

# Warrnambool OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2014

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Council acknowledges the Guditj-mara and the Kirrae Whurrong people as the original custodians of the lands of this general area. Council also acknowledges the descendants of the ancestors of Aboriginal nations within the lands forming the Great South Coast and particularly the elders of the indigenous communities within both Warrnambool and this region.

This Strategy was overseen by the Warrnambool City Council Open Space Working Group. Input was also provided by a number of Warrnambool City Council officers.

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## GLOSSARY

**Active Open Space:** land set aside for the specific purpose of formal outdoor sports by the community.

**Encumbered:** land that is constrained for development purposes, including easements, retarding basins/wetlands, floodway, landfill, conservation and heritage areas.

**Environmental Sustainability:** for the purposes of this strategy, this means being guided by the Ecologically Sustainable Development principles listed in the Environment and Biodiversity Protection Act (1999).

**Greenfield:** undeveloped land (generally used for agriculture) which is being considered for residential, commercial or industrial development.

**Linear/ Off-road Trail:** a continuous stretch of land incorporating a pedestrian pathway, sometimes also designated for cycling use.

**Open Space:** publically owned land set aside for leisure, recreation, and nature conservation purposes. It includes pockets of natural landscape within the urban area, sports reserves, and areas of high scenic, cultural or conservation value.

**Passive Open Space:** open space that is set aside for parks, gardens, linear corridors, conservation bushlands, nature reserves, public squares and community gardens that are made available for passive recreation, play and unstructured physical activity.

**Restricted Open Space:** a subset of open space that requires a fee, membership to a club, or special permission to gain access.

**Special Use:** a category of open space, referring to sites set aside for a particular purpose other than public recreation, including utility sites and restricted sporting sites e.g. golf courses, swimming pools, race course, showgrounds).

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Warrnambool offers a large and well-used network of parks and reserves, which contribute significantly to our coastal lifestyle and attract visitors to our City. From the wild coastline to the popular Lake Pertobe, residents of Warrnambool value our open spaces and the benefits they provide. Ensuring the open space network is preserved and enhanced for current and future residents is an important role of Council.

The purpose of the Warrnambool Open Space Strategy is to provide an overarching framework to direct open space planning and management to 2026.

The overarching vision for open space in Warrnambool is:

**“Warrnambool will have a high quality, diverse, accessible open space network that reflects community needs and enhances social connection, environmental protection and economic benefit”**

The following guiding principles have been developed to implement this vision in practice. It is intended that Warrnambool's open space network will be: **accessible, adaptable, connected, efficient, diverse, equitable, and protective of the environment.**

An assessment of all open space in Warrnambool found that there is a relatively high amount of open space provided per resident. With the exception of a few gaps, most residents have access to at least one open space within walking distance of their home.

Access specifically to sports reserves and walking trails is less consistent, but still good in most areas. The most significant issue at the municipal level appears to be the connectivity between open spaces, including along some waterways.

Factors influencing future demand on open space include population growth, increased housing densities, an increase in participation in informal exercise, and a growing environmental awareness in the community.

The Warrnambool Open Space Strategy considers the open space network for Warrnambool overall as well as within smaller neighbourhood precincts. Key recommendations include:

- **Fill gaps in open space provision** - through a number of methods, including shared use agreements, streetscape improvements, upgrading existing parks, open space contributions and direct purchase.
- **Activate Open Space** – identify existing open spaces that could be improved for safety and appeal.
- **Address key connectivity issues** - with priority given to closing gaps in waterway corridors along Russell's Creek and the Merri River.
- **Amend the Warrnambool Planning Scheme** - to reflect the Warrnambool Open Space Vision and Principles and make reference to the Warrnambool Open Space Strategy.
- **Develop an Open Space Contributions Policy** - to ensure a fair contribution to the provision of open space from new developments and to guide where contributions should be spent.
- **Develop a Play Space Strategy** - to guide the priorities for redevelopment and provision of new play spaces.
- **Review or update the Recreation Plan** - to identify priority areas for Council investment in supporting sport and recreation activities in Warrnambool

More detailed recommendations on specific areas or reserves are provided in the precinct analysis, with a summary of the higher priorities shown in the map on the following page.

It is proposed that the Warrnambool Open Space Strategy be reviewed every 4 years, with progress towards actions be reported to Council.



WARRNAMBOOL OPEN SPACE FRAMEWORK PLAN

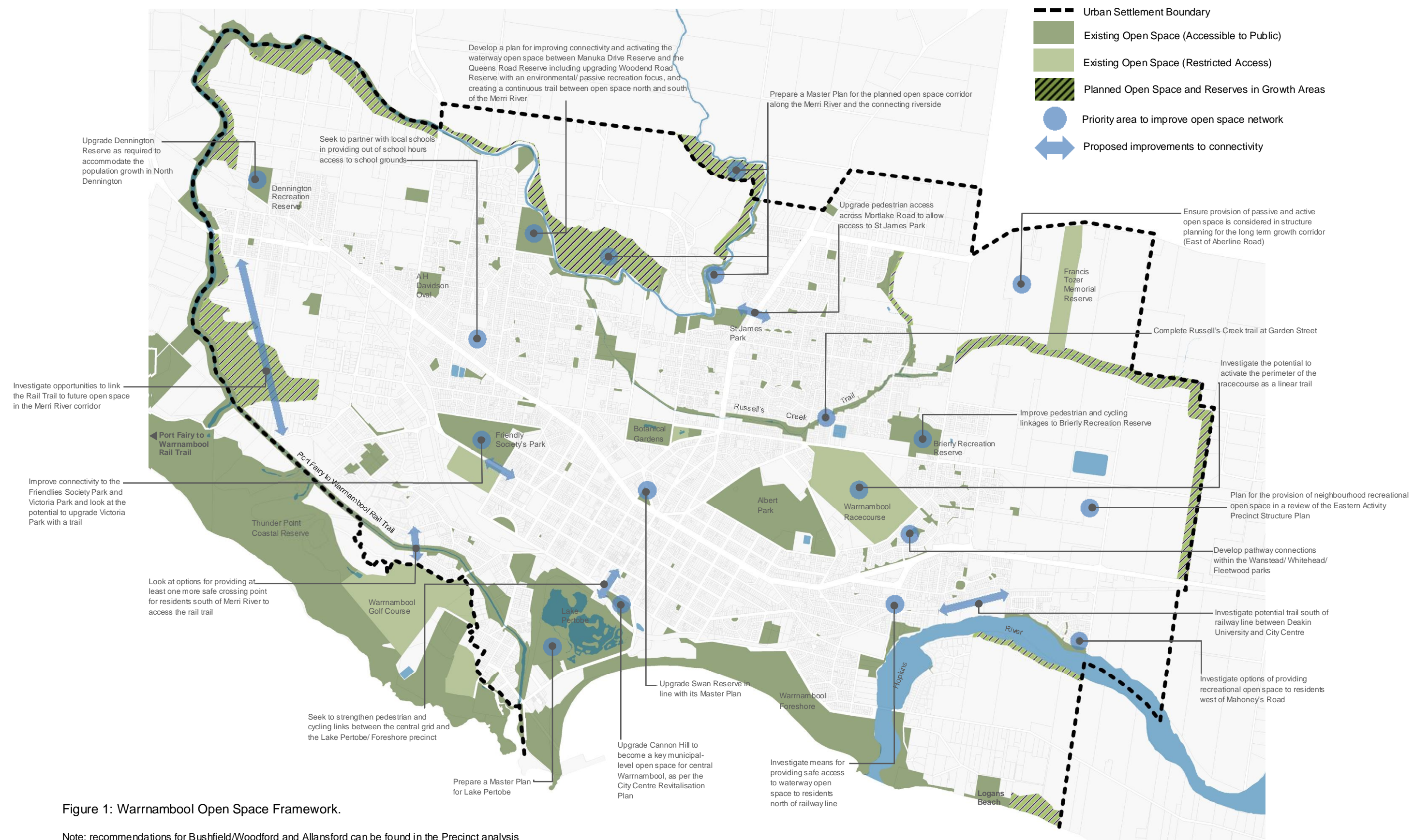


Figure 1: Warrnambool Open Space Framework.

Note: recommendations for Bushfield/Woodford and Allansford can be found in the Precinct analysis and recommendations section.



## INTRODUCTION



**Warrnambool offers a large and well-used network of parks and reserves. Framed by the southern coastline and two river systems, the open space network provides a range of outdoor settings for residents to use and enjoy. It comprises a key component of the coastal lifestyle that Warrnambool offers and that attracts visitors to our city.**

Due to the many functions of the open space network, the planning and management of open space has many components. A common planning framework is required to integrate these different requirements and ensure a network that meets the range of community needs.

Warrnambool is a growing and changing regional city. Its residents currently enjoy good access to open space relative to its size and population. We must plan for the impact of the changing population on the network if we are to maintain and enhance the current experience.

This Strategy aims to provide the framework for planning and managing Warrnambool's open spaces into the future.



## Purpose of the Open Space Strategy

The purpose of the Warrnambool Open Space Strategy is to provide an overarching framework to direct open space planning and management in Warrnambool to 2026. This Strategy fulfils a direction of Warrnambool's Council Plan (2013 – 2017) to 'adopt and implement an Open Space Strategy for Warrnambool'. It is also listed as an action in Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2008-2013) and Recreation Plan (2007-2017).

Goals of the Strategy are:

- A planning scheme that acknowledges and contributes to the strategic priorities presented in the Open Space Strategy.
- A diversity of parks that everyone can access close to home.
- A well-connected network of open spaces across the municipality.
- A network that protects a range of natural and cultural environments and contributes positively to biodiversity and water quality.
- A more environmentally sustainable open space network.
- A management system that makes efficient use of available resources whilst maintaining quality of provision.
- An open space network that meets the needs of current and future residents and visitors.
- An increase in participation and use of open space.
- Strong partnerships between Council and other stakeholders in delivering the recommendations outlined in the Open Space Strategy.

## How the Open Space Strategy was developed

The Warrnambool Open Space Strategy was developed through review of existing policy, community consultation, and research into current best practice.

Development of the Strategy coincided with the preparation of the Health and Wellbeing Plan and Council Plan. As both of these Plans directly inform the Strategy, relevant consultation results were used in the development of the Open Space Strategy. Further consultation with the release of the Strategy was used to confirm and amend the Strategy where required.

## What is open space?

For the purpose of this Strategy, 'open space' is publically owned land set aside for leisure, recreation, and nature conservation purposes. It includes pockets of natural landscape within the urban area, sports reserves, and areas of high scenic, cultural or conservation value. The definition can apply both to council freehold land as well as crown land reserved under the *Crown Land Reserves Act 1978*. 'Restricted open space' is a subset of open space that requires a fee or club membership to gain access. 'Active Open Space' refers to open space set aside primarily for organised sports.

The focus of this Strategy is open space owned or managed by Council. Other government agencies involved in open space management include VicTrack, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Parks Victoria, and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries. These agencies play a role in delivering a quality open space network, and where appropriate partnering with council.

