

**FUTURE MELBOURNE (ECO CITY)
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Agenda Item 5.4

DRAFT OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

8 November 2011

Presenter: Eamonn Fennessy, Team Leader Parks Planning

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of the draft Open Space Strategy (OSS) (refer Attachment 1) for public consultation.
2. The OSS will provide a 15 year strategic vision and actions that enable the City of Melbourne to protect and enhance a network of high quality open spaces and to plan for future provision of and access to open space.
3. Open space is fundamental to the liveability and identity of the City of Melbourne. Access to high quality, diverse open space within walking distance of home and work is important to the health and wellbeing of the community.

Key issues

4. The OSS responds to significant forecast population growth and development consistent with the Draft Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS). The OSS proposes a network of high quality and diverse open space within walking distance for residents and workers to address existing and future shortfalls in open space provision. The OSS forms a component of KSA1 'Planning for Future Growth'.
5. The OSS provides precinct summaries for all City of Melbourne suburbs indicating the forecast resident and worker population growth, current gaps in open space provision, recommendations for provision of new open space and improvements to existing open space to respond to this growth.
6. A key objective of the OSS is securing large 'Capital City' open space within proposed urban renewal areas to the west of the City for the future population. Partnerships with the Victorian Government, the development industry and the community during early planning stages will be essential for this to succeed.
7. The OSS identifies the importance of well located, green open space with large canopy trees to assist in combating the urban heat island effect, an identified climate change impact for the City of Melbourne.
8. Funding for the capital works and land acquisition required for the projects identified in the OSS will be sourced from a combination of Council revenue, external grants from other State and Federal government agencies and open space contributions levied according to Council's powers under the *Subdivision Act 1988*. The latter will be required either as a land contribution or a cash contribution at Council's discretion.
9. All households in the City of Melbourne were surveyed in 2010 at the commencement of the OSS to inform its development. Feedback from 1700 households indicated that the quality and diversity of open space was highly valued by residents and included suggestions for improvement in provision, access and quality.
10. The City of Melbourne Parks and Gardens Advisory Committee has provided valuable input into the development of the OSS.

Recommendation from management

11. That the Future Melbourne Committee endorse the draft Open Space Strategy for public consultation for the period from 14 November 2011 to 27 February 2012.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment
2. Draft Open Space Strategy

SUPPORTING ATTACHMENT

Legal

1. No direct legal issues arise from the recommendation from management.

Finance

2. Funding for the capital works and land acquisition required for the projects identified in the OSS will be sourced from a combination of Council revenue, external grants from other State and Federal government agencies and open space contributions levied according to Council's powers under the Subdivision Act 1988. The latter will be required either as a land contribution or a cash contribution at Council's discretion. Author to state the financial implications of recommendation.
3. The development of the OSS has been undertaken within existing budget allocations.

Conflict of interest

4. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a direct or indirect interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Stakeholder consultation

5. In 2010 an extensive survey of all City of Melbourne households was undertaken to inform the development of the OSS at commencement stage. Over 1700 responses were received which have provided valuable direction for the strategies development.
6. Targeted consultation has occurred with agencies such as the Department of Planning and Community Development in the development of the strategy.
7. The City of Melbourne Parks and Gardens Advisory Committee is comprised of community members and technical experts and advises on a range of technical and community issues in the planning and management of the City of Melbourne's parks and gardens. The Committee provided valuable input into the identification of issues to be addressed by the OSS.
8. It is proposed that an extensive engagement process is undertaken from November 2011 until the end of February 2012 to seek feedback on the draft strategy from the community and stakeholders. The OSS consultation period is planned to coincide with the consultation period for the Urban Forest Strategy
9. A range of methods will be used during the engagement process to ensure the consultation and communication is as wide-reaching as possible. This will include: a summary leaflet with return survey provided to respondents of the 2010 survey who requested to be kept informed (approximately 700 out of the 1700 households who responded) and online; a series of 'open house' style community meetings, and targeted engagement with key stakeholders and organisations.
10. Feedback provided will be documented and reported back to Council with the final strategy by May 2012.

Relation to Council policy

11. The Open Space Strategy relates to and is consistent with the following Council policies and strategies:
 - 11.1. Future Melbourne
 - 11.2. Draft Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS)
 - 11.3. Parks and Tree Policies
 - 11.4. Draft Urban Forest Strategy (2011)
 - 11.5. Active Melbourne Strategy
 - 11.6. Draft Arden MacAulay Structure Plan (2011)
 - 11.7. Draft City North Structure Plan (2011)
 - 11.8. Southbank Structure Plan (2010)
 - 11.9. Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2009)
 - 11.10. Total Watermark: City as a Catchment (2008)
 - 11.11. The Children's Plan (2011)

Environmental sustainability

12. Environmental sustainability issues have been a key consideration in the development of this strategy. Open space can play a significant role in mitigating the urban heat island effect and adapting the municipality to climate change. Careful distribution of open space throughout urban neighbourhoods with natural features such as large canopy trees and planted surfaces that absorb moisture can offset the impacts of urban heat. Open space supports and increases biodiversity and assists in stormwater retention and treatment.



Draft Open Space Strategy

PLANNING FOR FUTURE GROWTH

Acknowledgements

The City of Melbourne would like to thank the City of Melbourne Parks and Gardens Advisory Committee for their contribution to the *Melbourne Open Space Strategy*.

The *Melbourne Open Space Strategy* has been prepared for the City of Melbourne by **Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd** in collaboration with **Environment & Land Management Pty Ltd** and **Dr Nigel Tapper** who provided the directions on urban heat island effect mitigation. The population forecast information was supplied for this project by **.id consulting** and Dr Serryn Eagleston of **EDGResearch**.

October 2011

A message from the City of Melbourne



Robert Doyle
Lord Mayor



Cr Cathy Oke, Chair
Eco City Committee

Open spaces define Melbourne. Our parks, gardens and reserves help make this city the World's most liveable. In a recent survey undertaken by the City of Melbourne, many residents told us open space was the very reason they chose to live here.

As far back as the 1840s, our city's leaders had the vision to reserve open space for public enjoyment and wellbeing. Melbourne's open spaces today are testament to that foresight.

Our city is changing and by 2030 Melbourne's population is expected to double. Access to diverse and high quality open space is more important than ever for our enjoyment and our health and wellbeing. The City of Melbourne's first Draft Open Space

Strategy identifies how to prepare for our city's future growth and build on our sustainable living principles.

Meeting the needs of a growing population in a changing climate will require securing additional areas of open space particularly in major urban renewal areas. To achieve this, we are developing partnerships with the State Government, the development industry and the community.

The Draft Open Space Strategy, together with Council's Draft Urban Forest Strategy aim to make a great city even better. We invite you to read the draft strategy and to forward your feedback to the City of Melbourne, from November 2011 – February 2012.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Doyle". The signature is fluid and cursive.

ROBERT DOYLE
Lord Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy Oke". The signature is stylized and cursive.

CR CATHY OKE
Chair Eco City Committee



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Introduction

The purpose of the Open Space Strategy

The Open Space Strategy will provide the overarching framework and strategic direction for open space planning in the City of Melbourne for the next 15 years. The Strategy includes consideration of the forecast population change and provides the strategic basis for an open space contributions policy.



What is open space?

2

Open space is the publicly owned land that is set aside primarily for recreation, nature conservation, passive outdoor enjoyment and public gatherings. This includes public parks, gardens, reserves, waterways, publicly owned forecourts and squares.

Public open space also includes publicly owned major sporting venues and publicly owned gardens that are managed by the State of Victoria



Public parks



Public gardens



Squares



Reserves



Waterways



Major sporting venues



Publicly owned forecourts



Plazas

including the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne Park, Zoological Gardens and the Royal Botanic Gardens. Other public land including schools, universities and streets complement the open space network with other strategies and plans providing direction and guidance for these.

Melbourne's diversity and quality of open space creates a range of experiences in different parts of the city.

Why is open space important?

Melbourne is identified as the most liveable city in the world, and one of the major contributory elements to this liveability is the quality and amount of open space. In a recent household survey undertaken at the commencement of the research phase of this Strategy, many people indicated they live in the City of Melbourne because of the open space. Open space is also extensively used by the local community and visitors from across Australia and overseas. Open space is important for numerous reasons, some of which are described here.

Social connectedness



Social contact

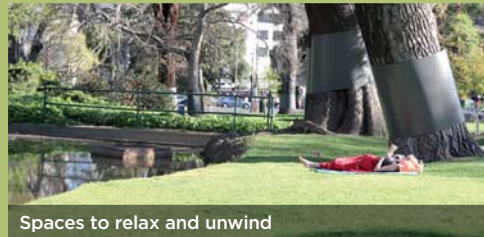


Community events and festivals



Meeting place, particularly associated with high density living

Mental health & wellbeing



Spaces to relax and unwind



Illness prevention

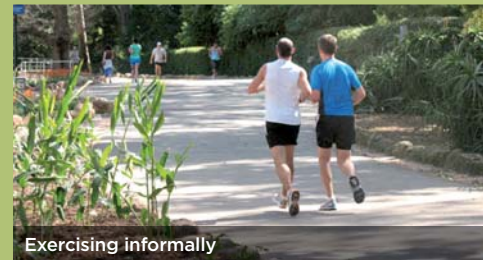


Social development in children

Physical health, fitness & wellbeing



Participating in organised sport



Exercising informally



Contact with nature



Being outside in the fresh air and sunlight

Urban heat island effect mitigation



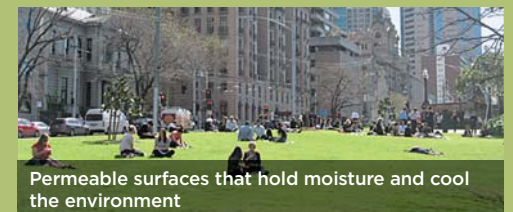
Where the heat can radiate out at night and cool the city following hot weather



Space for large canopy trees to grow and provide shade



Creating cool spaces by irrigating them with sustainable water supply



Permeable surfaces that hold moisture and cool the environment

Why is open space important?

