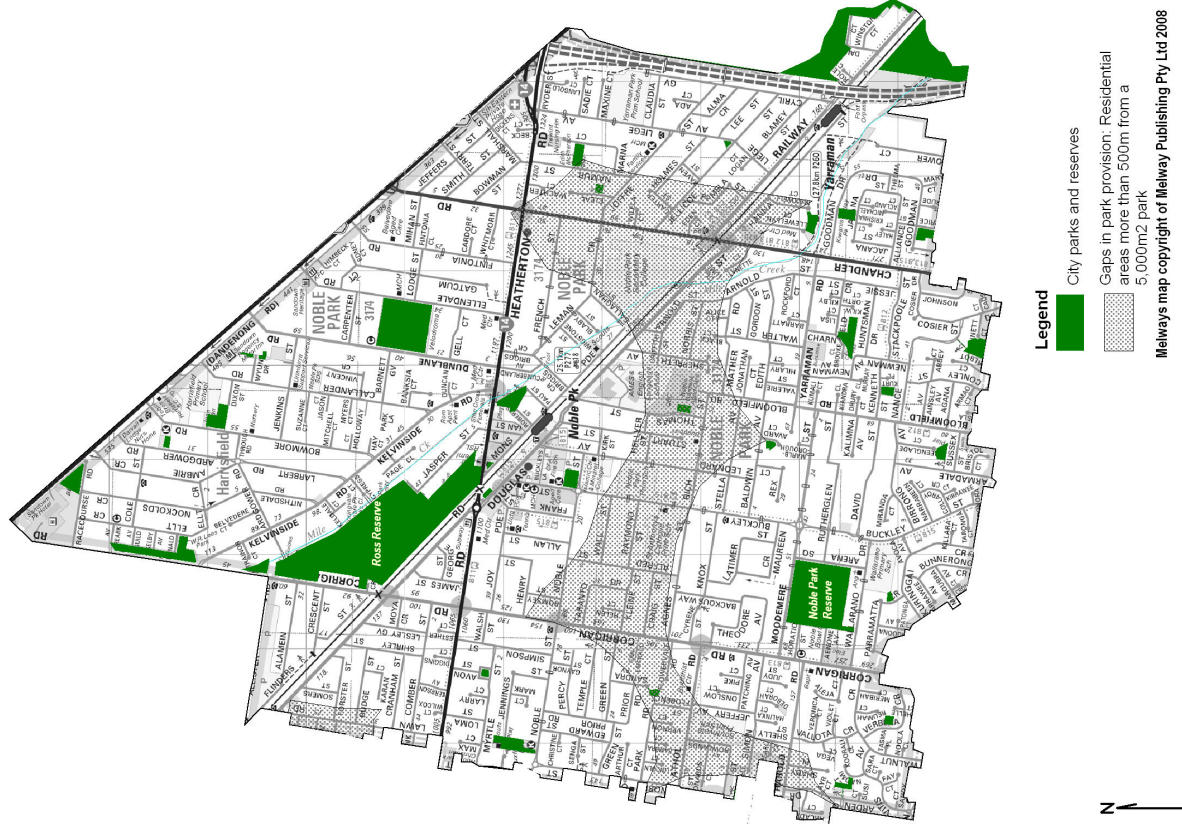


Figure 8: Provision of Parks in Noble Park

### Noble Park North

There is 23 hectares of public parks and reserves in Noble Park North, comprising 14 passive reserves and 1 sports reserve.

- ☹️ **Quantity:** Park provision is substantially lower than the goals for quantity, with 2.8 hectares of parks or reserves for every 1,000 residents.
- ☹️ **Primary function:** The level of provision of sports reserves is slightly lower than the goal, with 1.0 hectares per 1,000 residents.
- 😊 **Distribution:** The majority of residences in Noble Park North have good access to parks and reserves.
- 😊 **Size:** The average size of parks meets the goals for minimum size for each type of park across the municipality.
- 😊 **Facilities:** Meets the goals for facilities present in parks, with almost 80% being of medium standard.