School grounds, University and TAFE grounds, streetscapes, and private open space play a complimentary role to the open space network. They are considered ancillary open space, and are not the main focus of this Strategy.

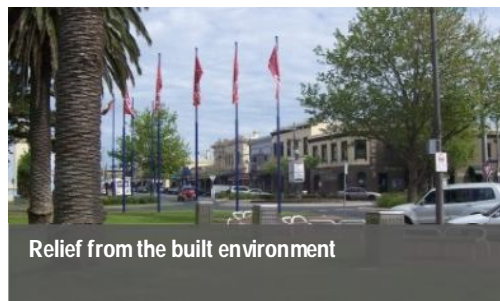
**'Open Space is an investment for future generations'**

*Parks and Leisure Australia*

## Why is open space important?

Open space plays many roles in our community, contributing to a range environmental, economic, and health and wellbeing benefits.

### Physical and mental health and wellbeing





## Environment and biodiversity



Climate change adaptation and mitigation



Infrastructure to support sustainable transport



Sites to act as carbon sinks



Local food production



Protection of threatened ecosystems and species



Habitat for flora and fauna and corridors for biodiversity



Contribution to water sensitive urban design



A focal point for environmental education

## Economics and tourism



Visitor destination points



Improved neighbourhood amenity



Enhanced liveability and lifestyle to attract new residents



A venue for events



## OPEN SPACE IN WARRNAMBOOL



**Warrnambool has a diverse range of open spaces that are well used and appreciated by the community. The Hopkins and Merri Rivers are key anchor points for open space, as is the coastline. Together the network provides a variety of opportunities and experiences.**

An audit of all existing open space was undertaken in the development of the Warrnambool Open Space Strategy.

Different open spaces are intended to cater for different parts of the community and perform different roles. These roles range from sport and recreation to environmental protection. A system for categorising Warrnambool's open spaces according to hierarchy and category has been developed.

## Overview

Warrnambool has an extensive and growing network of open spaces (Figure 2). Many reserves were set aside early in Warrnambool's development, including Lake Pertobe and the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens. There is a good diversity of open spaces, ranging from regional sports reserves such as Albert Park, through to significant conservation areas such as the Francis Tozer Memorial Reserve and Maam Reserve.

There are 209 open spaces in Warrnambool totalling 1,025 hectares, or 8.8% of the municipality. A total of 465 hectares (113 sites) are available for recreation without restriction. The remainder of sites include restricted access sports reserves, and reserves primarily for conservation or drainage. Examples of restricted sports reserves include the Warrnambool Golf Course and Warrnambool Racecourse.

The total amount of all open space is 32.5 hectares per 1,000 residents (includes restricted open space). There are 14.2 hectares per 1,000 residents available for recreation purposes, and 3.5 hectares per 1,000 residents available for sport.



Council owns 154 of the sites identified as open space (143.3 hectares), state government owns 53 sites (875.0 hectares), and one site is owned by a private school (1 hectare). One site is jointly owned by the Council and state government (5.5 hectares).

Issues revealed by the audit include a number of sites affected by private encroachment, some gaps in playground provision, and inconsistency in the planning zones applied to open spaces.

The development of new growth areas will introduce a number of new open spaces. The most significant planned is the extensive floodplain corridor north of the Merri River, which will greatly improve recreation opportunities, connectivity, and environmental values in this area.

### Warrnambool's open space network at a glance:

- 209 open spaces.
- 1,025 hectares.
- 8.8% of municipal area.
- 16 unrestricted sports reserves.
- 113 sites available for recreation.
- 130 hectares with restricted access.
- 14.2 hectares per 1,000 residents available for unrestricted recreation.

## Existing open space network

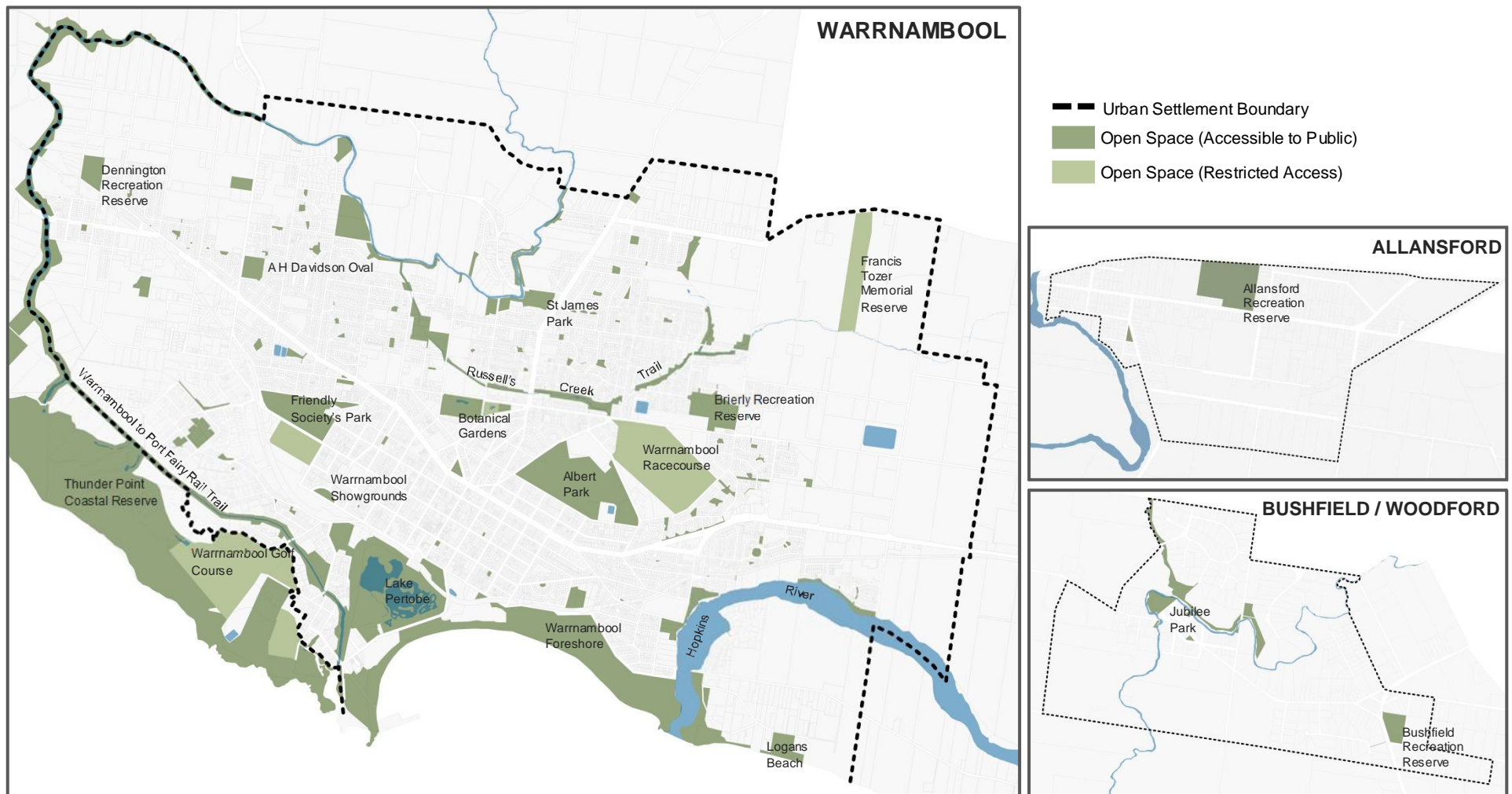


Figure 2: Existing open space network.



## Classification of Warrnambool's open spaces

Warrnambool's open spaces have been classified according to a system of hierarchy and category.

### Hierarchy

Four tiers of open space are proposed for Warrnambool:

**Local:** Small parks which cater primarily for residents in the immediate area. Local open spaces offer a limited number of recreational opportunities, such as a small playground and a grassed area for informal uses. These parks are intended for frequent, short duration visits within a short walking distance of users. *Example: Auty Street Reserve.*

**Neighbourhood:** Relatively small parks that offer limited recreational opportunities to the community of an area, and provide a social meeting place for local residents. Intended for frequent, short duration visits within a walking or cycling distance of users. *Examples: Payne Reserve, Marrakai Estate Reserve.*

**Municipal:** Medium to large parks which provide recreational and leisure opportunities to residents primarily from within the municipality. Users may need to travel a short distance to reach the park. Municipal open spaces offer a range of recreational opportunities and attract high visitation by local residents. *Examples: Friendly Society's Reserve, Cannon Hill.*

**Regional:** High-profile parks that attract users from within and beyond the municipality and cater for a broad cross-section of ages. Regional open spaces are characterised by their uniqueness and provide significant environmental, social, recreational, heritage, amenity or tourism value. They may offer a large range of recreational opportunities, or alternatively, highly specialised facilities not present in other open spaces in the region. *Examples: Lake Pertobe, Warrnambool Botanic Gardens.*

### Category

Category is based on the primary intended function of an open space. Ten categories have been developed for Warrnambool's open space network: landscape and amenity, civic, recreation, sport, conservation, linkage, drainage, culture and heritage, special use, and unclassified. Sites may have more than one function, but are initially categorised based on their primary function.

Together the hierarchy and category of an open space form the basis for its planning and management. For example, a local recreation park will be managed and planned differently to a municipal sports reserve.

Further detail on the classification of Warrnambool's open spaces can be found at Appendix 1.



*Lake Pertobe is a regional-level open space*

## FACTORS INFLUENCING OPEN SPACE



**The use, planning and management of open spaces are influenced by many factors. Key influences include local and state legislation, community needs, and a range of other social, environmental and economic factors.**

The needs of the community are central to open space planning in Warrnambool. Key messages from recent community consultation are summarised. Other factors influencing open space are also discussed, including population and participation changes, biodiversity and environmental concerns, and community health and wellbeing.

## Policy context

The policy objectives of various State and Local planning policies have influenced the preparation of the Warrnambool Open Space Strategy.

The following have been identified as being the most relevant to the City of Warrnambool:

### State Planning Policy:

- Clause 11.02-3: Structure Planning
- Clause 11.03-1: Open Space Planning
- Clause 11.03-2: Open Space Management
- Clause 11.05-4: Regional Planning Strategies and Principles
- Clause 21.05: Housing
- Clause 13: Environmental Risks
- Clause 14: Natural Resource Management
- Clause 15: Built Environment and Heritage.
- Clause 52.01: Public Open Space Contribution and Subdivision
- Clause 56.05-2: Public Open Space Provision Objectives.

The last of these provides recommended open space provision levels that should be taken into account in new developments (for example, a minimum one hectare open space should be provided within 400 metres of 95% of all residents, and linear and active open space (8 hectare minimum) within one kilometre of 95% of all residents).

### Open Space Planning and Design Guidelines:

The Open Space Planning and Design Guidelines is a key industry guide for open space planning and design in Victoria. The guidelines were used as a basis for developing the Warrnambool Open Space Infrastructure Guidelines (refer to Appendix 2).