4

Biodiversity



Habitat for native fauna including birds



Protection of remnant areas of indigenous flora



Selective reintroduction of habitat diversity

Cultural heritage and character



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage values



World, National and State heritage significance of existing parks and gardens

Economics and tourism



Visitor destination points



Commemorative events

Events and Arts



Permanent and temporary installations



Performance

Melbourne's existing open space

The City of Melbourne is located on the traditional land of the Kulin Nation. For the Wurundjeri, Boonerwung, Taungurong, Djajawurrung, and the Wauthaurong groups who form the Kulin Nation, Melbourne has always been an important meeting place for events, of social, education, sporting and cultural significance.

The major open spaces in Melbourne were set-aside at the time of European settlement from 1842 onwards on the outskirts of the central city (Hoddle grid) as part of Governor La Trobe's vision of a green belt of parks encircling Melbourne. This includes Royal Park, Princes Park, Flagstaff Gardens, Royal Botanic Gardens, Fitzroy Gardens, Treasury Gardens, Domain Parklands, Fawkner Park and Carlton Gardens.

These larger original reserves are synonymous with the character of Melbourne, as are some of the more contemporary open spaces including Federation Square, Southbank Promenade and Birrarung Marr. Major festivals and events are held in Melbourne's open space including Moomba and New Years Eve along the Yarra River, the Australian Open at Melbourne Park, cricket and AFL at the MCG and numerous other major sporting events that form part of Melbourne's image and identify and contribute to the City of Melbourne's reputation as the world's most liveable city.

The waterways flowing through Melbourne include the Yarra River, Maribyrnong River and Moonee Ponds Creek. The Yarra River was one of the main reasons for the establishment of Melbourne in this location, influencing the alignment of the Hoddle grid and Melbourne's layout. Early settlers modified the alignment, shape and natural values to suit land use and industrialisation needs.

For many years settlement turned its back on the waterways causing degradation to their natural, cultural and biodiversity values. In the 1980s Melbourne changed its view of the waterways and development has since turned around to face the waterways and harbours and provide open space along them. Waterways are now used for recreational activities including recreational boating, rowing, jogging, cycling and walking, and are recognised for their biodiversity and habitat corridor values.

Organised community sport and recreation use of open space encourages and supports social connectedness, health and fitness. JJ Holland Park, Royal Park, Princes Park and Fawkner Park are some of the key open spaces that support this community use.



Open space network

6

Overview

The 148 sites in Melbourne's public open space network totals approximately 555 hectares and represents almost 15 percent of the total area of the City of Melbourne. Each open space has a unique role within the network depending on its location, size, use and character. In developing this Strategy the role and character of each open space has been assessed and distribution mapped. This assessment is the basis for understanding what open space exists now, any deficiencies to be addressed and consideration of future change.

Role

Capital City and State open space – With Melbourne being the capital city of the State of Victoria, these open spaces are often used to stage activities and events of international, national, state and metropolitan importance. Examples include Federation Square, Domain Parklands (Capital City) and Royal Park (State).

Regional open spaces are valued and visited by a broader catchment of people as well as the local community. Generally these are easily accessible to people from adjoining municipalities. Examples include Princes Park, Fawkner Park and the Maribyrnong River.

Municipal open spaces are valued and visited primarily by the City of Melbourne population, providing facilities that include organised sport. Examples include JJ Holland Park and North Melbourne Recreation Reserve.

Neighbourhood open spaces provide a diversity of character and the facilities that appeal to the local community at a neighbourhood level. Examples include Argyle Square and Docklands Park.

Local and Small Local open spaces complement the larger open spaces and can provide smaller more intimate spaces within safe and easy walking distance of the local community. These two types are differentiated by their size. Examples include Golden Elm Reserve in South Yarra and Chapman Street Reserve in North Melbourne.

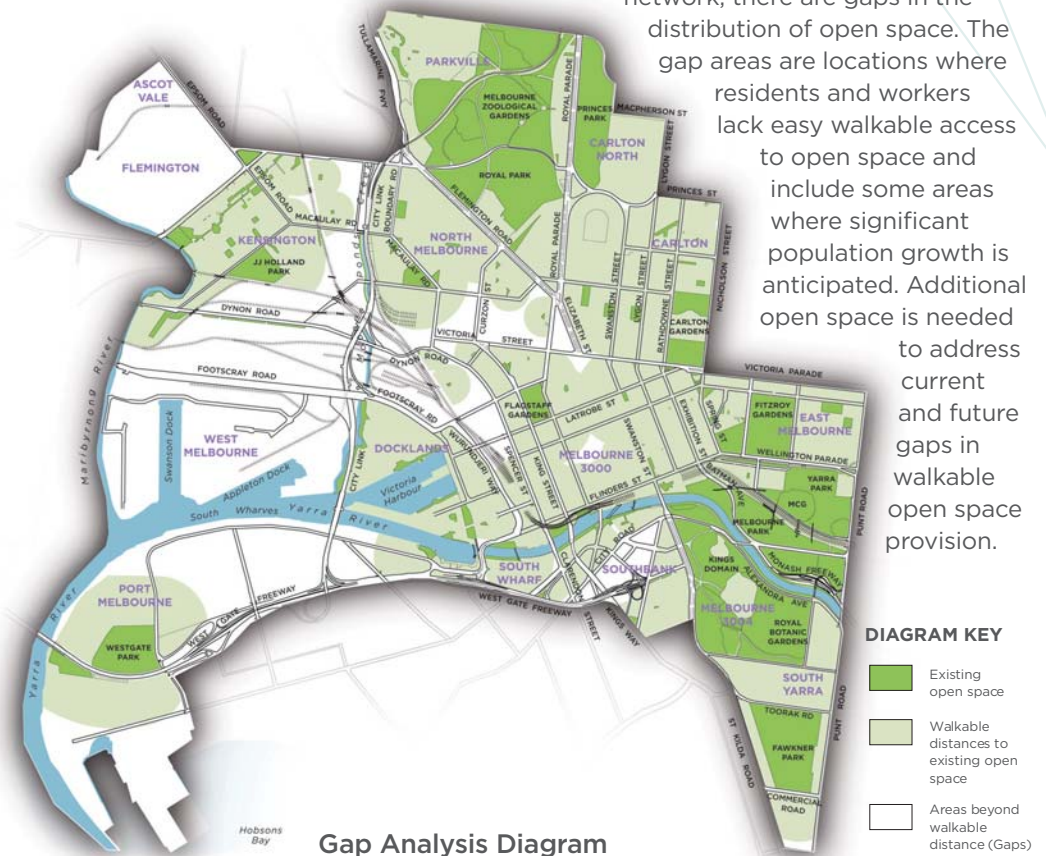
Character

The larger established parks, gardens and reserves across the municipality have a range of characters and purposes. These vary from historical gardens with a predominantly European character to the primarily Australian character of Royal Park. They provide space for organised sporting use through to informal play and places of contemplation. A range of character types describe the variety of open spaces in the municipality.

Distribution

A key objective in planning the open space network is to provide open space within easy walking distance for the majority of the community. A 500 metre walkable distance is used for State, Capital City, Regional, Municipal and

Neighbourhood open space, and a 300 metre walkable distance is used for Local and Small Local open space. Major roads and rail are barriers that limit walkable access. The gap analysis diagram below indicates that when walkable distances are applied to the existing open space network, there are gaps in the distribution of open space. The gap areas are locations where residents and workers lack easy walkable access to open space and include some areas where significant population growth is anticipated. Additional open space is needed to address current and future gaps in walkable open space provision.



What will change

Forecast population growth

Overall population change

👤 = 50,000

Residents:

• 2011 (98,162)



• 2026 (164,832)



Workers:

• 2010 (429,392)



• 2022 (563,492)



Open space relative to population density change

■ = 10m²

Open space per resident:

• 2011 (55.4m²)



• 2026 (33.7m²)



Open space per head of population (resident + worker):

• 2011 (10.5m²)



• 2026 (7.6m²)



The population growth and forecast development in Melbourne is significant, resulting in greater than two-thirds additional people living in the

municipality by 2026 and approximately a third more employees. This forecast is based on the Growth Framework Plan included in the Draft Municipal Strategic Statement. The growth occurs across the city and is concentrated in urban renewal areas in the west and south of the municipality; these are shown spatially on the Overall Direction diagrams in this report. The largest amounts of open space are located in the north and south-east of the city. The forecast population growth is concentrated in the west and the south with some growth in the north, creating the need for more open space in the west and south.

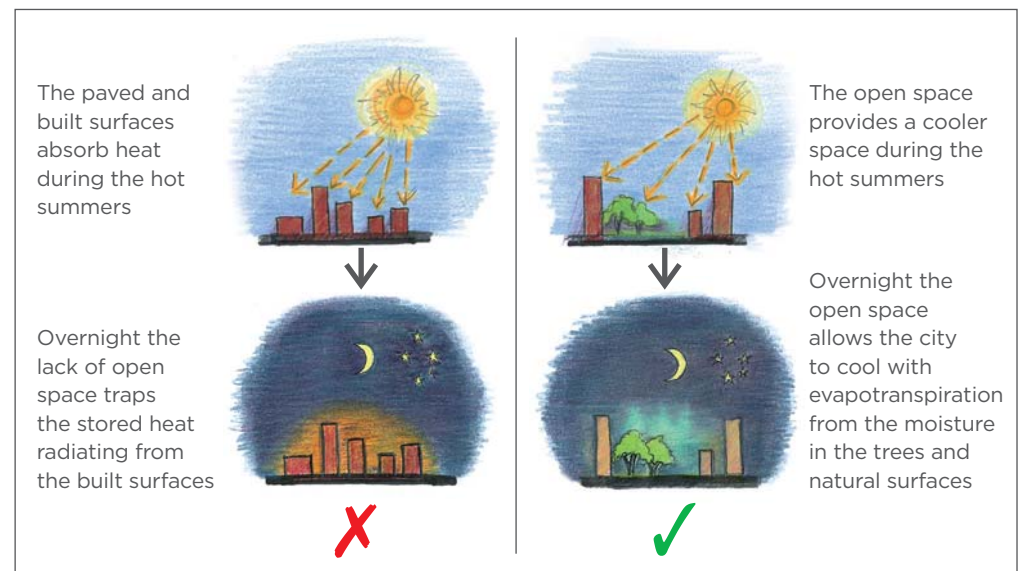
The forecast population growth will result in more people living and working in higher density neighbourhoods. Increasing urban densities will intensify the need for people to use open space to maintain their physical and mental health and wellbeing. This will place additional demand on existing open spaces and in some areas create the need to provide additional open space. Population growth is already occurring in areas lacking adequate or any open space. Growth will require improvement to the diversity, quality and quantity of open space to adequately cater to the increased population.