Figure 9: Provision of Parks in Noble Park North



## Springvale

Springvale is a diverse suburb in terms of land use, and includes a large residential area in the centre, with industrial land to the west, and the Springvale Crematorium, and Sandown Racecourse and Greyhound Course bordering to the east of the suburb. There is 27 hectares of public parks and reserves in Springvale, which consists predominantly of 16 passive reserves in addition to 4 sports reserves.



**Quantity:** Park provision is substantially lower than the goals for quantity, with 1.4 hectares for every 1,000 residents (and this ratio is expected to decline to 1.3 hectares by 2029). This is a high priority for the strategy.



**Primary function:** Springvale is considered deficient in overall area of parks and reserves, and sports reserves specifically (0.7 hectares per 1,000 residents).



**Distribution:** There are several areas located greater than 500 metres walking distance from a park or reserve of at least 5,000 square metres (shown outlined in white in Figure 10). This includes land:

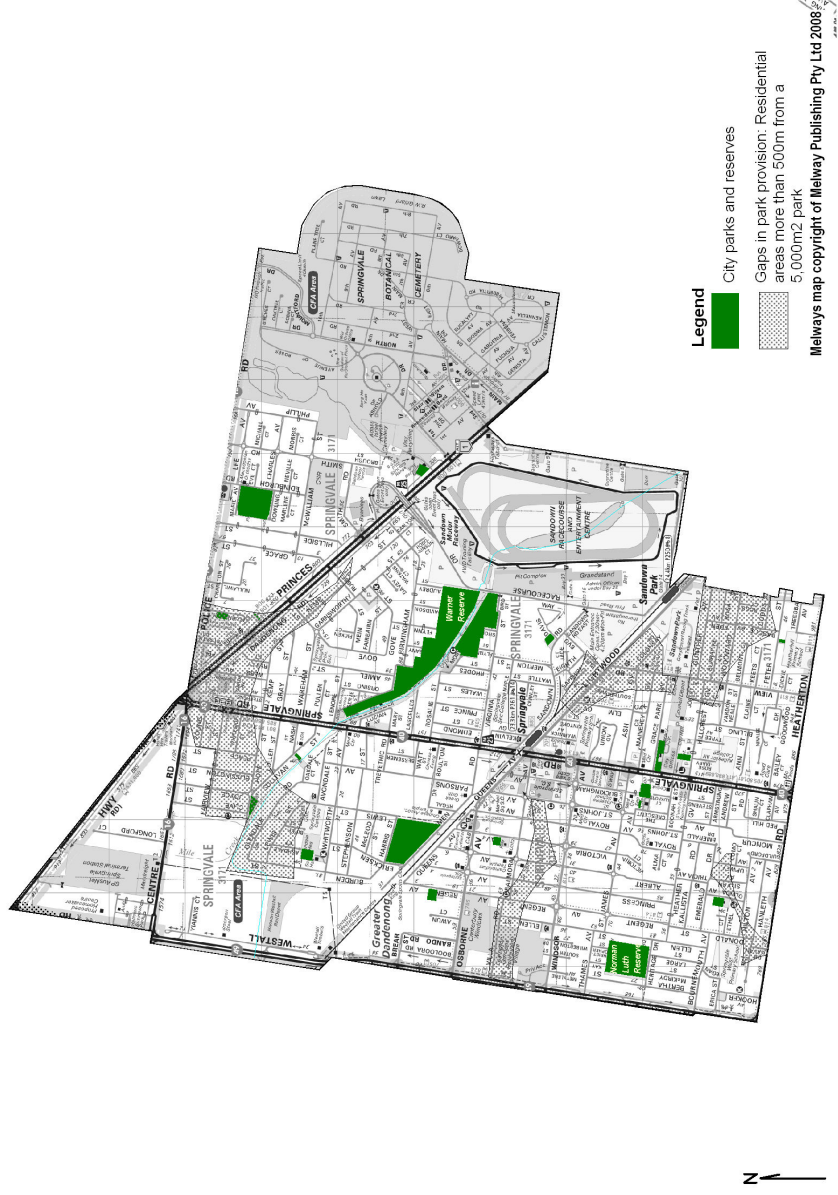
- In the north of the suburb, around Hope and Fairview Streets, Kemp Street and at the northern end of Glendale Road.
- South of Balmoral Avenue between Regent and St Johns Avenues.
- To the south of Olinda Avenue Reserve and Springvale West Primary School.
- To the north-west and south of Sandown Park.
- In the industrial estate in the north-west of the suburb is also an area without adequate access to a park or reserve.