### Warrnambool Council Plan 2013-2017:

The Council Plan sets out a vision for Warrnambool, being a leading regional city, a sustainable city, a liveable city, and a city of growth. The key indicators relevant to open space planning and management are:

- Ensure new growth areas in Warrnambool cater effectively for the public open space needs of residents; and
- Improve accessibility to Warrnambool's parks and open spaces by improving linkages, trails.

### Other Local Policies and Strategies:

- Municipal Strategic Statement (rewrite in progress)
- Warrnambool Health and Wellbeing Plan (2013)
- Community Series and Infrastructure Plan (2013)
- Warrnambool City-Wide Housing Strategy (2014)
- Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2008-2013)
- Recreation Plan (2007-2017)
- People, Time and Place (2011) (Public Art Policy)
- Sustainable Transport Strategy (2010-2020)
- Warrnambool Coastal Management Plan (2014)
- Merri River Restoration Strategy (2004)
- Asset Management Policy
- Barwon South West Regional Trails Master Plan (2009)
- Structure Plans, including City Centre Revitalisation Plan, North of Merri, Eastern Activity Precinct, North Dennington, and Coastal Hopkins River Environment
- Master Plans, including St James Park, Jubilee Park, Allansford Recreation Reserve, Brierly Recreation Reserve, and Warrnambool Railway Precinct.

Refer to Figure 3 for further information on how the Open Space Strategy fits within Council's planning policy framework.



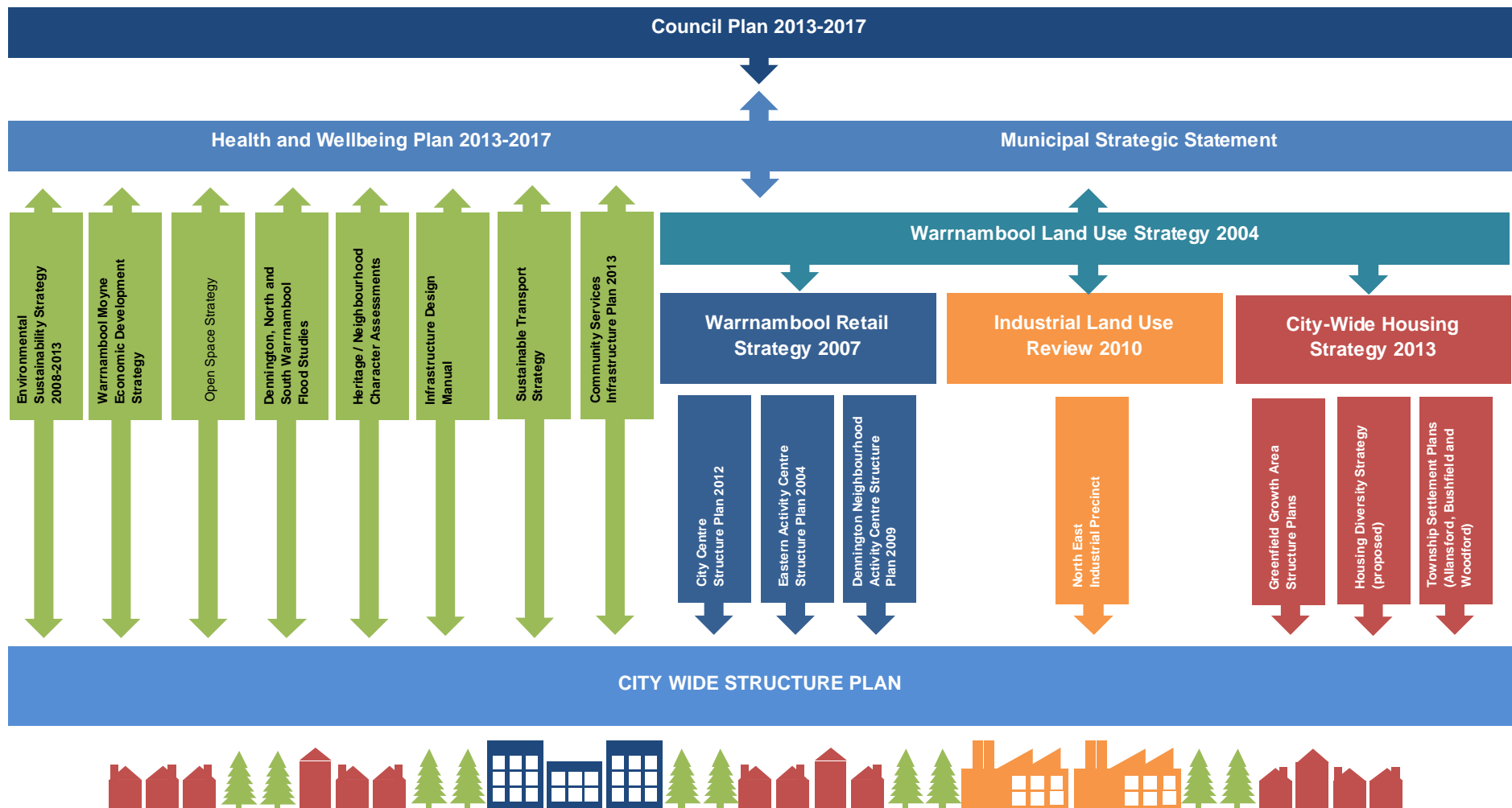


Figure 3: How the Open Space Strategy fits within Council's policy framework.

### What the community are telling us about open space

A number of recent community consultations informed the development of this Strategy, including the consultation on the Strategy. Key messages were:

- High levels of satisfaction overall with open space amenity and accessibility;
- High value placed on existing open spaces, particularly the natural values and walking trails;
- That lack of physical activity is a key issue for the Warrnambool community;
- A desire for improvements to be made to open space connectivity and the off-road trail network;
- There are gaps in accessibility to open space in some parts of the community;
- There is a need for improved open space provision and recreational infrastructure to support informal exercise and activities (such as walking, jogging, cycling, fitness, children's play and dog walking).

Other issues raised included improved sustainability, environmental protection, all-abilities access, providing a fenced playground, and safety.

**'Extend the excellent walking paths and cycling tracks'**

*Warrnambool resident, Health and Wellbeing Plan Consultation 2013*

### Population and participation changes

Population change is one of the key factors influencing the current and future provision of open space in Warrnambool.

With a current growth rate of 1.1%, population is projected to reach 43,000 by 2031 (Warrnambool City-Wide Housing Strategy).

Warrnambool is also the largest regional city in southwest Victoria, servicing an area larger than its own population.

Population forecasting indicates there will be increases in all age groups between 2011 and 2026. The largest proportional increase (relative to population size) will be in the 60 to 79 (43%) and 20 to 39 age groups (20%) (Warrnambool City-Wide Housing Strategy).

It is therefore important that in addition to providing recreational opportunities for a range of age groups, that the growing open space needs of the over 60s are adequately catered for.

One of the recommendations of the Warrnambool City-Wide Housing Strategy is that housing densities should increase in many parts of Warrnambool. Increasing housing densities place greater demand on open spaces to provide places for residents to relax, recreate, and produce food.

Participation trends at the local and national level suggest an increase in the popularity of informal recreation and a diversification in activities. Informal activities increasing in popularity include walking, jogging, cycling and fitness-related activities.

### **Biodiversity and environmental concerns**

The natural environment of Warrnambool is highly modified, with less than 10% of native vegetation remaining. The open space network plays an important role in protecting remaining vegetation and providing sites for reintroduction of beneficial habitat and biodiversity corridors. A number of important cultural sites are also known to exist in open space.

Community attitudes are also shifting, with increased environmental awareness. Demand is growing for non-motorised transport. Providing well connected off-road trails will help meet this demand. Interest is also growing in community gardens and local food production as a means for reducing personal ecological impact. At present there is only one community garden in Warrnambool, located centrally and with a high capacity to expand. Demand should continue to be monitored, and new sites only supported where demand comes from the grass-roots level.

Climate change is an issue that faces all municipalities. The lifestyle enjoyed by the Warrnambool community faces a number of challenges from climate change, such as more extreme weather patterns, more severe storm surges and coastal erosion.

An environmental concern frequently brought up during the Strategy consultation was weed and pest control, particularly in our coastal and waterway open spaces.



### **Community health and wellbeing**

The health and wellbeing benefits of open space are well documented. Such benefits are maximised through providing a diverse range of open spaces and recreational opportunities close to where people live, work and recreate. This is of particular importance in areas of socio-economic disadvantage.

An issue recently recognised is the importance of children having 'access to nature'. Interactions with nature are important in almost all areas of childhood development – intellectually, emotionally, socially, spiritually and physically (Parks and Leisure Australia 2013). Protecting the 'wild value' of the remaining natural areas and selective reintroduction of natural elements into open spaces have social benefits for current and future generations.

The Warrnambool Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017 identifies physical activity as a key issue to be addressed in Warrnambool. Objectives to address this issue include:

- Increased opportunities for people to participate in active travel, sport and active recreation.
- Safe, inclusive, accessible and well used places and spaces which encourage physical activity.

**'In a time where urban consolidation is encouraged to reduce our urban sprawl, our open space networks will become more important to provide residents with "breathing space" for recreational and social activities and provide habitat and corridors for wildlife'**

*Warrnambool City Council Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2008*



## OPEN SPACE VISION AND PRINCIPLES



The Warrnambool Council Plan sets out a vision for Warrnambool ‘to be a thriving, culturally rich and inclusive regional city’. The Warrnambool Open Space Strategy forms an important component of the policy framework that supports the implementation of this vision.

In this section, an open space vision for Warrnambool is introduced which reflects the sentiment of the community and the overall vision for the city. Open space principles are also provided to guide the planning, design, management and maintenance of Warrnambool’s open spaces.

## Open space vision

The open space vision for Warrnambool is:

**“Warrnambool will have a high quality, diverse, accessible open space network that reflects community needs and enhances social connection, environmental protection and economic benefit.”**

## Open space principles

In order to achieve this vision, principles have been developed to guide the day to day planning and management of open space in Warrnambool. These principles form the basis against which the current and future network will be assessed.

It is envisioned that Warrnambool's open space network will be:

**Accessible** - a variety of open spaces that are accessible to all residents, regardless of age, ability and culture. Residents should have at least one open space within walking distance of their home.

**Adaptable** – be flexible, multi-use and provide opportunities for passive and active recreation that is responsive to community needs.

**Connected** - open space corridors and shared trails that improve the connectivity of the network and provide links for walking, cycling and biodiversity movement.

**Diverse** – provide a variety of experiences and cater for a range of recreational needs.

**Efficient** - consider adaptability and maintenance in the development and management of open space.

**Equitable** - access to open space will be distributed as fairly as possible across the municipality.

**Protective of the environment** - preserve and enhance areas with environmental values and provide appropriate public access to waterways and coastal environments.

## ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT NETWORK



In order to assess the extent to which Warrnambool's open space network is meeting the open space vision, a set of assessment criteria were used. In addition to assessing overall provision levels, the criteria were based a subset of the open space principles: accessibility, connectivity, diversity, and protection of the environment.