Climate change

Climate change is predicted to result in more extreme weather patterns. Of particular relevance to open space areas is the forecast extended dry periods and more intense rainfall and storms resulting in more periods of drought and flooding. Open space cannot directly influence climate change, but it can play an important role in urban heat island effect mitigation and landscape adaptation.

Urban heat island effect is the build up of heat in urban areas as explained in the diagram. During the heat wave in early 2009 this was a serious problem in Melbourne. Where urban renewal drives an increase in urban densities, the future population will be accommodated in multiple-level buildings with a focus on compact urban form to promote mixed use, walkable neighbourhoods. Provision of open space with natural features through these new neighbourhoods will help off-set the build up of urban heat. Planting additional large canopy trees in open space and streets (as outlined in the Urban Forest Strategy) will also help mitigate this impact.

Urban Heat Island and open space diagram



Overall direction

8

Maintain and expand a quality open space network

Melbourne enjoys a diverse, quality and highly valued open space network. As the city changes and grows, positive actions to upgrade and provide additional open space will retain the role open space plays in shaping Melbourne's image and liveability. This will require:

- The commitment, involvement and partnerships between key players including the City of Melbourne, the Victorian government and the development industry to deliver additional well located and designed open space.
- Adding to the open space network to provide a diversity of open space for multiple uses, expanding capital city functions into the west and mitigating increased urban heat.
- Improvements to the design and function of some existing open spaces, achieving the objectives noted above.

The diagrams of the proposed major and smaller open spaces illustrate where additional open space is required and these are described further in the precincts.



Provide distributed open space within easy walking distance

The beneficial effects of open space for communities living in urban areas supports the planning principle that people should have easy access to public open space. This means:

- The community is able to easily walk to open space within 300 metres of them, being an approximately 10 minute walk.
- No need to cross major barriers to reach the open space including major roads and railways.

A key strategy objective of providing open space within easy walking distance of the majority of residents and workers will be achieved by:

- Additional open space to be established in gap areas, refer to the Gap Analysis Diagram. In some cases the smaller spaces will be achieved by utilising wide road reserves.
- Additional open spaces in urban renewal areas across the municipality.

The diagrams of the proposed major and smaller open spaces illustrate where additional open space is required and these are described further in the precincts.

Improve community health and wellbeing

Research confirms there are health and wellbeing benefits for the community when open space is readily accessible. This includes:

- Participation in organised sport when it is available nearby.
- Encourages people outside into open space to participate in informal recreation activities including walking, cycling, jogging, informal games etc.
- Children visiting nearby open space independently of adults improving their self-confidence and physical development.
- Places with natural features where people can escape to and provide a visual relief from built form with physical benefits from the localised microclimate effects of shade, greenery and cooler spaces.
- Presence of natural features in open space mitigating urban heat island effect.



Overall direction

Additional Capital City open space in urban renewal areas

- Historically in the west of the municipality open space has not been provided due to the predominantly non-residential land use.
- With the forecast change to mixed land use and a much larger population of residents and workers, Capital City open space will be required in the west to expand the open space network to a standard that exists in the east and support activities such as events and festivals held in Melbourne.
- A key objective is to provide Capital City open space in the western areas of the municipality in the future. These locations are illustrated on the proposed additional major open spaces diagram.



Additional Municipal open spaces in urban renewal areas

- With extensive growth to be accommodated in the municipality, additional Municipal open space will be needed for organised outdoor sport and recreation use.
- The larger spaces required for these, particularly outdoor sports fields, are best achieved by setting aside parcels of land early in the future planning process for the urban renewal areas.
- Negotiation for larger land parcels with the Victorian government, as a major land-holder during the early planning stages for the urban renewal areas, is critical. These locations are illustrated on the proposed additional major open spaces diagram.



Urban heat island effect mitigation and environmental improvements

- Open space is proposed to be distributed through urban neighbourhoods with natural features such as large canopy trees and planted surfaces which absorb moisture, to offset some impacts of increased urban heat and promote health and wellbeing.
- These spaces will benefit from irrigation where it is available from sustainable water sources.
- Other environmental benefits resulting from the introduction of water and large canopy trees include improved habitat diversity.
- Treatment of urban runoff will improve the quality of receiving waters including Victoria Harbour, the waterways and Port Phillip Bay, consistent with other Council strategies and policies.



Overall direction – proposed additional major open spaces

10

This diagram illustrates the proposed additional or expanded major open spaces required to cater for the forecast growth described in the Draft Municipal Strategic Statement and summarised in this report. These additional major quality open spaces will have either a Capital City, Regional or Municipal role in the future open space network and provide a diversity of active sport, recreation and informal facilities and spaces. They will be linked via a system of existing and proposed on and off-street trails to encourage cycling and walking access to and between them.

The precinct summaries provide more information on the intent and purpose of each proposed open space. The additional open spaces shown here and on the precinct plans are diagrammatic only and indicative of the general location and relative (not actual) size. The final location, size and configuration of new open space will be determined during the Strategy implementation and will be influenced by factors such as the rate of population growth, land acquisition opportunities, surrounding land use and urban layout, and open space design and community feedback.

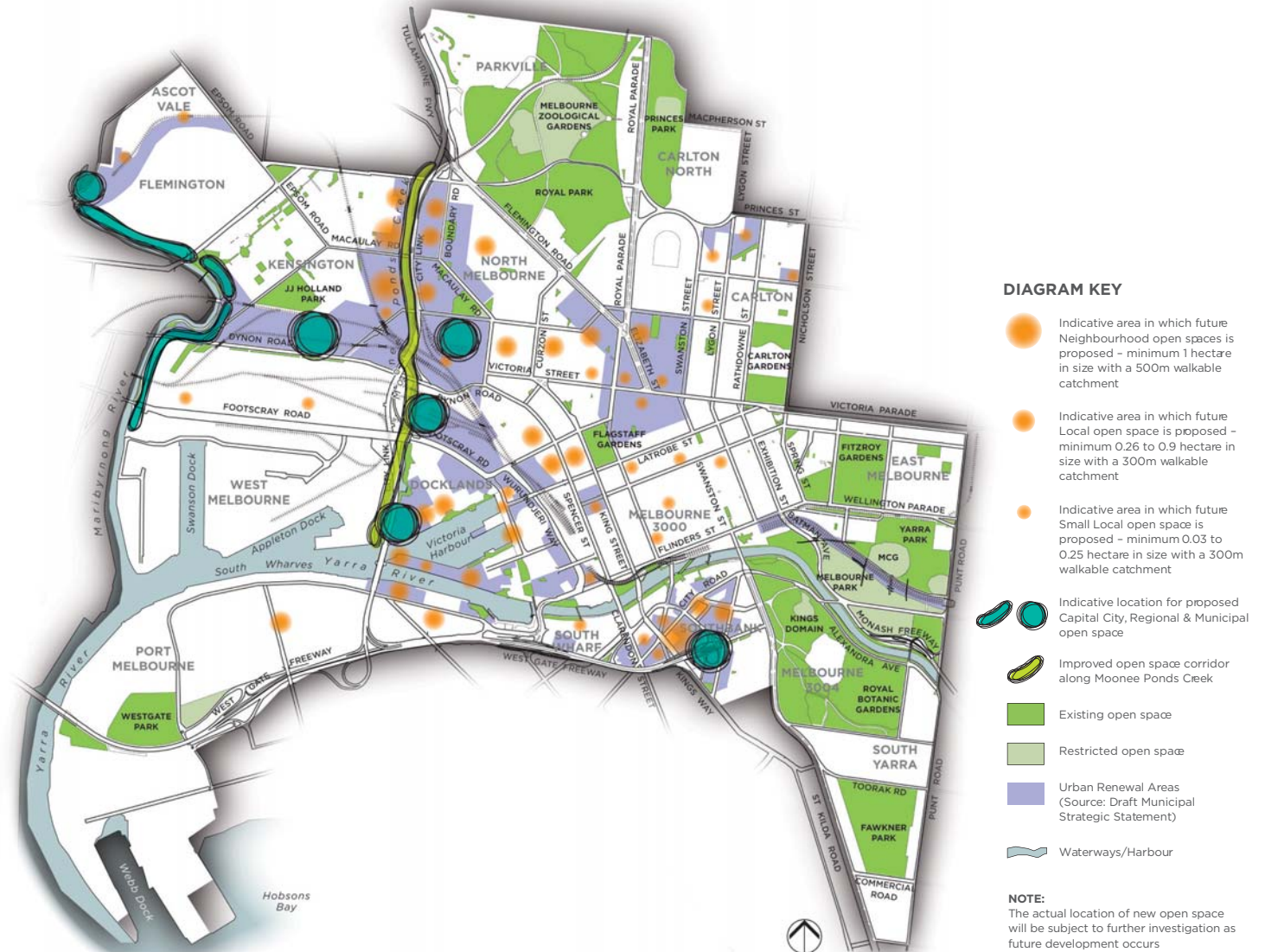


Overall direction – proposed additional smaller open spaces

11

This diagram illustrates the proposed additional smaller open spaces required to provide for some existing deficiencies and to cater for the forecast growth described in the Draft Municipal Strategic Statement and summarised in this report. These additional smaller quality open spaces will have either a Neighbourhood, Local or Small Local role in the future open space network and provide a diversity of local recreation and informal facilities and spaces. These spaces serve local use and are located within easy and safe walking distance of the majority of the community.

The precinct summaries provide more information on the intent and purpose of each proposed open space. The additional open spaces shown here and on the precinct plans are diagrammatic only and indicative of the general location and relative (not actual) size. The final location, size and configuration of new open space will be determined during the Strategy implementation and will be influenced by factors such as the rate of population growth, land acquisition opportunities, surrounding land use and urban layout, and open space design and community feedback.



Precincts

12

Overview

The open space analysis has been undertaken on a precinct basis to allow more detailed assessment of the existing situation and forecast future change. The precincts are based on the suburb areas, with some suburbs combined where there are commonalities between them. A separate page for each precinct is included, and they have been assembled in alphabetical order.