**Size:** The average size of parks exceeds the goals for minimum size for each type of park.



**Facilities:** Meets the goals for facilities present in parks.



**Figure 10: Provision of Parks in Springvale**

### Springvale South

There is 52 hectares of public parks and reserves in Springvale, which consists predominantly of 16 passive reserves in addition to 4 sports reserves.



**Quantity:** Park provision is slightly lower than the goals for quantity, being 4.1 hectares per 1,000 residents. By 2029, this ratio is expected to slightly decline to 3.9 hectares per 1,000 residents.



**Primary function:** Overall meets provision goals, but the area of sports reserves is substantially lower than the provision goal, with 0.4 hectares per 1,000 residents.



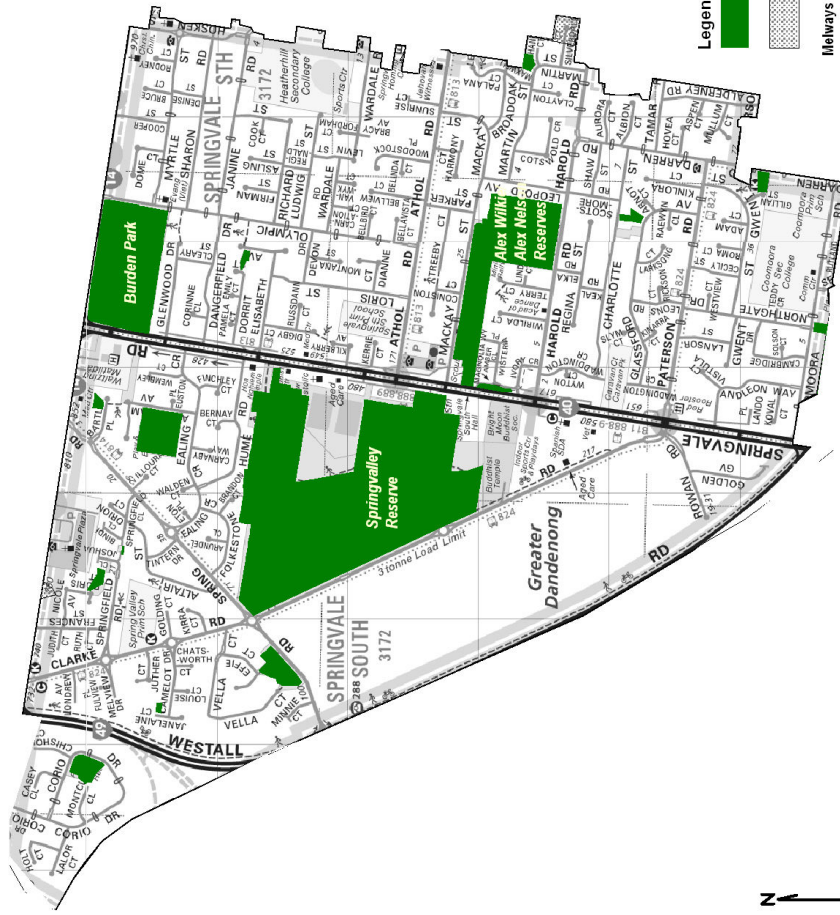
**Distribution:** All residences are considered to be located within 500 metres walking distance from a park or reserve of at least 5,000 square metres.