## Assessment summary

- 😊 = meets or exceeds assessment criteria  
😐 = there are some gaps in meeting the assessment criteria  
😞 = there are significant gaps in meeting the assessment criteria

### Provision



**Criteria: Meets or exceeds industry standards or benchmarks for proportion of area as open space and per capita provision (overall, for recreation, and for sport).**

Overall provision of open space in Warrnambool is very good at 32.5 hectares per thousand people. The per capita rate of 14.2 hectares per thousand people for open space with a recreation function compares well with industry benchmarks, as does active open space at 3.5 hectares per thousand people.

### Accessibility



**Criteria: Neighbourhood or above open space within 500 metres or local open space within 300 metres of 95% of properties in residential areas.**

Accessibility to open space in general is very good in Warrnambool, with over 95% of properties in residential areas being within a 'walkable' 500 metres of a neighbourhood level or above open space, or 300 metres of a local open space.

Access to active (sporting) open space does not quite meet the guidelines in the Victorian Planning Provisions of active open space within one kilometre of 95% of all residents. Eighty percent of residential properties currently met this criterion. With the future development of active open space in the North of Merri Structure Plan area, this would increase to 85%.

### Connectivity



**Criteria: An off-road trail within one kilometre of 95% of properties in residential areas, linked to residents by a network of footpaths; and connectivity between major open spaces and with key community destinations.**

At present, 78% of residential properties in Warrnambool are within one kilometre of a major off road trail. This figure increases to 83% with the proposed trail network in the North of Merri structure plan area. Both fall short of the guideline of 95% in the Victorian Planning Provisions.

Key gaps exist in connectivity between open spaces, including along the city's waterways. The residential section of Russell's Creek trail is almost complete, with only a few gaps remaining. Filling these gaps and extending the trail as growth areas in the north east develop would greatly improve open space connectivity in Warrnambool. There is also potential to increase connectivity along sections of the Merri River.

At present most continuous trails run in a roughly east-west direction, with far fewer connections running north to south. This limits the connectivity across the city. Connectivity between major open spaces and with key community destinations is also variable.

Whilst some sections of waterways are reserved, there are some gaps, and some that are reserved are not wide enough to provide an adequate buffer for biodiversity purposes. This will improve somewhat with anticipated riverside reservations in a number of growth areas.

## Diversity



**Criteria:** *Access to a range of open space hierarchies, categories and settings.*

The diversity of open spaces in Warrnambool is currently good, with a range of hierarchies, functions and settings. Diversity within local and neighbourhood parks could be improved, which currently offer much the same facilities even within a local area.

## Environmental Protection



**Criteria:** *Protection of known environmental features and proportion of open space with conservation as the primary function*

At present 42% of open space by area has conservation as its primary function, consisting of 443 hectares of open space. Recent biodiversity mapping undertaken for Warrnambool indicates that most sites of high environmental value currently fall within the open space network and are being actively managed for their conservation value.



## PRECINCT ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS











In addition to assessing the whole open space network for Warrnambool, the municipality was divided into precincts to form the basis for more area-specific planning.

The precinct analysis assessed the provision of open space within each of twelve planning precincts. Open space was assessed using a subset of the assessment criteria used at the municipal level, being provision, accessibility, connectivity, and diversity. Based on this assessment, recommendations were developed for each precinct.

For the purpose of informing this Strategy, the *profile.id* precincts have been adopted. The precincts are loosely based on suburbs and localities. Refer to Appendix 3 for map of precinct areas.

### Legend for precinct maps

	Meets or exceeds all assessment criteria indicators		Open space
	There are some gaps in meeting the assessment criteria		Future open space
	There are significant gaps in meeting the assessment criteria		Waterway or water body
	Priority recommendation		Opportunity to improve connectivity

ha/1,000 refers to hectares per thousand residents



## WARRNAMBOOL (CENTRAL)

### Precinct summary

The Central precinct is an established area based around the Central Activity District (CAD). Regional open spaces include Lake Pertobe and the Foreshore. Together these form the iconic centrepiece of the open space network in Warrnambool, with high visitation.

Some residents in the north-west of the precinct have limited access to unencumbered open space (Ryot Street Reserve is on a steep slope), and even more residents in this area are greater than one kilometre from an off-road trail. At present there is no path on the south side of the Friendly Society's Reserve and Victoria Park to the west, acting as a barrier to access.

With the exception of the Civic Green and Swan Reserve, access to neighbourhood or above open space is limited in the CAD and surrounding residential grid. Local parks and the privately owned Fletcher Jones gardens provide important access to green space in these areas. As such, a policy of 'no net loss' of open space should be implemented in this precinct.

The Warrnambool Coastal Management Plan provides important direction on how coastal crown land should be managed for its environmental and recreation values in this precinct.

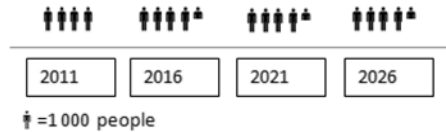
The Foreshore promenade has been identified as a trail of regional significance in the Barwon South West Regional Trails Master Plan (2009).



### Open Space Provision Statistics

Proportion open space	23.4%	Total hectares:	85.9
ha/1,000 recreation (2011)	21.9	ha/1,000 sport (2011)	2.0
ha/1,000 recreation (2026)	18.7	ha/1,000 sport (2026)	1.7

### Projected population change



Accessibility	Connectivity	Diversity
☹️	☹️	😊

## WARRNAMBOOL (WEST)

### Precinct summary

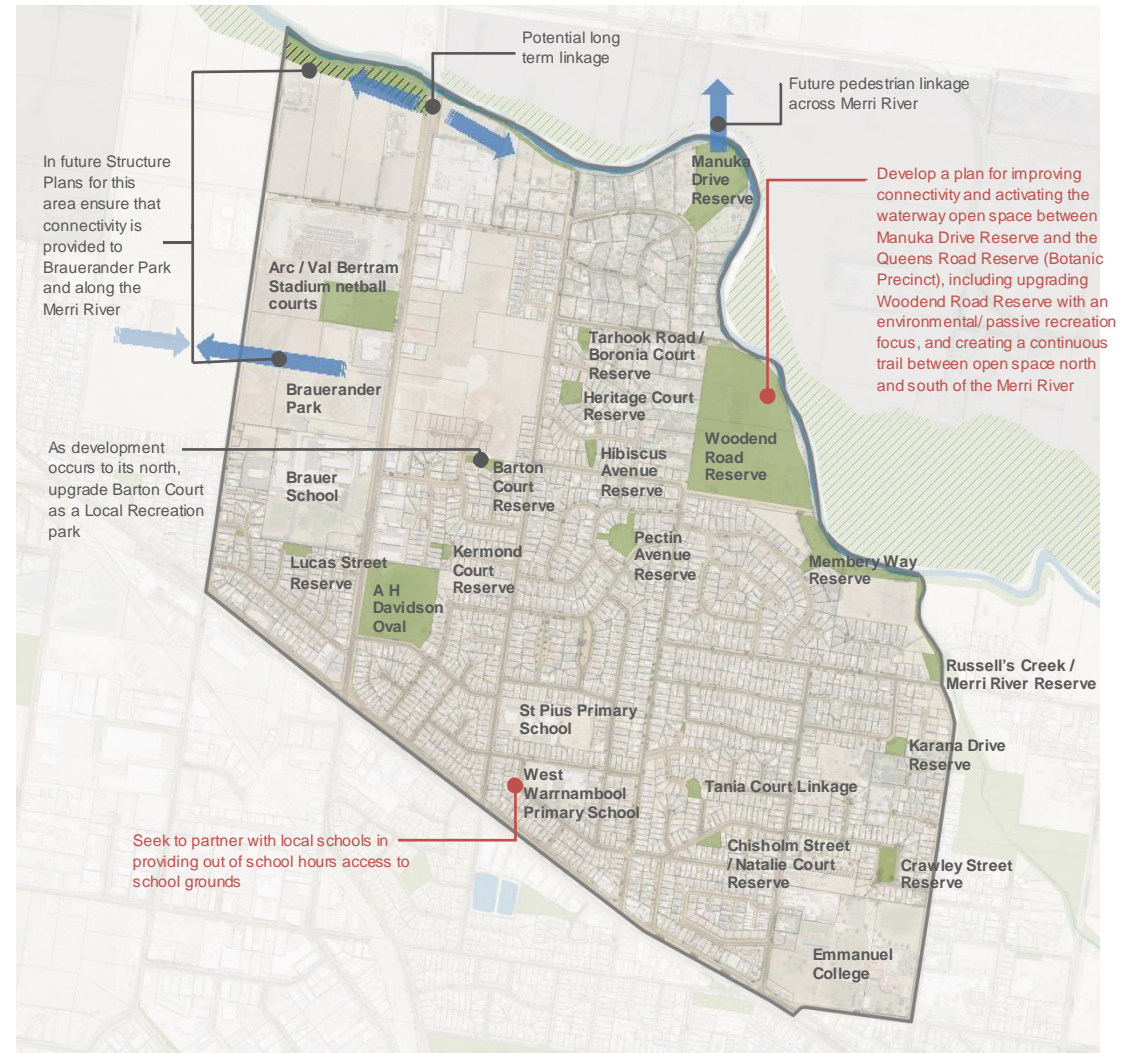
The West precinct is an established residential area with the highest population of all precincts.

Whilst most residents have access to at least a local open space within walking distance of home, there are few neighbourhood or above open spaces. At present, only Mernity Way Reserve and Davidson Oval perform this role. Although restricted by its floodplain role, Woodend Road Reserve represents an opportunity to provide a large open space with a conservation and recreation focus. At present it is leased for grazing.

Whilst sections of the Merri River and Russell's Creek are reserved, there are significant gaps in connectivity and there is currently no formalised off-road trail. Options for improving this connectivity should be investigated.

A large number of residents in the western section of the precinct are more than one kilometre from an off-road trail. The proposed open space north of the Merri River will address this to an extent, as would improvements in the open space corridor south of the Merri River.

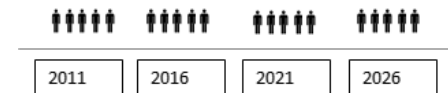
There is currently a gap in access to sporting open space in the Karana Drive / Daltons Road area, however this would be overcome largely by the proposed North of Merri sporting open space.



### Open Space Provision Statistics

Proportion open space	7.3%	Total hectares:	25.4
ha/1,000 recreation (2011)	2.9	ha/1,000 sport (2011)	1.4
ha/1,000 recreation (2026)	2.7	ha/1,000 sport (2026)	1.3

### Projected population change



♂ = 1 000 people

Accessibility	Connectivity	Diversity
😊	😞	😊



## WARRNAMBOOL (NORTH)

### Precinct summary

The North precinct is primarily residential. Its population is projected to remain steady to 2026.

All residents are within reasonable walking distance of at least a local park. Neighbourhood parks include the Russell's Creek Trail and Connemara Road Reserve. Some residents in the centre of the precinct are some distance from a neighbourhood park. The signalling of the Wollaston / Mortlake Road intersection will provide a crossing point for residents to the municipal-level St James Park.