Forecast future growth

Throughout all precincts, the urban renewal areas have been illustrated with a mauve colour. These urban renewal areas are based on the City of Melbourne Growth Framework Plan in the Draft Municipal Strategic Statement, and in some cases have been refined through the development of structure plans. The forecast population figures included in these precincts are consistent with the latest forecasts prepared by the City of Melbourne and consistent with the Growth Framework Plan. The open space analysis and directions are based on these forecasts.

Additional open spaces

The additional open spaces are shown symbolically on the precincts plans. The final location, size and configuration of new open space will be determined during Strategy implementation and will

be influenced by factors such as the rate of population growth, land acquisition opportunities, surrounding land use and urban layout, and preparation of open space design and community feedback.

Existing open spaces

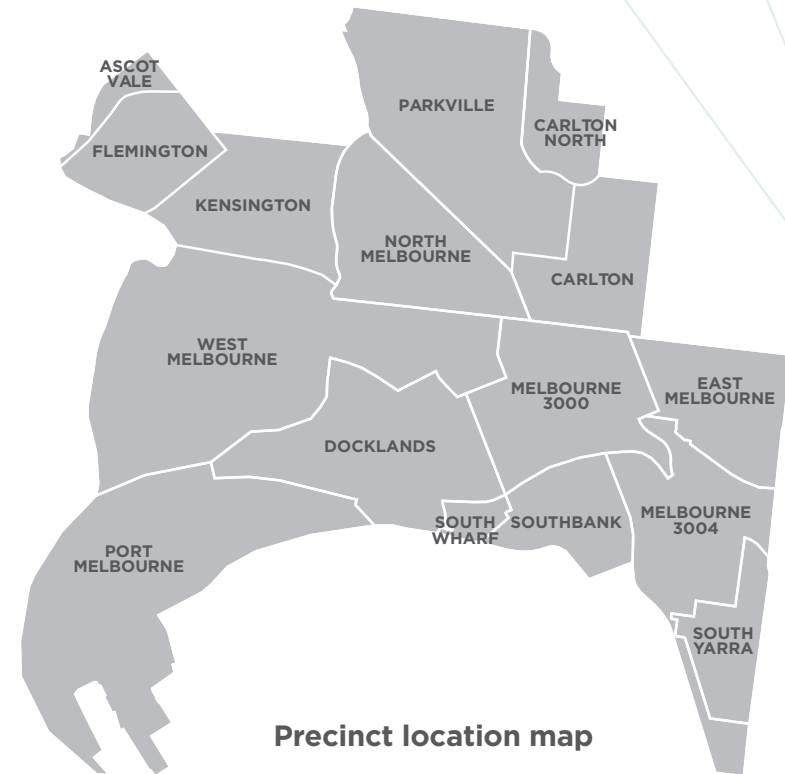
Some of the existing open spaces are recommended for upgrade as shown on the precinct diagrams. The open spaces not noted as receiving upgrades will continue to be maintained with minor improvements as required to retain the quality of the open space network.

Existing Master Plans

Master Plans are in place for the major open spaces in Melbourne, and there is a progressive program of implementation works and scheduled reviews arising from these plans. When the Master Plans are reviewed, the overall directions in this Strategy will be taken into consideration and inform the updated Master Plan.











Structure Plans

Structure Plans guide future development and change in the urban renewal areas. Where Structure Plans exist for precincts such as Southbank, these are reflected in the precinct recommendations of the Open Space Strategy. The open space component of future Structure Plans will be informed by the Open Space Strategy.



Precinct location map

Plan key for the following pages

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|--|
|  | Existing open space |  | Proposed open space links via the street network |
|  | Restricted open space |  | Access to adjoining major areas of open space |
|  | Urban renewal Areas |  | Existing open space and links |
|  | Balance of suburb area |  | Proposed additional open space and links |
|  | Existing linear open space link | | |
|  | Proposed linear open space links | | |

Carlton | Carlton North

Forecast in population change

 = 5,000

Carlton | Carlton North

Residents:

• 2011 (14,644)



• 2026 (23,773)



Workers:

• 2010 (18,575)



• 2022 (25,202)



Gap Analysis

walking distance
access to existing
open space (gaps
shown in white)



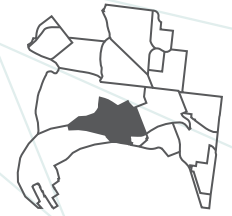
Precinct summary

The characteristic open spaces in this precinct include Princes Park, Carlton Gardens and Argyle Square. Forecast change is planned to occur in Carlton with the City North urban renewal area encompassing part of Carlton and other major urban renewal associated with the public housing redevelopments. Additional Local open spaces are to be provided in the urban renewal areas and designed to complement the facilities already provided in Lincoln and University Squares. Additional Small Local open spaces are either already set aside or will be provided as part of the public housing redevelopment projects. Carlton Gardens North and South will continue to be managed to protect its World Heritage status, and Carlton Park will continue to be managed primarily for organised sporting and informal recreational use.

Diagram Key

 Sub-precinct for proposed Local or Small Local open space





Docklands

14

Forecast in population change

 = 5,000

Docklands

Residents:

- 2011 (6,134)
- 2026 (14,205)



Workers:

- 2010 (33,503)
- 2022 (44,628)



Gap Analysis

walking distance access to existing open space (gaps shown in white)



Precinct summary

Docklands is entering its second decade of development. The vision for the open space system is to increase its diversity to improve recreational opportunities for the Docklands community. This includes a Municipal open space with active sporting facilities, and other Local open spaces with informal recreation facilities encouraging physical fitness. A new Local park in the New Quay area is to be developed along with additional Local open spaces in the Yarra's Edge and Victoria Harbour precincts. These spaces are proposed to be connected with a continuous public open space reserve along the waterfront with

access to the water's edge celebrating Victoria Harbour and the Yarra River as key strengths of Docklands. Moonee Ponds Creek linear open space corridor will continue to be improved providing recreational connectivity to the future Municipal open space, north to E-Gate and Arden Macaulay urban renewal areas and to New Quay Promenade.





Docklands

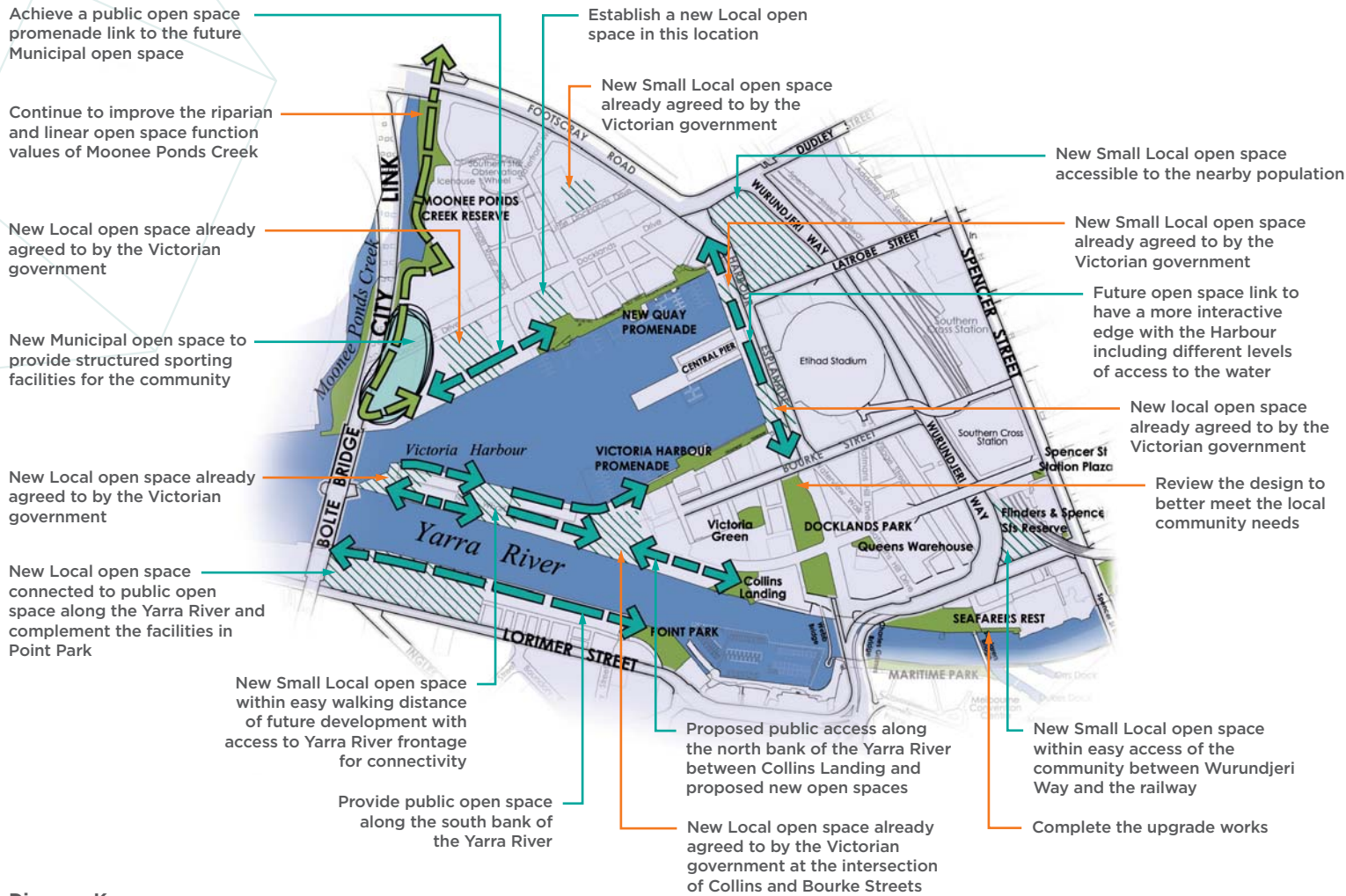


Diagram Key

Sub-precinct for proposed Local or Small Local open space

Indicative location for proposed Municipal open space


0 500m



East Melbourne



16

Forecast in population change

 = 5,000

East Melbourne

Residents:

- 2011 (5,162) 
- 2026 (5,770) 

Workers:

- 2010 (21,080) 
- 2022 (25,622) 

