

ANNUAL UPDATE 2021 - 2022

Council has been busy investing in and improving open spaces such as parks, playgrounds, tree reserves and new civic open spaces in Greater Dandenong.

The Open Space Strategy 2020-2030 provides a framework for Council to manage and improve the quality, design and provision of open space over the next 10 years to ensure the needs of the existing residents and future generations are met.

The framework is derived from the Council's Imagine 2030 framework with principles and goals that align with the overarching themes of Place, People and Opportunity. Corresponding actions and measures set out how Council will achieve its vision of a high quality, accessible and sustainable open space network.

Principle 1 - Place - High Quality Parks, Reserves and Connections

Improvements

District Parks

Greaves Reserve, Dandenong Draft Master Plan - community and stakeholder consultation undertaken.

Springvale Reserve, Springvale – Draft Concept plan developed.

Design and implementation projects undertaken:

- Burden Park, Springvale - tennis courts redeveloped.
- Ross Reserve, Noble Park - completion of all abilities playground stage 1.
- Barry Powell Reserve, Noble Park - demolition of tennis club building and detailed design of oval expansion and carpark design.
- Frederick Wachter Reserve, Keysborough - construction of the expanded wetland and boardwalk and the completion of the new district playground (stage 1).
- Rowley Allan Reserve, Keysborough – upgrade of the netball court and a new half court.
- Tirhatuan Park, Dandenong North - new multi-purpose court with futsal and basketball goals and a separate netball practice goal circle; and
- Parkfield Reserve, Noble Park - new local playground and relocation of the cricket nets.

Neighbourhood Parks

Concept plans completed for Glendale Reserve, Springvale; Browns Reserve, Noble Park North and Alan Corrigan Reserve, Keysborough.

Implementation works undertaken:

- Glendale Reserve, Springvale - new half basketball court with futsal and basketball goals.
- Browns Reserve, Noble Park North - new paths, fitness equipment, landscaping and picnic facilities; and
- Alan Corrigan Reserve, Keysborough - new fitness circuit, nature play area, picnic facilities, shelter, new tree planting and garden beds. Grant funding received by State Government through the Park Revitalisation Grant Program.



Ross Reserve - All Abilities Playground (stage 1)



Tirhatuan Park - new multi-purpose courts



Glendale Reserve - new half court

Local Parks

Concept plans, playground upgrades and landscaping improvements undertaken at:

- JB Sheen Reserve, Noble Park
- Sandra Reserve, Noble Park; and
- Noble Park Reserve



JB Sheen Reserve - new neighbourhood playground

Small Local & Pocket Parks

Concept plans and implementation works undertaken:

- 77 Herbert Street, Dandenong – a new civic space in the Noble Park Activity Centre
- New local playgrounds and landscaping at Hennessy Reserve, Noble Park North and Turner Close Reserve, Springvale
- Landscape and park improvements at Avon Reserve, Noble Park; Sullivan Street Reserve, Springvale; Charlotte Reserve, Springvale and Janelaine Reserve, Springvale South.



Noble Park Reserve - new neighbourhood playground

Principle 2 - People - Open Space for All

New Open Space

Council purchased almost 4,000 sqm of land in 2021-22, exceeding the annual target of 1,500sqm, for the purpose of using as public open space.

The sites purchased were 61 Heyington Crescent, Noble Park North and 49 View Road, Springvale. These sites will progressively be designed and transformed into quality open spaces as funding allows. For example, 49 View Road, Springvale will go towards reducing the open space 'gap' in an area with limited access to open space and 61 Heyington Crescent, Noble Park North will provide a new green respite area.

Community gardens

Council is receiving an increasing number of enquiries from community groups wanting to start up new community gardens on public open space. Council supports and encourages the local community to initiate, establish and self-manage community gardens in appropriate locations with the support of Council in accordance with the Community Gardens on Council Owned Public Open Space Policy and Guidelines.