There are a number of undeveloped parks in this precinct, with trees the only feature. At this stage there is not sufficient justification to further develop the Lancefield Street Reserve and Loyola Close Reserve, however, they remain useful as green space for landscape amenity and informal exercise.

There may be some justification to develop a play space on the Minerva Drive / Newry Court Reserve, which needs to be considered as part of an overall Play Space Strategy.

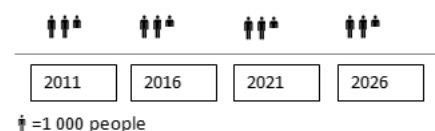
All residents are within one kilometre of an off-road trail. Residents in the north half of the precinct are greater than one kilometre from sporting open space, bringing down the assessment for accessibility.



### Open Space Provision Statistics

Proportion open space	6.7%	Total hectares:	8.4
ha/1,000 recreation (2011)	3.0	ha/1,000 sport (2011)	0.0
ha/1,000 recreation (2026)	3.0	ha/1,000 sport (2026)	0.0

### Projected population change



Accessibility	Connectivity	Diversity
☹️	😊	☹️



## WARRNAMBOOL (BOTANIC)

### Precinct summary

The Botanic precinct is an established residential area bounded by the Merri River to the North and Raglan Parade to the south. Three schools are positioned within the precinct. It has an excellent diversity of open spaces, including the Botanic Gardens, Russell's Creek Trail, and St James Park. All residents are within 500 metres of a neighbourhood or above open space and within one kilometre of an off-road trail.

Important linkage open spaces include the Russell's Creek Trail and open space along the Merri River corridor. Options for completing the link along the Merri River should be explored, as this is a key open space corridor for Warrnambool.

Access to sporting open space on public land is currently limited in the northern section. The Allan Oval at St Joseph's Primary School is available to the public outside of school hours, helping fulfil this demand. Development of the proposed sporting open space north of the Merri River would improve access to all but the north east corner, provided safe access is provided at Daltons Road and across the Merri River at Bromfield Street.

Swan Reserve plays an important role in providing access to open space in the adjoining central precinct. Activation of this site should continue in line with its Master Plan.



### Open Space Provision Statistics

Proportion open space	13.6%	Total hectares:	25.4
ha/1,000 recreation (2011)	10.5	ha/1,000 sport (2011)	0.6
ha/1,000 recreation (2026)	10.8	ha/1,000 sport (2026)	0.6

### Projected population change



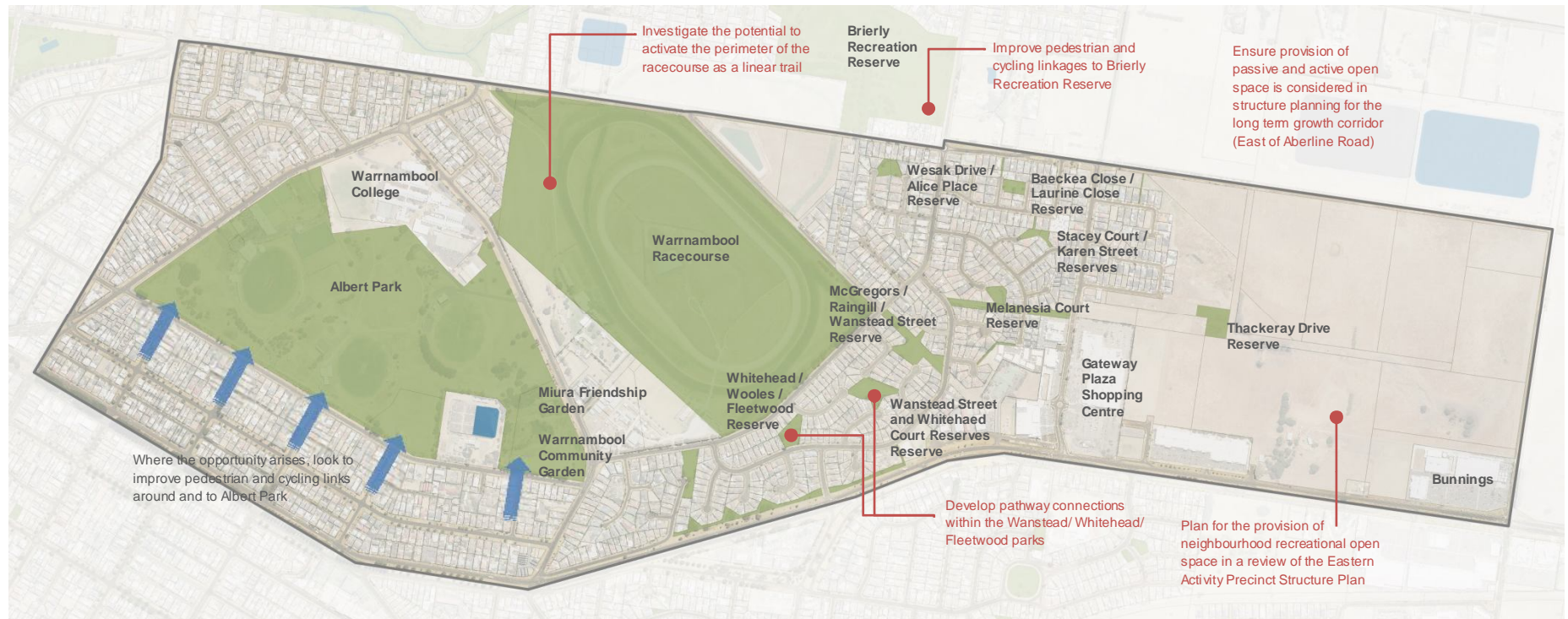
Accessibility	Connectivity	Diversity

## WARRNAMBOOL (EAST / RACECOURSE)

### Precinct summary

Albert Park and the Warrnambool Racecourse form the central features of this precinct. Land use is a mix of residential, commercial and greenfield. At present there is limited access to neighbourhood or above open space in the central and eastern sections. However, nearly all residents have reasonable access to at least a local open space. Access to off-road trails is also currently limited in the eastern section.

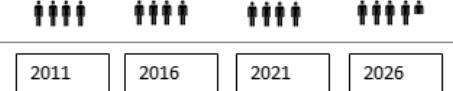
The racecourse is classified as restricted open space. An opportunity exists to activate the boundary of this site to provide additional recreational open space in the form of a loop trail. Residents in the future eastern corridor will be more than one kilometre from sporting open space.



#### Open Space Provision Statistics

Proportion open space	26.8%	Total hectares:	102.2
ha/1,000 recreation (2011)	14.0	ha/1,000 sport (2011)	11.9
ha/1,000 recreation (2026)	11.5	ha/1,000 sport (2026)	9.9

#### Projected population change



♂ = 1 000 people

Accessibility	Connectivity	Diversity
😊	😐	😐



## WARRNAMBOOL (SOUTH EAST / HOPKINS)

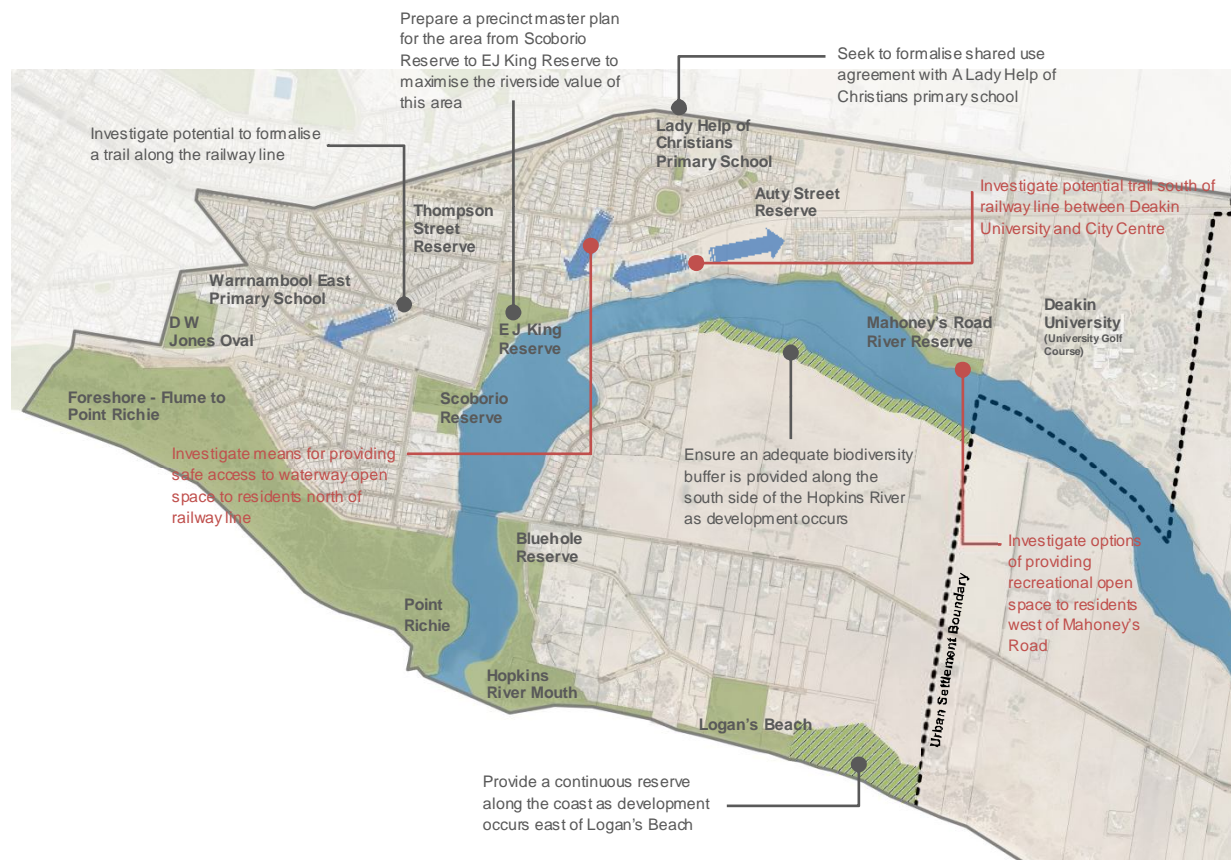
### Precinct summary

The South East / Hopkins precinct has a growing population, with a number of greenfield sites to be developed in coming years. Access to open space is variable, with gaps in provision north of the railway line and in the residential area west of Mahoney's Road. Over half of properties are more than one kilometre from sporting open space, and a significant proportion more than one kilometre from an off-road trail. Deakin University does provide some private sporting open space.

The Hopkins River and southern coastline provide the backdrop to a number of important open spaces, including the Foreshore from the Flume to Point Richie, the Hopkins River Mouth (Bluehole) and the whale viewing area at Logan's Beach.

The railway line currently acts as a barrier to residents in the northern section accessing the popular riverside and coastal areas. At present there is only one safe pedestrian access point under the bridge at Simpson Street, on the west side of the road. Options for improving safe access should be explored.

Whilst the Hopkins River and the rail line act as barriers to accessibility in some cases, they also represent opportunities for improving connectivity. At present, land adjoining the rail line is used informally by dog walkers and joggers. The potential to formalise this route should be investigated with the land owners, VicTrack.