Jolimont Railway urban renewal area

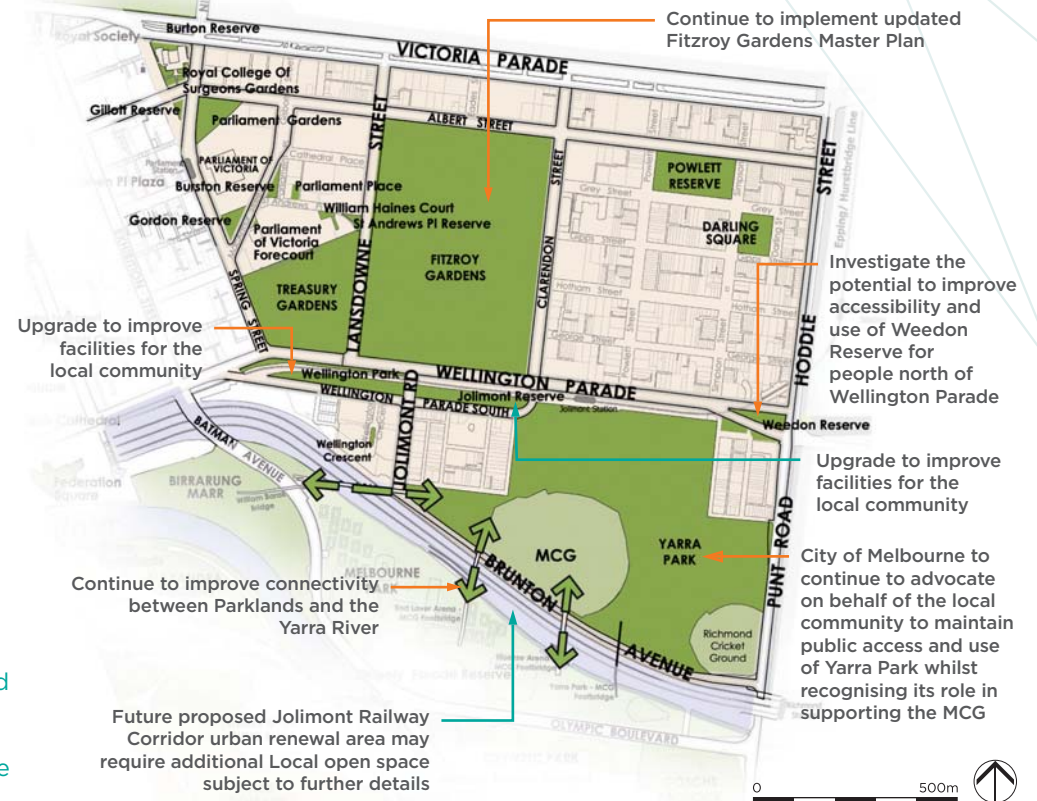
There are no population forecasts available as the timeframe for this development is beyond 2026.

Gap Analysis walking distance access to existing open space (there are no gaps in this precinct)



Precinct summary

East Melbourne is an established area with significant Capital City open space including Fitzroy Gardens, Treasury Gardens, Yarra Park and the MCG. Established neighbourhoods are forecast to grow with a larger worker population and a slight increase in the residential community. The precinct is well provided for with a variety of open space types and character and these will continue to be managed and maintained. Demand for informal recreation from the forecast additional worker population will continue to be accommodated in the key open spaces. Upgrades are proposed to some of the smaller open spaces, and it is recommended that improved access to Weedon Reserve be investigated. Fitzroy Gardens is the most popular open space and continued implementation of the updated Master Plan will be a priority. The Jolimont Railway Corridor urban renewal area is forecast for redevelopment beyond the timeframe of this Strategy. It is likely that additional open space may be required as part of any redevelopment. Maintaining connectivity for this area over the railway to Birrarung Marr and open space along the Yarra River will continue to be important.





Flemington | Ascot Vale

Forecast in population change

1 person icon = 2,000

Flemington | Ascot Vale

Residents:

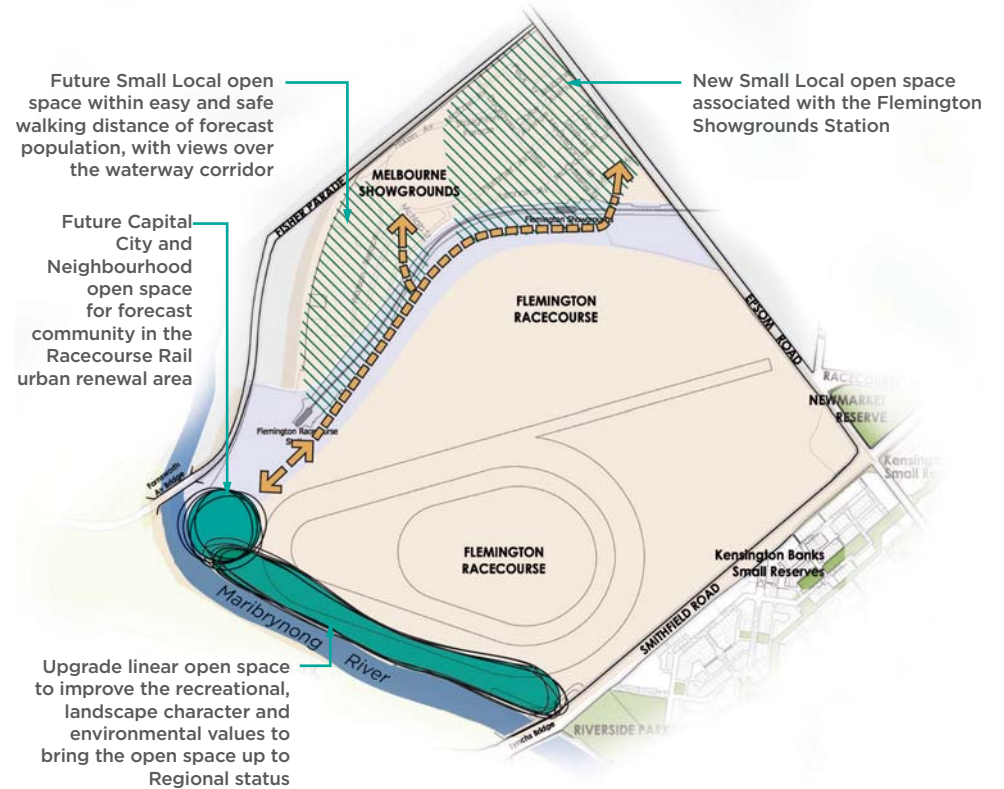
- 2011 (0) 1 person icon
- 2026 (4,950) 2.5 person icons

Workers:

- 2010 (367) 1 person icon
- 2022 (500) 0.25 person icons

Precinct summary

Melbourne Showgrounds and Flemington Racecourse are the major land uses in this precinct and there is currently no residential community within the City of Melbourne. The Racecourse Rail Corridor urban renewal area is forecast to accommodate nearly 5,000 residents by 2026 and some additional workers. New open space is proposed including a Neighbourhood open space adjoining the Maribyrnong River, and two Small Local parks within walking distance of the development area.



Gap Analysis walking distance access to existing open space (gaps shown in white)

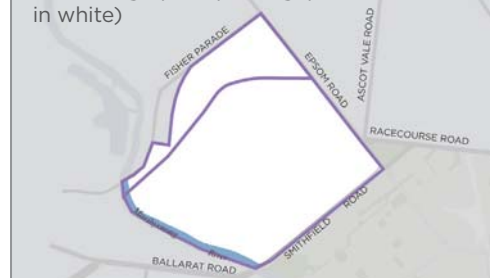


Diagram Key

- Sub-precinct for proposed Local or Small Local open space
- Indicative location for proposed Capital City open space





Kensington

18

Forecast in population change

👤 = 2,000

Arden Macaulay urban renewal area

Residents:

- 2011 (365)



- 2026 (2,741)

Workers:

- 2010 (1,459)



- 2022 (14,000)



Kensington remainder of suburb

Residents:

- 2011 (10,095)



- 2026 (10,488)



Workers:

- 2010 (3,808)



- 2022 (8,000)



Gap Analysis walking distance access to existing open space (gaps shown in white)



Precinct summary

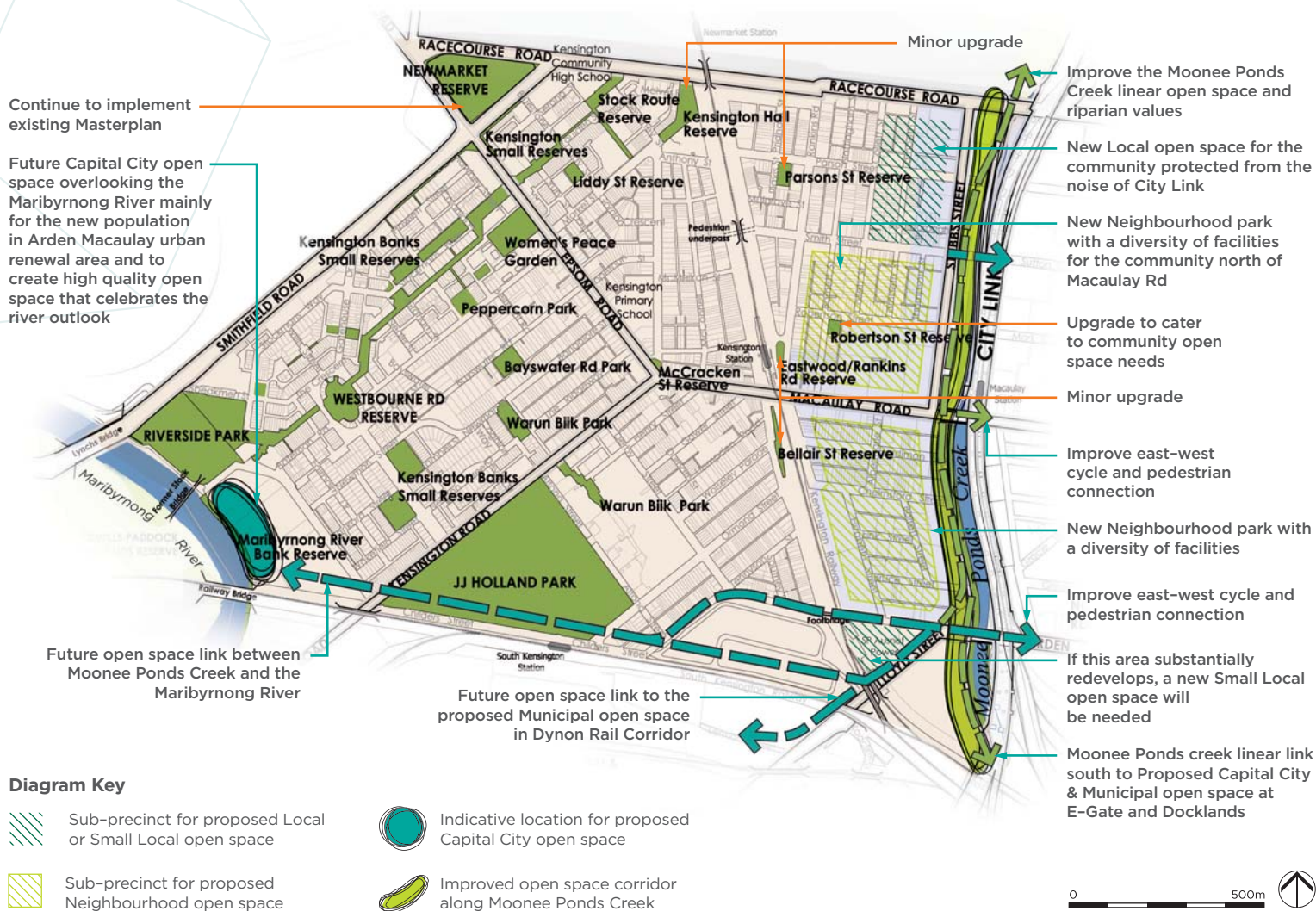
Substantial change in the Arden Macaulay urban renewal area is forecast to increase the resident and worker population. Two new Neighbourhood parks and some smaller open spaces are proposed to cater to the community needs. The importance of the Maribyrnong River is recognised with the opportunity to create a linear open space link between the Maribyrnong River and Moonee Ponds Creek, increasing the network of open space available to the community. On the east banks of the Maribyrnong River a new Capital City open space will expand on the existing linear reserve creating high quality open