**Size:** Meets the minimum size goals with the exception of District sports reserves which are slightly lower than the 3 hectare goal.



**Facilities:** Does not meet the goals for facilities present in parks, with approximately 65% of reserves of low standard.



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Figure 11: Provision of Parks in Springvale South



## Strengths and Issues

### Strengths

- The existing open space network provides a wide range of recreational functions, including play, passive activities, organised sports, natural conservation and civic areas.
- The existing open space network includes many large parks, for example Tatterson Park. There is also a substantial linked park network along the Dandenong Creek corridor. All existing residences are located within 2km of such a large park.
- There is a good range of regional parks in the area, particularly in the north-east, including Police Paddocks, Churchill National Park and Lysterfield Park, and to the south-west including Braeside Park and Edithvale Seaford Wetlands.
- Open space quality is good in most suburbs, and the majority of residences are located within 500m distance of a park half hectare in size or larger.
- Several suburbs have been identified as either Principal Activity Centres or Major Activity Centres, which are expected to renew and redevelop in the future. Broad-scale urban renewal offers opportunities in terms of providing an improved and broadly planned open space network.
- Further opportunity for open space and recreation resources may be offered by sharing of facilities, including areas for play, passive activities and sport at local primary and secondary schools. In addition, further opportunities may be found along Melbourne Water land, including creeks and drainage basins.

### Issues

- The population of the municipality is growing, from the current population of approximately 130,000 people to a projected population of around 154,000 by 2019. This will lead to increased demand for public parks and recreation opportunities. Areas which are expected to experience the most change will be around the town centres of Dandenong, Springvale and Noble Park.
- Existing parks and reserves are unevenly distributed across the municipality. There are several areas which do not have adequate access, and in several suburbs the level of provision is very low and enhancement is needed.

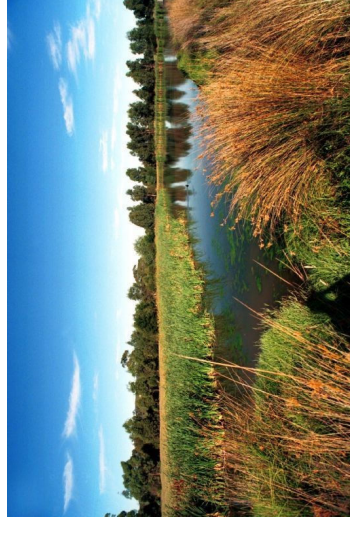
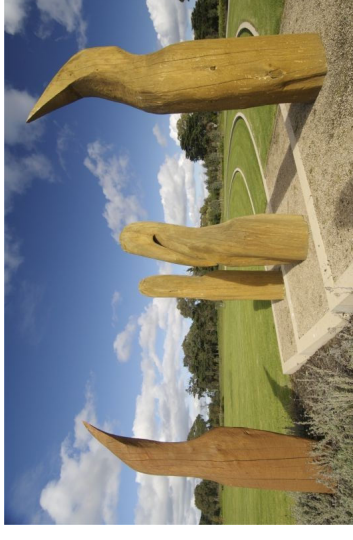
- There is the need to upgrade some reserves to the appropriate standard, and to improve the general range of facilities present in some reserves.
- Use of public reserves is changing and there is the need to balance passive and active activities: there is increasing demand for different activities in open spaces such as large open areas for large gatherings, or for sports.
- Activity levels are generally declining, and recreation participation could be substantially improved: studies have shown that there is a link between lower activity levels and socio-economically disadvantaged areas, such as in Greater Dandenong (Kavanagh et al, 2007).
- Providing adequate resourcing for the open space network, in terms of staff resources, land and money.
- Areas of open space have in the past been developed with buildings and converted to other public uses.
- Climate change will affect the management and maintenance of parks (eg the availability of water for irrigation is decreasing) and the use of parks (eg increasing temperatures will increase the need for shade).
- The potential impact of declining availability of oil and energy products will increase the need for a well-located park network, and connectivity to provide for increased and easy cycling and pedestrian movement.