### Open Space Provision Statistics

Proportion open space	14.0%	Total hectares:	92.0
ha/1,000 recreation (2011)	22.8	ha/1,000 sport (2011)	0.8
ha/1,000 recreation (2026)	16.8	ha/1,000 sport (2026)	0.6

### Projected population change



Accessibility	Connectivity	Diversity



## WARRNAMBOOL (SOUTH / MERRIVALE)

### Precinct summary

The South / Merrivale precinct has the highest proportion of open space in Warrnambool (38.9%). It also has the greatest diversity including sporting reserves, wild coastal areas, a waterway trail and a number of local parks. The Merri River and southern coastline are key features, with significant open space adjoining them. The rail trail provides an important regional level linkage open space. It also connects Merrivale residents to Lake Pertobe and the Foreshore.

Virtually all residents are within one kilometre of sporting open space, and provision is above the industry minimum of 1.5 hectares per 1,000 residents.

The Warrnambool to Port Fairy Rail Trail has been identified as a regionally significant trail in the Barwon South West Regional Trails Master Plan (2009). Access to the rail trail is currently limited to some residents south of the Merri River due to a lack of safe crossing points for pedestrians. There are also residents between Raglan Parade and Victoria Park that are greater than one kilometre from an off-road trail.

At present the rail trail does not connect with the proposed open space river corridor in North Dennington. Closing this gap would greatly improve connectivity of open space across the whole municipality.

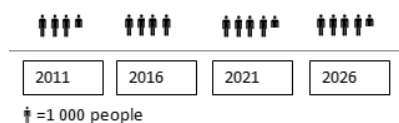
The Warrnambool Coastal Management Plan provides important direction on how coastal Crown Land should be managed for its environmental and recreation values in this precinct.



### Open Space Provision Statistics

Proportion open space	38.9%	Total hectares:	378.2
ha/1,000 recreation (2011)	38.8	ha/1,000 sport (2011)	2.0
ha/1,000 recreation (2026)	30.1	ha/1,000 sport (2026)	1.7

### Projected population change



Accessibility	Connectivity	Diversity
😊	😐	😊

## WARRNAMBOOL (NORTH EAST)

### Precinct summary

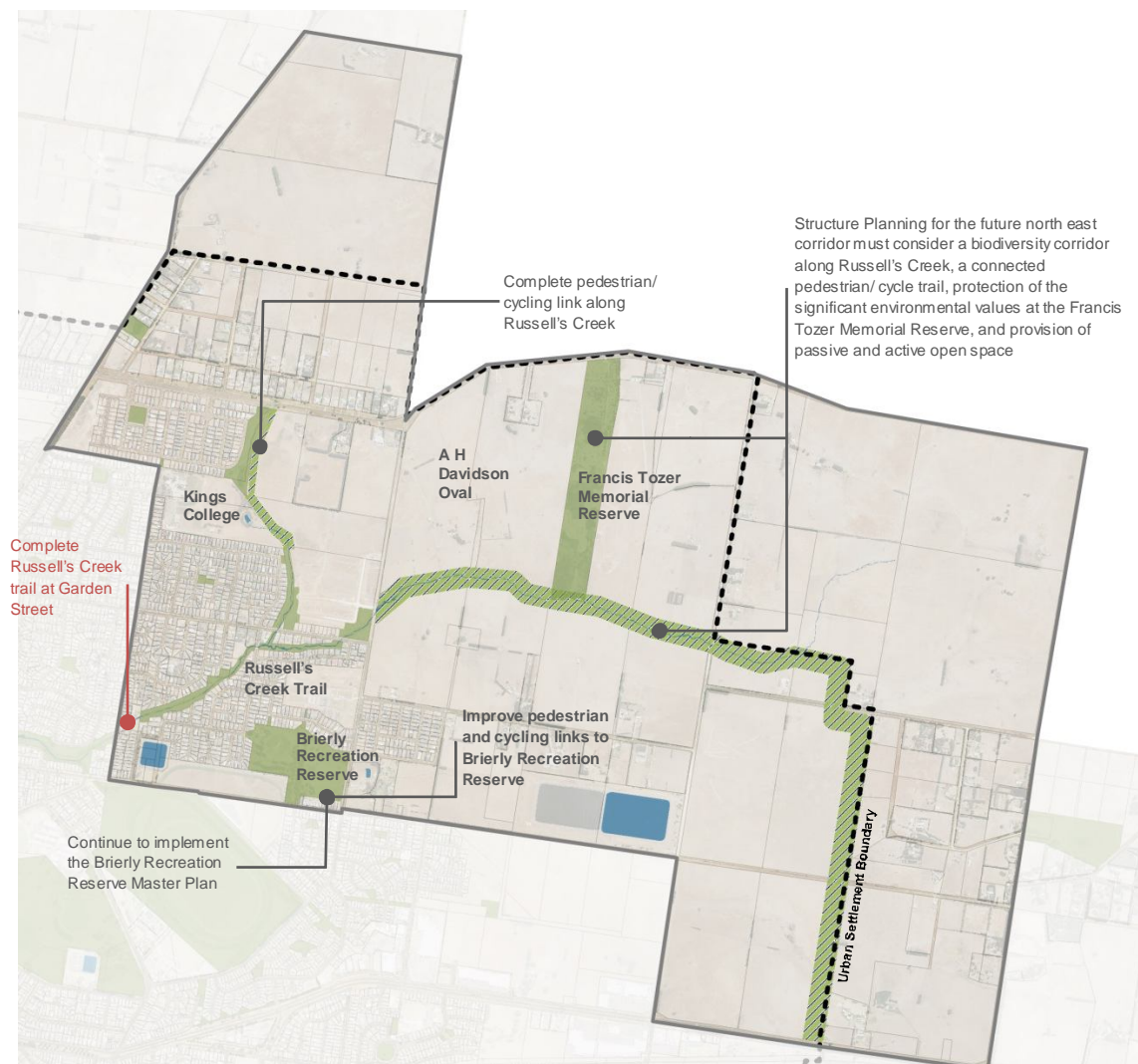
The North East precinct is predicted to have the most rapidly growing population in Warrnambool.

Whilst much of its area is currently greenfield or farming land, the existing residential area is relatively well provided with open space. Key open spaces include Brierly Reserve (sport), the Russell's Creek trail, and the Maraki Estate reserve.

The Russell's Creek trail provides important connectivity. It is currently incomplete at Garden Street and adjoining Kings College. Completing this trail would greatly improve connectivity in the precinct, linking residents in the North East with the western section of the trail.

Brierly Reserve provides important sporting open space to north east Warrnambool. A master plan has been developed for the site and is currently in implementation. Improving access to the site is also underway and will greatly improve connectivity in this area. Rezoning of this reserve from Residential 1 Zone is required to better reflect its important role as open space.

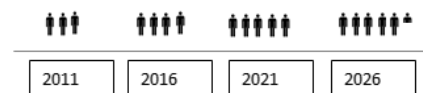
The future growth corridor east of Aberline road is to provide residential and industrial land supply for the next one to two decades. Future structure planning will inform the amount and type of open space needed. The area adjoining Russell's Creek has an important biodiversity function and a role in connecting residents with the existing residential area and Brierly Reserve. Protecting the significant environmental values at Tozer Reserve should also be a priority.



### Open Space Provision Statistics

Proportion open space	5.3%	Total hectares:	44.9
ha/1,000 recreation (2011)	8.2	ha/1,000 sport (2011)	4.4
ha/1,000 recreation (2026)	3.9	ha/1,000 sport (2026)	2.2

### Projected population change



1 icon = 1 000 people

Accessibility	Connectivity	Diversity



## WARRNAMBOOL (NORTH MERRI)

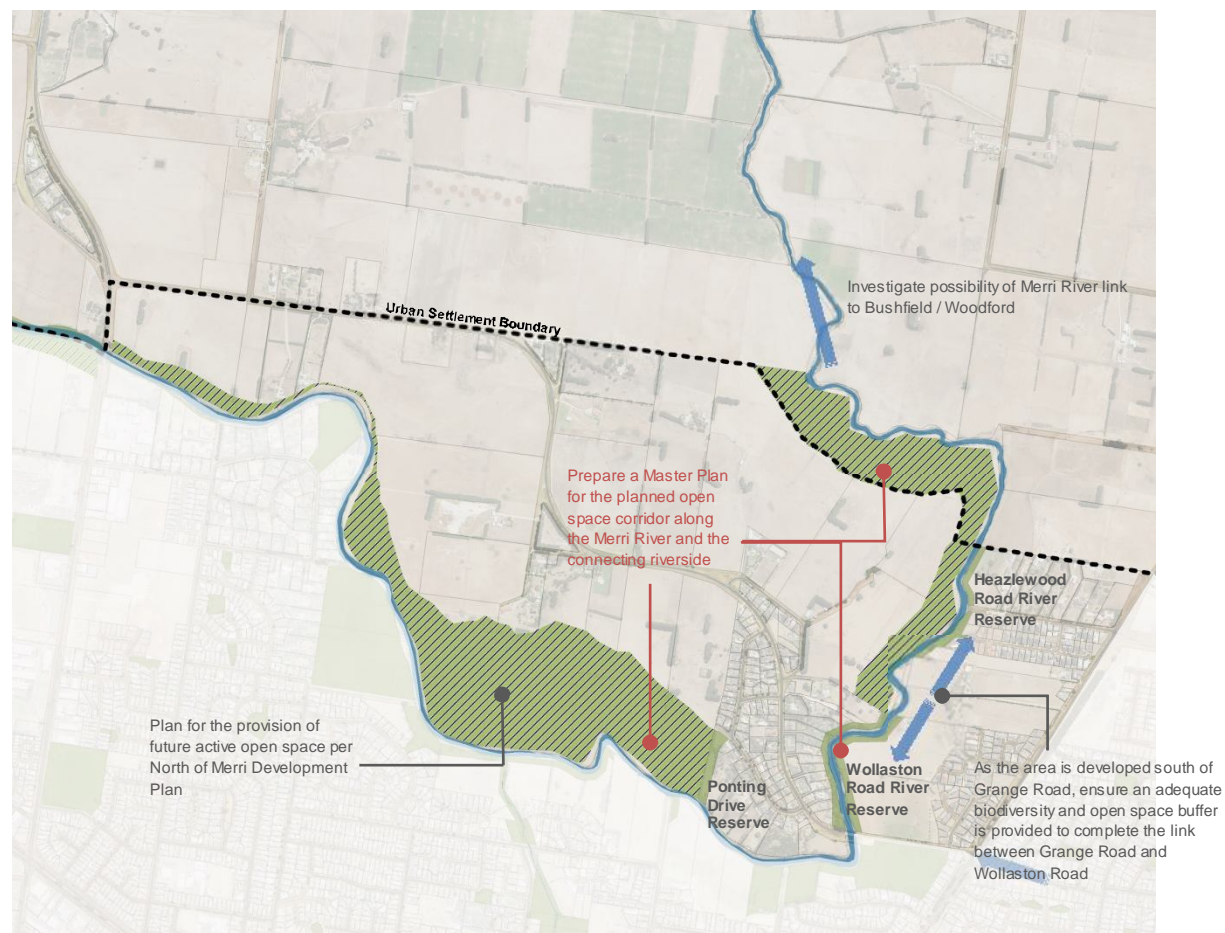
### Precinct summary

The North Merri precinct is set to more than double in population with the development of the North of Merri Structure Plan area. This area has over 30% planned area as open space, due to the large area of flood affected land. The two proposed corridors represent significant additions to Warrnambool's open space network, and greatly improve overall connectivity of open space along the Merri River. Included in this space is a proposed sports reserve. Careful planning of these spaces will provide for numerous recreational opportunities.