space near the river. Improvements to and consolidation of the linear open space along the Moonee Ponds Creek will connect proposed new Municipal open space in E-Gate and Docklands.





Kensington



Melbourne 3000

20

Forecast in population change

👤 = 25,000

Melbourne 3000 | CBD

Residents:

• 2011 (21,080)



• 2026 (35,264)



Workers:

• 2010 (224,947)



• 2022 (267,000)



Gap Analysis

walking distance access to existing open space (gaps shown in white)



Diagram Key

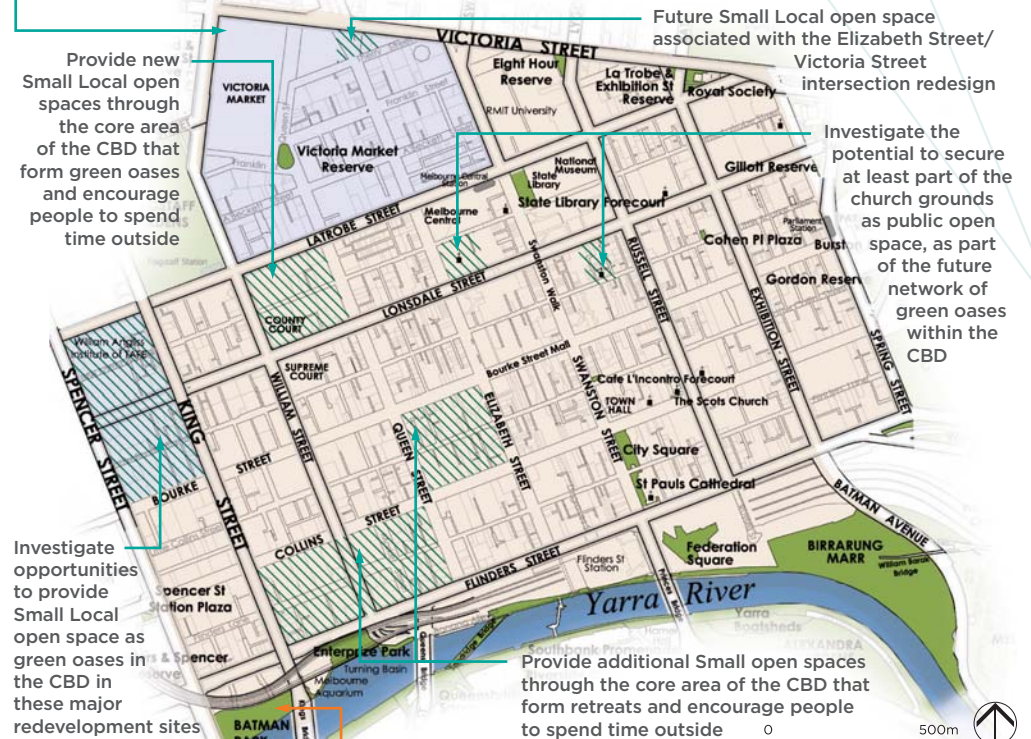
▨ Sub-precinct for proposed Local or Small Local open space



Precinct summary

The Melbourne Central Business District was originally designed with a ring of open space around the central grid rather than within it. The inherent strength of the larger open spaces around the grid will continue to be the main areas of open space for this community into the future. Gardens and forecourts to buildings have formed an integral part of the public realm, and more public open spaces in this form through the CBD as it continues to intensify, is encouraged. This is to accommodate an expanding community of workers and residents in the CBD. There will also be an increasing number of small green oases provided as retreat spaces within the CBD grid. These spaces will not interrupt the strength and value of the grid but expand on the existing highly valued public open spaces such as the Library Forecourt, City Square and Federation Square. These spaces will encourage people outdoors close to where they live and work and provide places to pause, observe and rest. The green character will be driven by sustainable water harvesting and reuse with the intention to create moist and cool spaces in summer that have a role in urban heat island effect mitigation. Opportunity sites include church grounds and others are to be identified as major sites redevelop across the city, particularly where they are located with roads to the north and west, minimising overshadowing from adjoining built form.

Investigate potential open space in vicinity of the Queen Victoria Market which complements existing cultural and retail activity while also catering to the needs of the growing community of City North urban renewal area. This has potential to include upgrades to existing open spaces and/or the utilisation of road reserves.



Continue to maintain some of the informal character to this open space in any future redevelopment, particularly the open grassed areas, and protect the space from further overshadowing to retain sunlight access to the north bank of the Yarra River



Melbourne 3004 | South Yarra

Forecast in population change

1 person icon = 5,000

Melbourne 3004

Residents:

- 2011 (1,630)
- 2026 (2,064)

Workers:

- 2010 (23,411)
- 2022 (29,913)

South Yarra

Residents:

- 2011 (4,702)
- 2026 (4,724)

Workers:

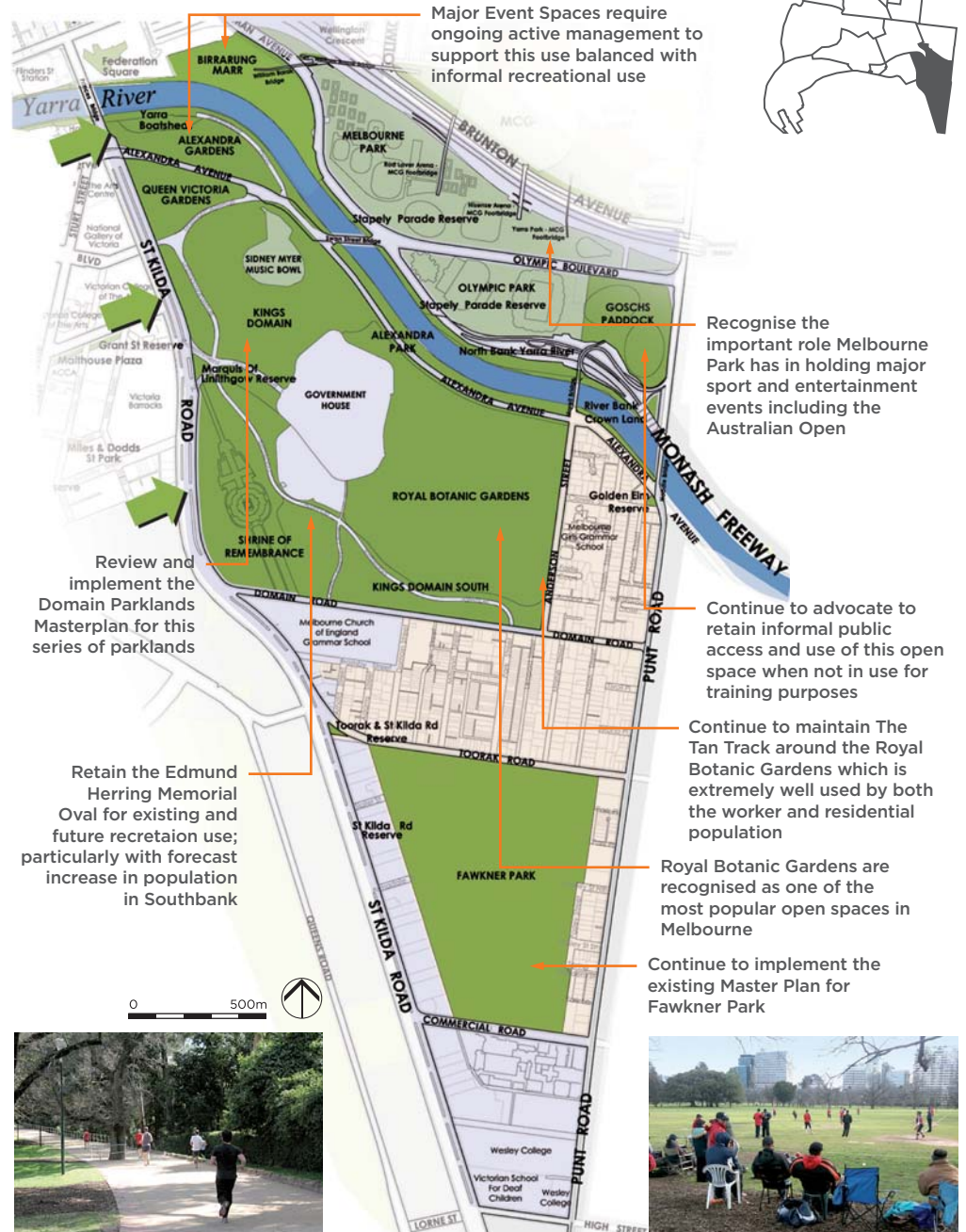
- 2010 (1,488)
- 2022 (2,738)

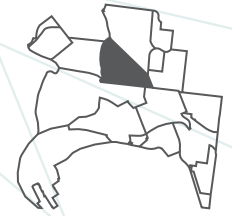
Gap Analysis walking distance access to existing open space (gaps shown in white)



Precinct summary

This unique system of parklands includes the Alexandra Gardens, Queen Victoria Gardens, Domain Parklands, the Royal Botanic Gardens and Fawcner Park. Along the Yarra River the linear reserve is popular for cycling/walking, informal recreation, picnics, events and festivals. These significant parklands will continue to be improved and managed for their Capital City and Regional function catering to international, national and Victorian visitors, as well as the local community. Increased visitation is forecast for the central city and this will place increasing demands on these spaces. The population living and working in this precinct is not forecast to change substantially, so the ongoing open space upgrade works and management will focus on providing for visitors balanced with maintaining the character and facilities for the local and central business district population.