## Priorities

### Objectives

- Need for improved access to existing or additional parks and reserves, for areas with lower levels of open space provision, or difficult or no access
- Increasing the availability of and access to sports grounds and fields.
- Increase size where reserves are significantly smaller than expected and the reserve provides the main park for a given area.
- Need to upgrade reserves to the appropriate standard (as outlined in Park Development Standards).
- Improve the range of facilities present in reserves in areas where reserves are predominantly of lower standard.
- Improve connections between open spaces by improving the quality of links along drainage corridors as well as improving the qualities of the road network and pedestrian and bicycle connections into and between open spaces..



## Objective 1 Improved access to open space

### Dandenong

Access to additional passive parks and reserves will be required to provide primarily for the future population, and for those existing residents without adequate access to open space. Providing additional opportunities for residents will be by a variety of schools and strategic purchase of land to expand existing parks although significant land purchase is unlikely to be feasible. Improvements should be made to bike and pedestrian paths to improve access into the large reserves along Dandenong Creek. The revitalisation of central Dandenong will also result in significant new civic open space opportunities.

#### Actions:

- 1.1 Investigate formal use of school campuses and improve pedestrian and bicycle links into and between open spaces. Investigate the open space opportunities on railway land across the municipality.

#### Site specific issues

- North-west of the Dandenong Railway Station: residences in this area are located approximately 600 – 700 metres walking distance from the substantial Dandenong Creek Reserve and Greaves Reserve. Near to this area, further areas of urban open space will be developed as part of revitalising central Dandenong.

#### Action:

- 1.2 Opportunities to improve links into and between existing parks and reserves should be investigated.

- Masters Street, Dandenong: houses here are located approximately 600 metres walking distance from Dandenong Park, and are located adjacent to Dandenong Primary School.

#### Action:

- 1.3 Improve links into and between existing parks and reserves and investigate formal public use of school site.

- The area between Bruce and Herbert Streets, bounded by Cleeland Street and Stud Road: This area includes some higher density residential and health services, thus includes residents, workers and visitors. In the west of this area

is Apex Park, a sizeable good quality reserve, and Cleeland Secondary School which may offer some informal recreation opportunities. To the east, residences are located approximately 600 metres walking distance from Dandenong Floodplain and Robert Booth Reserve.

#### Action:

- 1.4 Improve links into and between existing parks and reserves and investigate formal public use of school site.

- The eastern corner of Heatherton and Gladstone Roads, and nearby around James and Gerard Streets: the most significant park in this area is the reserve on Gerard Street, a low quality reserve of approximately 4,600 square metres.

#### Action:

- 1.5 Improve the quality of the Gerard Street reserve.

### Dandenong North

#### Site specific issues

- South-west of Dandenong North along the Eastlink alignment: there are no substantial areas of public parks and reserves in this area, however Lyndale Primary School and Lyndale Secondary College may provide some informal recreation opportunities, in addition to the Eastlink trail.

#### Action:

- 1.6 Investigate formal public use of school site.

- Land bounded by Gladstone Road, the Monash Freeway and Eastlink: there are two reserves in this area, being Gately Reserve, a sizeable medium quality park or reserve, and Filmore Road Reserve, a smaller low quality park. Rosewood Downs Primary School is also located close to this area, which may offer informal open space opportunities

#### Action:

- 1.7 Improve the quality and/or size of the existing reserves. Investigate the formal use of the school site.