Outside the structure plan area is primarily rural land, with the exception of residential land in the southeast corner. Here a priority is to complete connectivity along the Merri River and improve public access to this area.

Most current residents have access to recreational open space and sporting open space within one kilometre, with the exception of residents in the Grange / Heazlewood Road area.

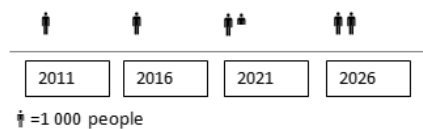
Future pedestrian links between planned residential areas and waterway open space are detailed in the North of Merri River Structure Plan 2011.



### Open Space Provision Statistics

Proportion open space	1.3%	Total hectares:	4.1
ha/1,000 recreation (2011)	1.0	ha/1,000 sport (2011)	0.0
ha/1,000 recreation (2026)	38.9	ha/1,000 sport (2026)	4.3

### Projected population change



Accessibility	Connectivity	Diversity
😊	😐	😐



## DENNINGTON

### Precinct summary

Dennington forms a distinct community within Warrnambool, with milk processor Fonterra an important employment hub. North Dennington is an actively growing residential area, with an additional 1,000 people predicted by 2026.

The major open space features are the western section of the Thunder Point Coastal Reserve and Dennington Reserve. George Payne Reserve is also an important neighbourhood open space.

North and South Dennington are separated by Raglan Parade, which currently acts as a barrier to access between the two.

Connectivity in this precinct is poor. The Merri River has limited open space beyond the waterway itself, with the exception of a neighbourhood park and short trail at George Payne Reserve.

This will improve with a proposed floodplain reserve in the North Dennington Structure Plan area, however, gaps still exist adjoining Fonterra and the whole section south of Raglan Parade. Investigating options for linking North Dennington with the rail trail should be explored. Use of the disused railway line north of Raglan Parade should also be explored as an off-road trail.

Dennington Reserve has the ability to meet the active open space needs of the future North Dennington population, however will require upgrades as the population grows.

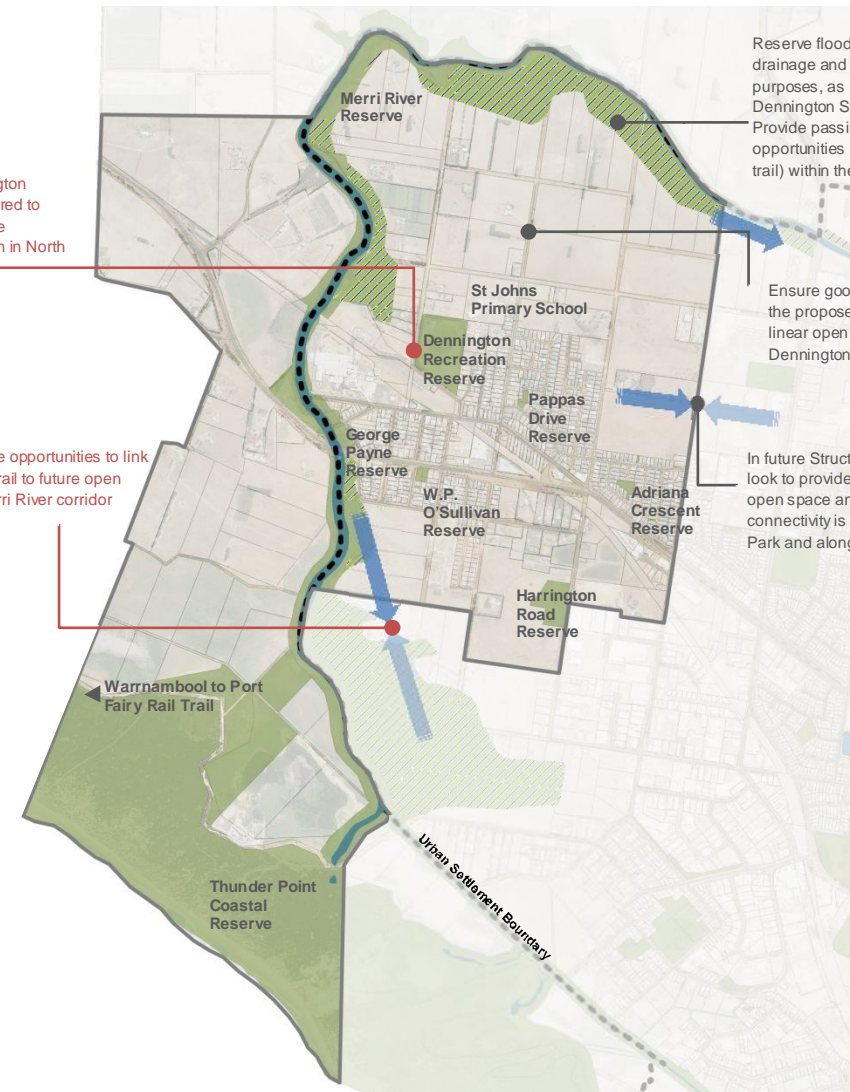
Upgrade Dennington Reserve as required to accommodate the population growth in North Dennington

Investigate opportunities to link the Rail Trail to future open space Merri River corridor

Reserve flood prone land for drainage and biodiversity purposes, as per the North Dennington Structure Plan. Provide passive recreation opportunities (cycling/ pedestrian trail) within the Merri River corridor

Ensure good linkages between the proposed residential area and linear open space in the North Dennington Structure Plan area

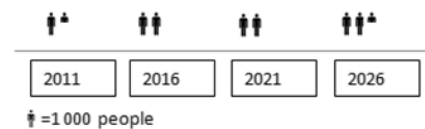
In future Structure Plans for this area look to provide additional recreational open space and ensure that connectivity is provided to Brauerander Park and along the Merri River



### Open Space Provision Statistics

Proportion open space	11.7%	Total hectares:	163.6
ha/1,000 recreation (2011)	4.7	ha/1,000 sport (2011)	3.5
ha/1,000 recreation (2026)	3.0	ha/1,000 sport (2026)	2.2

### Projected population change



Accessibility	Connectivity	Diversity
☹️	☹️	😊

## ALLANSFORD / RURAL EAST

### Precinct summary

This precinct includes the township of Allansford, rural living and rural land uses.

Key features include the Hopkins River, Lake Gilleear, and the environmentally significant Maam Reserve and Bay of Islands Coastal Park.

The Allansford Recreation Reserve provides an important active open space. Open space provision in the Allansford township is currently adequate given the current and projected population. Shrader Park has recently been upgraded in consultation with the community.

Connectivity in this precinct is poor. Land adjoining the Hopkins River is almost entirely privately owned, with the exception of Jubilee Park. There is limited public access to the Hopkins River in Allansford, other than via the railway land. Similarly, land adjoining the coast west of the Bay of Islands Coastal Park is also privately owned.

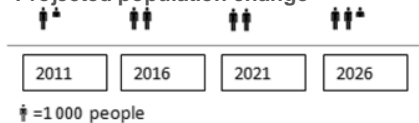
Open space adjoining Maam Reserve has recently changed from its previous use as a clay target range. The site has important native grassland over much of its area, and provides an important buffer to the environmental values of Maam Reserve. It is recommended that the site be managed with conservation as the primary focus.



### Open Space Provision Statistics

Proportion open space	4.2%	Total hectares:	101.1
ha/1,000 recreation (2011)	7.3	ha/1,000 sport (2011)	5.3
ha/1,000 recreation (2026)	7.1	ha/1,000 sport (2026)	4.7

### Projected population change



Accessibility	Connectivity	Diversity
😊	😞	😊

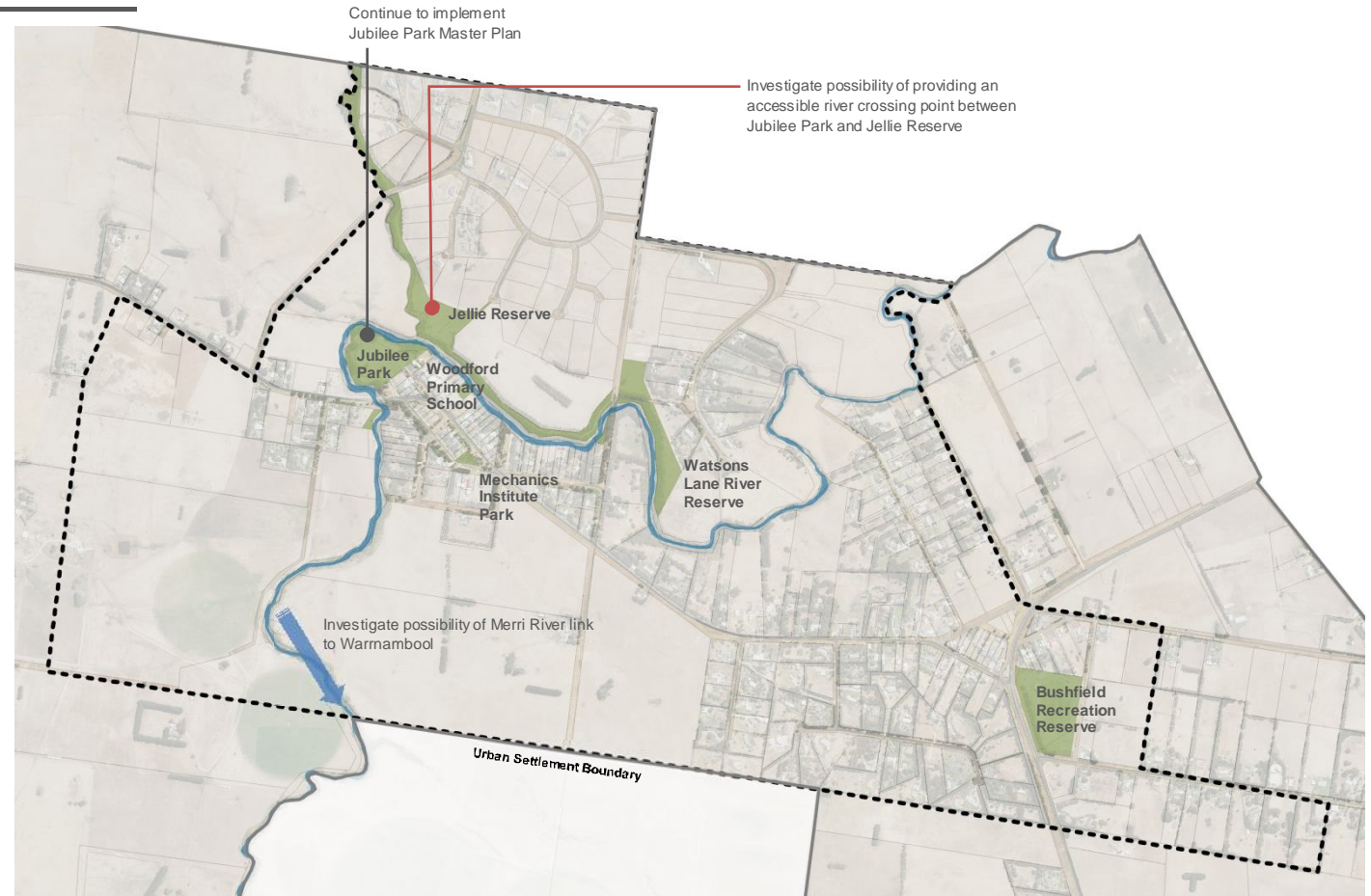
## BUSHFIELD / WOODFORD

### Precinct summary

This precinct comprises the townships of Bushfield and Woodford, and rural land to the west.