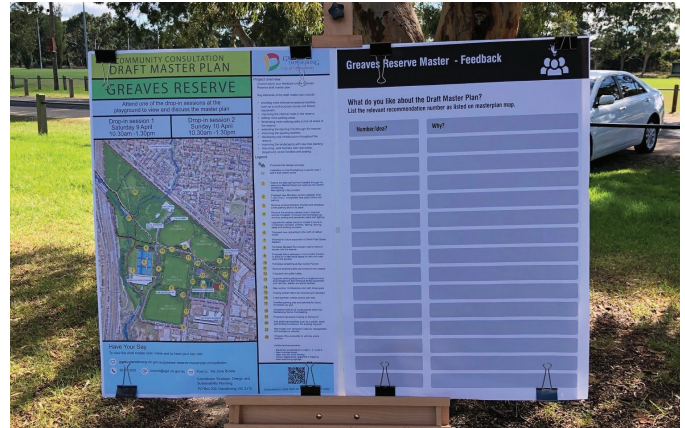
These documents are available on Council's website and have been created to help local community groups through the process of starting up a community garden on Council owned and/or managed public open space land. The new Maralinga Community Garden Inc was opened in early 2022 at Chandler Reserve in Keysborough.



Maralinga Community Garden (Chandler Reserve) in Keysborough

Community input

Community consultation plays an important part in designing playgrounds and open space improvements. As a Child Friendly City, consultation with the local school children played a very important role in the design of the playgrounds. Local residents, children and stakeholders significantly informed the draft Greaves Reserve Master Plan, 2A Frank Street Noble Park, Glendale Reserve, Browns Reserve and the playground designs for Hennessy Reserve, JB Sheen Reserve, Noble Park Reserve, Sandra Reserve, Parkfield Reserve and Turner Close Reserve.



Greaves Reserve - community consultation in the park

Principle 3 - Opportunity - Greening Our City

The area of focus is increasing the tree canopy coverage within our parks to respond to the long term need to grow a mature tree canopy cover that provides shade and a cool environment for the community to enjoy. In addition, the focus on increasing tree planting coverage as well as where appropriate more diverse garden bed planting can occur contributes to the biodiversity of our municipality. Throughout the year, Council runs school educational programs, as well as community planting days that increase the indigenous tree and garden bed coverage in reserves across the municipality. Planting days at Tirhatuan Park and Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve receive great support from the community.



Community tree planting day at Tatterson Park

Public Open Space Contributions – PSA C228gdan

In October 2021, Council adopted the Greater Dandenong Public Open Space Contribution Plan, which proposed to increase the public open space contributions levy for developments that subdivide land in Greater Dandenong.

The one-off levy applies when two or more additional lots (to an existing lot) are created. This change is proposed to be enacted through an amendment to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme known as Planning Scheme Amendment C228gdan. This Amendment was exhibited in early 2022. The Amendment increases the rate for residential developments from 5 per cent of the value of the land to 6.3 per cent and introduces a new levy for commercial development of 2 per cent. The increase in the open space contributions is necessary to assist in the provision and improvement of public open space to meet the needs of the growing population.

The Minister for Planning approved Amendment C228gdan to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme in February 2023. The Amendment will come into operation once the notice has been published in the Victoria Government Gazette.

State Government Update

In 2021, the Victorian State Government released the “Open Space for Everyone - Open Space Strategy for Metropolitan Melbourne Strategy” which puts in place the strategic framework to guide the planning, acquisition, design, management, use and maintenance of the Melbourne metropolitan open space network. The goals of this Strategy align closely with the Greater Dandenong Open Space Strategy. Council has been successful in obtaining State Government grant funding to assist in creating new parks and revitalising parks in our established suburbs.

Significant State Government grant funding was received for:

- the 77 Herbert Street, Dandenong new pocket park, the green spine link with new tree planting between Dandenong High School and Robert Booth Reserve and improvements to the Herbert Street Neighbourhood Shopping Centre, Dandenong; and
- Alan Corrigan Reserve, Keysborough - upgrade to the picnic area, new sensory playground, fitness equipment circuit, tree planting and landscape works.



Alan Corrigan Reserve - Official reopening by Minister Lily D'Ambrosio

What's Next?

Council will continue to implement the Greater Dandenong Open Space Strategy 2020-2030 to ensure the amount of open space is increased and the quality of existing spaces continues to improve and be resilient to the impacts of climate change.

For further information about our open spaces, please visit Council's website at www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1000.