### Keysborough

#### Site specific issues

- Land bounded by Chandler, Cheltenham and Cambria Roads and Finchaven Avenue: Haldane Street Reserve is located in this area, which is 2,500 square metres and of medium quality. Chandler Primary School is located to the west of the area and may provide some informal recreation opportunities.

**Action:**  
1.8 Investigate formal public use of school site.

#### **Noble Park**

Access to additional parks and reserves will be required to provide for the existing and future population. Significant purchase of land to add to the public open space network is not likely to be feasible, and hence providing additional opportunities for residents may be provided by access to a variety of schools, along Mile Creek, and some purchase of land to expand key existing parks although significant land purchase is unlikely to be feasible. Significant population growth is expected in this suburb, so it is important that new developments provide useable private open space to new residents.

A large area in the centre of the suburb has poor access to parks or reserves and other opportunities are limited.

**Actions:**  
1.9 Investigate formal use of several school campuses (Springvale South Primary School, Noble Park Primary and Secondary Schools, and South Vale Primary School) and along Mile Creek.

#### **Noble Park North**

Access to additional parks and reserves are required to provide primarily for the existing population. There are no significant areas without access to open space, so the approach will be a combination of formal access to school sites, opportunities offered by the Eastlink trail, drainage areas, and potentially to purchase additional land to enlarge existing smaller reserves although significant land purchase is unlikely to be feasible.

**Action:**  
1.10 Investigate formal public use of school sites, improved access to Eastlink trail, use of drainage areas and strategic land purchase.

#### **Springvale**

Access to additional parks and reserves are required to provide primarily for the existing population. Springvale's population is expected to remain relatively constant over the next 10 – 20 years.

Significant purchase of land to add to the public open space network is not likely to be feasible, and hence the key approach in this suburb will be to: improve access to existing parks and reserves; some purchase of land to enlarge existing smaller parks in key locations, particularly areas not currently served by a larger park and with no alternative options such as school sites; and investigate opportunities offered by the redevelopment of the Council offices, and the amalgamation of school sites by the Department of Education (DEECD).

**Actions:**  
1.11 Investigate formal use of school campuses (including school sites which may become available through school amalgamations across the municipality), improve pedestrian and bicycle links into and between open spaces, and enlargement of reserves where feasible.

#### **Site specific issues**

- Around Hope and Fairview Streets, Kemp Street and at the northern end of Glendale Road: there are very few areas of public parks and reserves in this area, however there may be opportunities offered by Springvale Heights Primary School and along Mile Creek.

**Action:**  
1.12 Investigate formal public use of school site.

- South of Balmoral Avenue between Regent and St Johns Avenues: there are no significant parks and reserves located nearby this area.

**Action:**  
1.13 Investigate establishing a new reserve in this area, and improved links into and between existing parks and reserves.

- South of Olinda Avenue Reserve and Springvale West Primary School: some opportunities are offered by both of these sites. In addition, residences in this area located approximately 800 metres walking distance from the substantial Norman Luth Reserve and Burden Parks, so the approach here will be to improve access to existing parks and reserves.

**Action:**  
1.14 Investigate formal public use of school site and improved links into and between existing reserves.

- North-west and south of Sandown Park: there are no significant areas of public parks and reserves in this location, however there may be opportunities provided by Springvale Primary School and Secondary College and Heatherhill Primary School. The possibility of a connection between Warner and Ross Reserves should also be investigated.

**Action:**  
1.15 Investigate formal public use of school sites and a connection between Warner and Ross Reserves.

## Objective 2 More sports reserves

Sports reserves are considered to serve a district catchment, so the emphasis is on providing adequate provision at the municipality level. At present there is 1.2 hectares per 1,000 residents and this ratio is expected to decline to 1 hectare by 2029.

Suburbs with a lower level of sports reserve provision should be considered for future improvements and augmentation to the network of sports reserves.