North Melbourne

22

Forecast in population change

👤 = 2,000

Arden Macaulay urban renewal area

Residents:

• 2011 (1,970)



• 2026 (8,028)



Workers:

• 2010 (3,244)



• 2022 (22,000)



North Melbourne remainder of suburb

Residents:

• 2011 (9,680)



• 2026 (14,318)



Workers:

• 2010 (6,135)



• 2022 (9,000)



Gap Analysis walking distance access to existing open space (gaps shown in white)

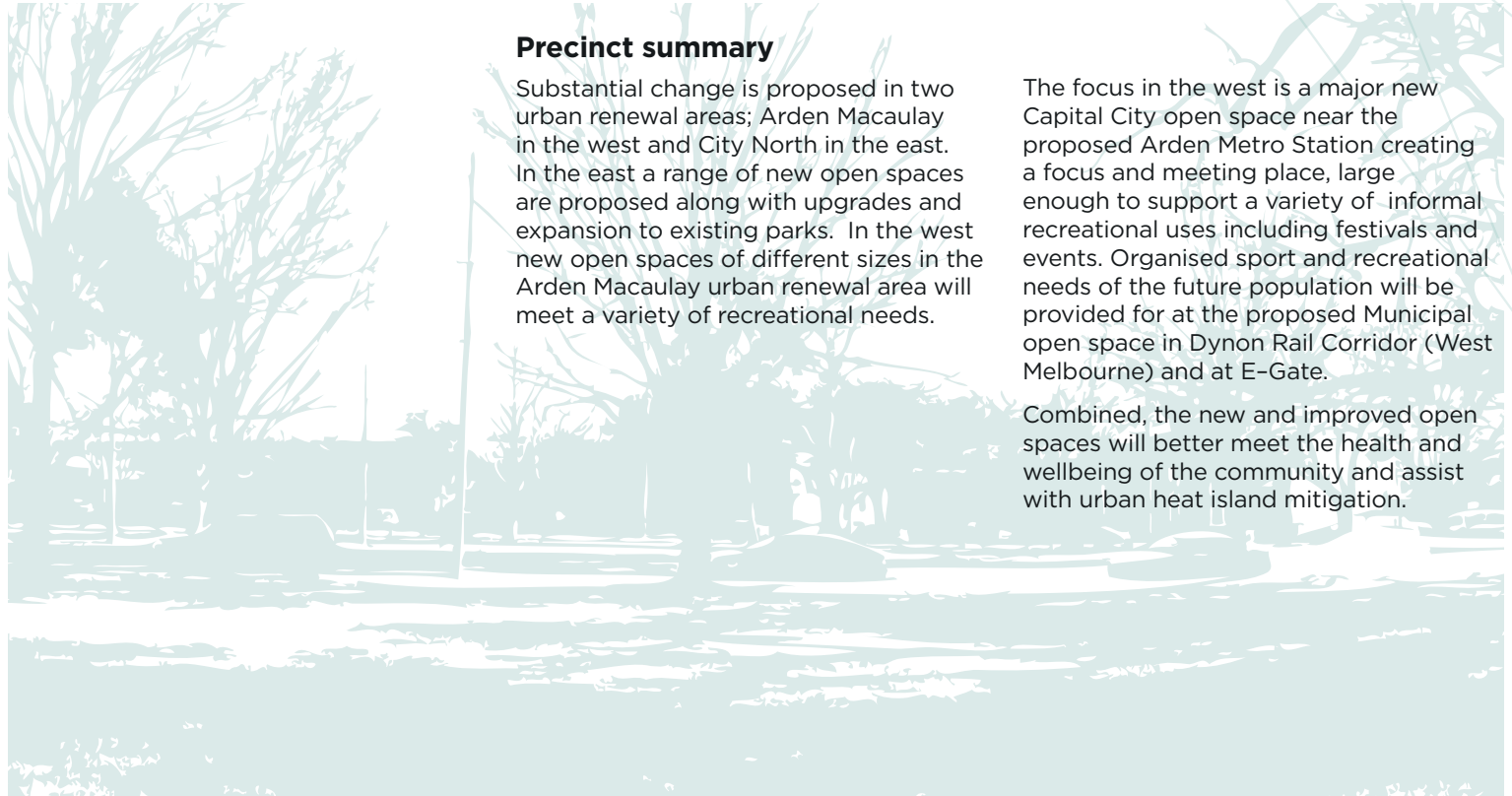


Precinct summary

Substantial change is proposed in two urban renewal areas; Arden Macaulay in the west and City North in the east. In the east a range of new open spaces are proposed along with upgrades and expansion to existing parks. In the west new open spaces of different sizes in the Arden Macaulay urban renewal area will meet a variety of recreational needs.

The focus in the west is a major new Capital City open space near the proposed Arden Metro Station creating a focus and meeting place, large enough to support a variety of informal recreational uses including festivals and events. Organised sport and recreational needs of the future population will be provided for at the proposed Municipal open space in Dynon Rail Corridor (West Melbourne) and at E-Gate.

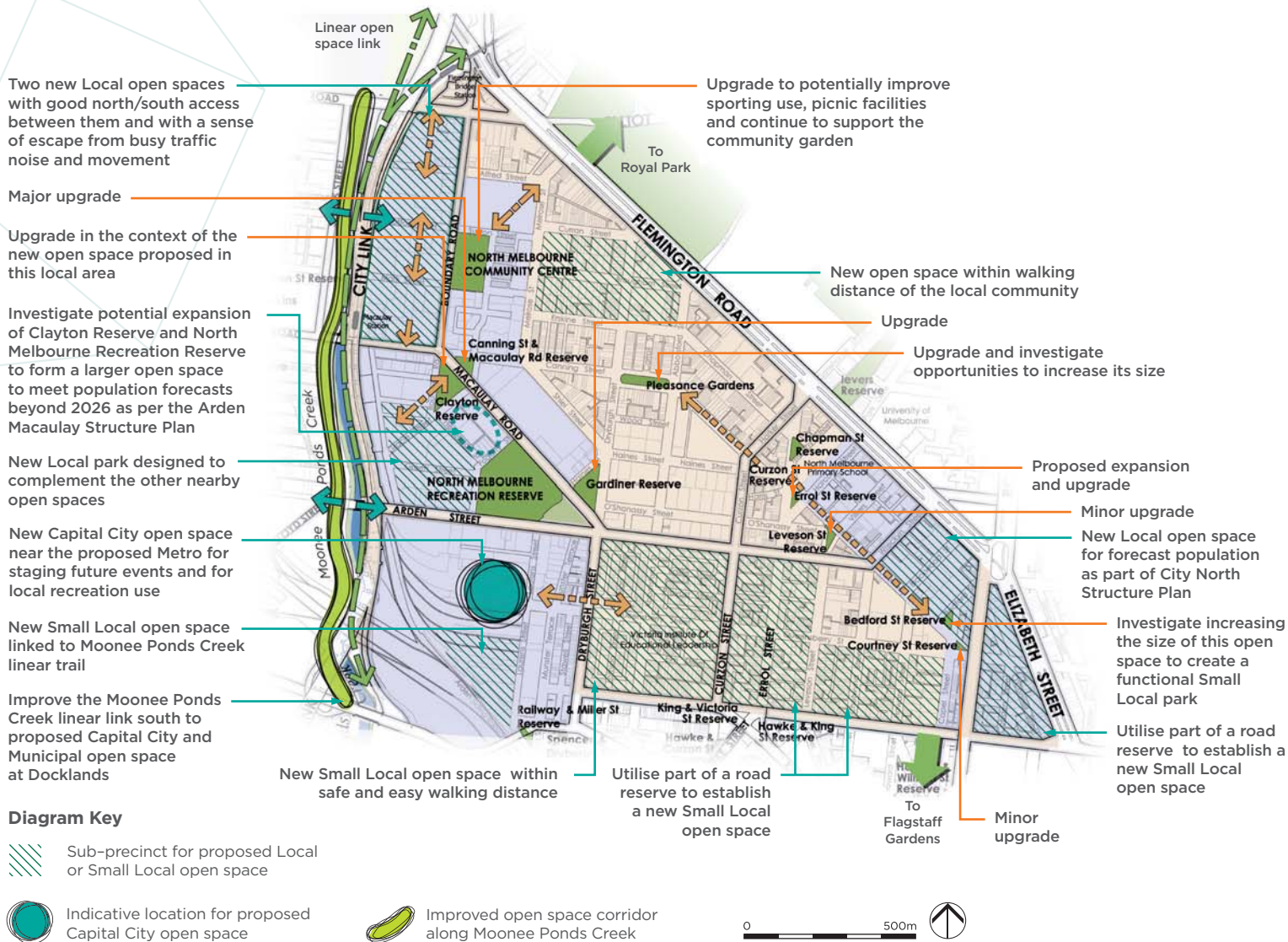
Combined, the new and improved open spaces will better meet the health and wellbeing of the community and assist with urban heat island mitigation.