### Dandenong North

The ratio of sports reserve is currently 0.4 hectares per 1,000 residents, with Lois Twohig Reserve located in Dandenong North.

### Keysborough

Keysborough is served by a number of sports facilities, but it is expected that by 2029, the ratio of open space will be 0.9 hectares per 1,000 residents. This should be protected, and enhanced where possible.

### Springvale South

Springvale South is served by Alex Nelson, Springvale South and Burden Park Reserves, however the ratio of sports open space is currently 0.45 hectares per 1,000 residents.

### Springvale

Springvale is served by sports facilities at Edinburgh, Springvale and Warner Reserves, and the ratio of sports open space is currently 0.7 hectares per 1,000 residents.

### Noble Park North and Noble Park

Sports reserve provision is currently 1.1 hectares per 1,000 residents in each of Noble Park and Noble Park North. This should be protected, and enhanced where possible.

#### Actions

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 2.1 | Improve the carrying capacity of existing sports reserves to allow increased use (eg artificial surfaces, warm season grasses).   |
| 2.2 | Formalise the use and management of school ovals to allow increased and more frequent community use and investigate agreements with schools which could see Council assisting with improvements and maintenance to school sports fields (eg |

synthetic surfaces), while gaining evening and weekend access to increase sports carrying capacity.

- 2.3 Establishment of further sports fields on existing passive reserves (where the minimum goals for passive reserve provision are met).
- 2.4 Purchase of additional land to increase the size of existing reserves.

### Objective 3 Improved facilities

Relevant parks and reserves should be upgraded to the appropriate standard (as outlined in Park Development Standards).

**Action:**

- 3.2 Upgrade relevant parks and reserves to the appropriate standard across the municipality, commencing with higher priority parks.

#### **Springvale South**

Approximately 65% of reserves in Springvale South are of low standard in terms of the level of provision of facilities. Significant parks need to be identified that currently experience high use levels, or are capable of high use levels, and improve quality to at least medium standard.

**Action:**

- 3.1 Identify parks that currently experience high use levels, or are capable of high use levels, and improve quality to at least medium standard.



## Implementing the Strategy

Implementation of the open space strategy relies on a substantial ongoing commitment of resources, including annual capital works and operational budgets for the implementation of the Strategy and related strategies and plans, such as park masterplans.

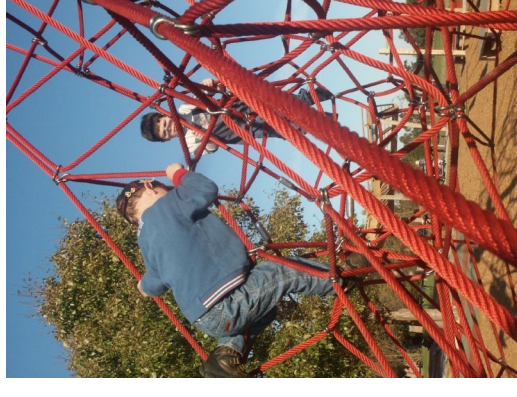
A range of actions will be identified in the action plan (part 3), which will be the responsibility of several Council departments. These actions must be included in annual business plans as appropriate.

Related to this, progress on the implementation of the Strategy should be monitored and reported annually to Council and made available on Council's website.

In some circumstances, the actions listed in the action plan may need to be modified, removed or expanded over time in response to changing needs. This should be highlighted in the annual review. Any substantial changes which vary from the priorities listed in the strategy should only occur following consultation with the affected community.

Several actions are likely to be most effectively implemented as a result of action by both Council and other agencies, such as the Department of Education (DEECD) or Melbourne Water. A strong emphasis will be placed on forming partnerships to achieve the goals and actions of the strategy. In addition, partnerships should also be sought with community groups.

Following adoption of the entire strategy, an amendment to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme will be prepared, which includes the strategy as a reference document. It may also specify an open space contribution at the schedule to Clause 52.01 or as appropriate.



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