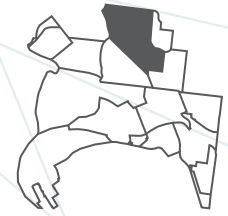




North Melbourne

23





Parkville



24

Forecast in population change









 = 5,000

Parkville

Residents:

- 2011 (5,773) 
- 2026 (5,826) 

Workers:

- 2010 (23,388)     
- 2022 (27,476)     

Gap Analysis walking distance access to existing open space (there are no gaps)

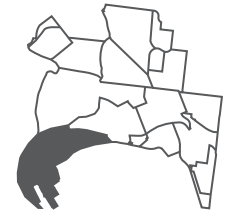


Precinct summary

Royal Park is the major open space in Parkville and comprises the majority of this precinct. This extensive parkland provides for local community use as well as statewide and international visitors to the Zoological Gardens and the State Netball and Hockey Centre. Ivers Reserve provides an important local open space for the community in the south, and the Galada Avenue Reserve and the system of smaller open spaces provide for the community living and working in the Parkville Gardens area. While the population is not forecast to increase substantially in Parkville, the forecast population growth in the north and west areas of the municipality are likely to result in increased visitors to Royal Park. With the ongoing implementation of the Royal Park Master Plan, improvements that benefit the local community will need to be prioritised in balance with works to the Municipal level facilities.



Port Melbourne



25

Forecast in population change

1 person icon = 2,000

Port Melbourne

Residents:

- 2011 (0)
- 2026 (0)

Workers:

- 2010 (15,366)
- 2022 (17,949)



Future change

There is no major change forecast in Port Melbourne. If this were to change in the future, additional open space may be required.

Gap Analysis walking distance access to existing open space (gaps shown in white)



Precinct summary

The non-residential land use and worker community is forecast to continue to expand in Port Melbourne. The existing precinct is characterised by wharf and port related activities associated with the Yarra River and Hobsons Bay. If this current land use pattern continues, two additional Local open spaces are proposed in the vicinity of Turner Street. A future open space link is proposed between the proposed new Local open spaces and Westgate Park that includes a combination of off-road and on-road links. Additionally, the Yarra River frontage, which is currently accessible between Pier 35 and Westgate Port, is to be upgraded, along with potential improvements to Westgate Park in consultation with Parks Victoria. In the longer term if the port related activities change at the South Wharves, a future continuous public open space is to be established on the south bank of the Yarra River between Docklands and Westgate Park. Additional open space including consideration of Municipal and Neighbourhood open space would need to be reviewed if there is a land-use change to include residential use.

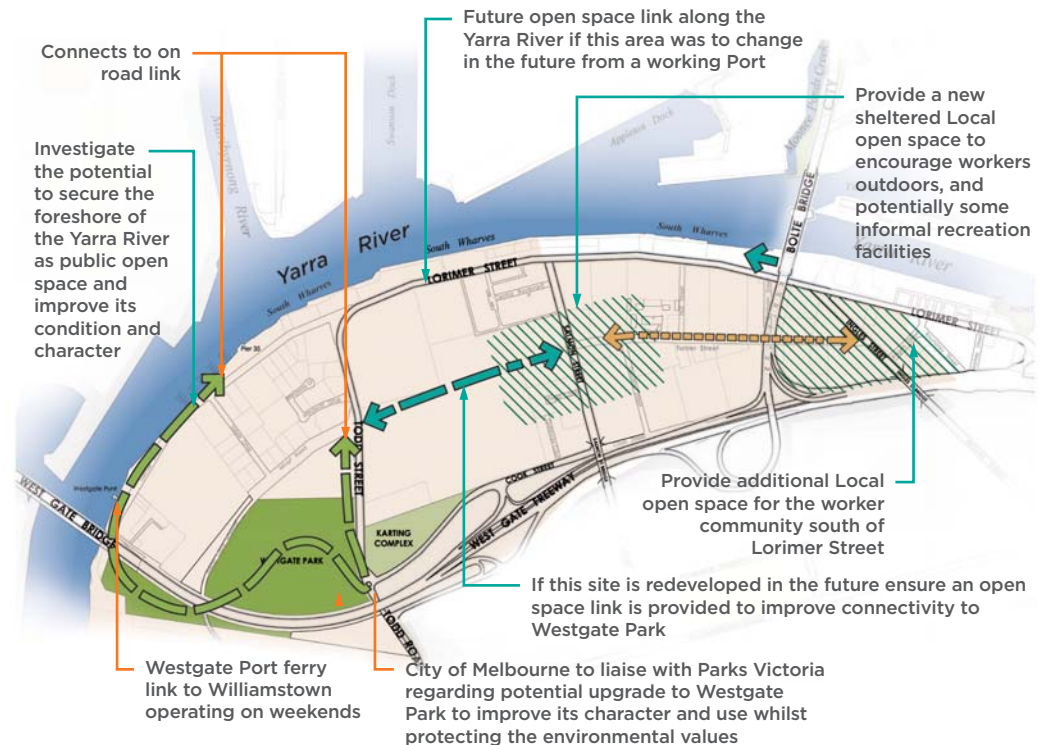


Diagram Key

Sub-precinct for proposed Local or Small Local open space



Southbank | South Wharf

26

Forecast in population change

👤 = 5,000

Southbank

Residents:

- 2011 (13,107)
- 2026 (23,282)



Workers:

- 2010 (37,796)
- 2022 (47,148)



Gap Analysis

walking distance access to existing open space (gaps shown in white)

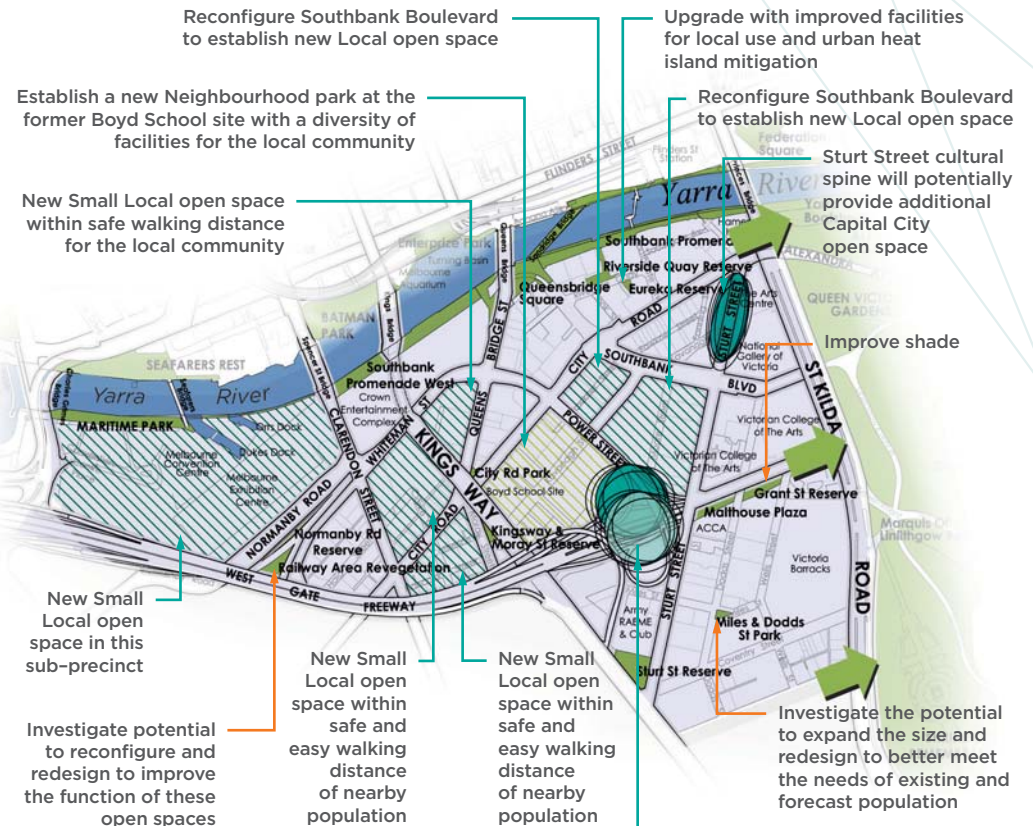


Diagram Key

- Sub-precinct for proposed Local or Small Local open space
- Sub-precinct for proposed Neighbourhood open space
- Indicative location for proposed Capital City open space
- Indicative location for proposed Municipal open space

Precinct summary

Southbank is forecast for continued redevelopment, attracting more people to live and work in the precinct. The Southbank Structure Plan 2010 sets a vision for improving the sustainability and liveability of Southbank accommodating this forecast growth. Additional open space located within Southbank will contribute to this vision. Sections of the wide road reserves are proposed to be converted to small open spaces while other new open spaces will be located amongst the high density areas providing quality small green spaces that are protected, creating a respite away from traffic noise and movement. The Structure Plan identified the opportunity to deck over the Burnley tunnel entrance to improve pedestrian connectivity in Southbank. If this occurs, this Strategy recommends a large open space be established as part of the reclaimed area, providing active sporting facilities and a range of other informal facilities to create a community recreation hub in Southbank.



Implementation

28

Overview

The projects in this Strategy will be implemented over a 15-year timeframe. To achieve the major new open spaces the City of Melbourne will work in partnership with the Victorian government and the development industry. The planning for the major new open spaces needs to occur early in the planning process for urban renewal areas to ensure that adequate land area is set aside. The smaller open spaces will be created through site redevelopment and conversion of government land.

Responsibilities

The City of Melbourne will take a lead implementation role. Successful implementation will require the following:

- The Victorian government contributes to the future Capital City and Regional open space network on behalf of the international and statewide visitors.
- The development industry contributes open space contribution (cash or land) on behalf of the forecast population.
- The City of Melbourne provides facilities and open space on behalf of the existing community open space needs.

Funding

Funding for the capital works and land acquisition required for the projects identified in this Strategy will be sourced from a combination of:

- Council revenue.
- External grants from other State and Federal government agencies.
- Open space contributions with the rate to be established in the City of Melbourne Planning Scheme. These levies will be required as a land contribution and/or a cash contribution at Council's discretion.

Next steps

- Implement the open space contribution rate/s in the planning scheme.
- Undertake detailed investigations into the provision of additional open spaces identified in the Strategy in existing and urban renewal areas.
- Continue to implement Master Plans for major parks including upgrade works.
- Plan for and upgrade existing open spaces as identified in the precinct recommendation.



How to contact us

Online: melbourne.vic.gov.au

Telephone: 03 9658 9658
7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday
(public holidays excluded)

Translation services

03 9280 0716	አማርኛ
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03 9280 0723	Español
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CITY OF MELBOURNE