There is a good diversity of open spaces between the two townships. Bushfield Recreation Reserve provides important sporting open space. Jubilee Park provides an important recreation function, including tennis courts. This park is currently being upgraded according to its Master Plan and in consultation with the local community.

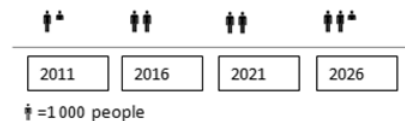
Jellie Reserve and associated waterway reserves provide an off-road trail with environmental values. At present the Merri River forms a barrier to access for Woodford residents to the south. The feasibility of forming safe access points across the river should be investigated in the long term.



### Open Space Provision Statistics

Proportion open space	3.3%	Total hectares:	18.6
ha/1,000 recreation (2011)	15.1	ha/1,000 sport (2011)	7.3
ha/1,000 recreation (2026)	12.3	ha/1,000 sport (2026)	5.9

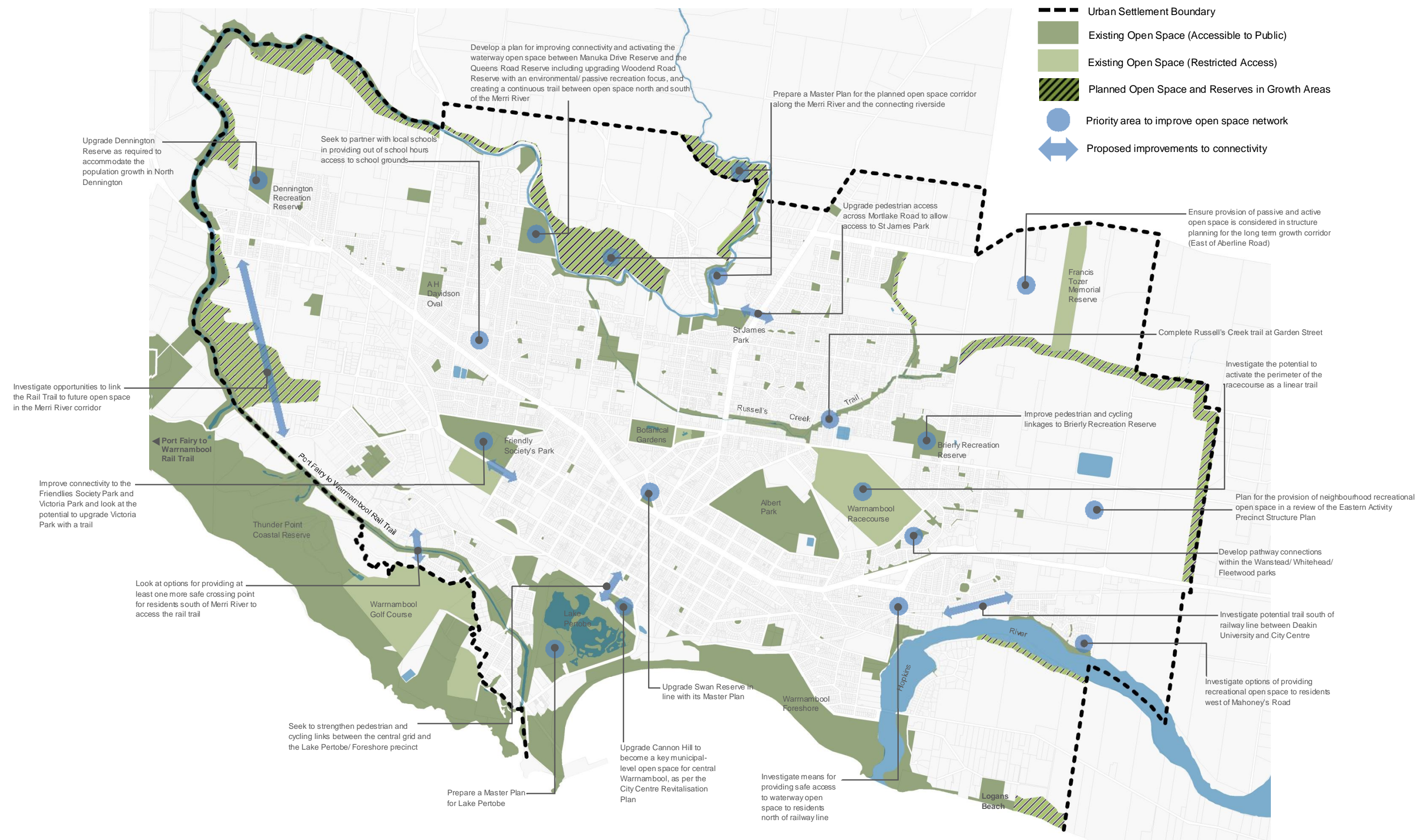
### Projected population change



Accessibility	Connectivity	Diversity



The following **OPEN SPACE FRAMEWORK PLAN** brings together priority recommendations of the precinct assessments. It provides an overarching framework to direct open space planning and management to ensure Warrnambool has a well-connected network of open spaces across the municipality.





## OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS



**Warrnambool has a good overall supply of open space with good diversity. Feedback from residents suggests there is a general satisfaction with access to good quality open spaces, although there is some variation according to where people live.**

Recommendations focus on protecting and enhancing what is good about the network, and improving areas where issues have been identified. They also consider what is achievable under the influence of Council. The recommendations are categorised into four key areas:

- Protecting and enhancing the open space network
- Building a sustainable network
- Providing for a changing population
- Encouraging greater use and participation.

## Protecting and enhancing the open space network

### Goal 1: A planning scheme that acknowledges and contributes to the strategic priorities presented in this Strategy.

The Planning Scheme is the key legislative document directing land use and development in Warrnambool. Whilst open space is adequately referenced in the State Planning Policy Framework, at present it is inadequately referenced in the Local Planning Policy Framework. Ensuring the Local Framework supports the vision, principles and key strategic goals of this Strategy is an important step in protecting and enhancing the city's open spaces.

The Public Park and Recreation Zone and Public Conservation and Resource Zone are typically used to control use of land as open space. Results of the open space audit indicated a wide range of zonings currently used for land set aside as open space. A more detailed review of all open spaces in relation to their zoning would be beneficial, and changes included in an amendment to the planning scheme as required.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Amend the Local Planning Policy Framework to reflect the Warrnambool Open Space Vision and Principles and make reference to the Warrnambool Open Space Strategy.
- Review zoning of all open spaces and where required include in an amendment to the Planning Scheme.



## **Goal 2: A diversity of parks that everyone can access close to home**

Community feedback suggests a relatively high level of satisfaction with the accessibility of open spaces. Provision levels across the municipality are good; however there are some gaps. In some cases this is due to a lack of available open space, in other areas it is due to a barrier to accessing existing open spaces (such as a lack of safe crossing point or gaps in the footpath network).

Under the principles of accessibility and equity, it is the aim of Council to address these gaps where they exist. Priority should be given to areas of socio-economic disadvantage. Addressing these gaps will involve a range of approaches, guided by the precinct analysis.

Warrnambool is projected to grow in all age groups, but particularly in the over 60s age group. Ensuring open spaces are accessible to people of all ages and abilities is an important aspect of a fair and accessible open space network. Ways of achieving this include improving paths, seating, lighting and all-abilities infrastructure.

Requests are sometimes made to change the use of an open space or to sell land for a variety of reasons. The Warrnambool community places a high value on open space, and as such decisions to dispose of or change the use of sites must have a strong strategic basis and result in an overall improvement of the open space network e.g. through directing funds of a sale to improving a more appropriate site.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **Fill gaps in open space provision and accessibility through a number of methods, including shared use agreements, streetscape improvements, upgrading existing parks, open space contributions, and where necessary, direct purchase.**
- **Undertake further strategic assessment at the sub-precinct level where gaps in provision have been identified.**
- **Adopt a policy that all-abilities access will be incorporated when open spaces with a recreational function are created or upgraded.**
- **Develop a consistent, transparent policy for assessing proposals for disposing of or changing the use of open space.**

### **Goal 3: A well-connected network of open spaces across the municipality**

Community feedback and the municipal-wide analysis both point to connectivity as the key priority for improving Warrnambool's open space network.

Having a continuous system of open space along waterways is one of the most straightforward means for improving connectivity in the open space network. The Russell's Creek trail is almost complete in the residential parts of Warrnambool, and filling the gaps in connectivity should be a high priority. Improving connectivity along sections of the Merri River is also possible in some areas and would greatly improve the use of existing open space along the river. The precinct analysis identifies specific locations where connectivity could be improved, both along waterways and elsewhere.

Streetscapes also play an important role in connecting people with open spaces. Gaps in the footpath network can act as a barrier to people accessing open spaces. A municipal-wide assessment of gaps in the footpath network should be undertaken as part of a broader pedestrian network analysis.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **Address key connectivity issues as identified in the precinct analysis with priority given to closing gaps in waterway corridors along Russell's Creek and the Merri River.**
- **Undertake a pedestrian network analysis to help identify priority works that improve connectivity to open spaces.**

## Building a sustainable open space network

### Goal 4: A network that protects a range of natural and cultural environments and contributes positively to biodiversity and water quality

Council recognises the important contribution of natural areas to the open space network, providing social, environmental and economic benefits. As the population grows, so will the pressures on these areas. Incorporating sites of high environmental value into the open space network is the first step in their protection; following this is ensuring the use and management of these sites and adjoining areas does not further degrade them.

At present, some reserves along waterways are of insufficient width to provide adequate biodiversity and water quality functions. Future growth area structure plans should plan for biodiversity corridors along waterways.

Warrnambool has an important cultural history, with indigenous land use stretching back thousands of years. Places of interest of both indigenous and European land use exist in our open spaces, which should be appropriately protected where identified.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Adopt a policy that sites with high environmental values will be incorporated into the open space network as the opportunity arises.
- Adopt a policy that where conservation has been identified as the primary function of a reserve, other uses must be compatible with this.
- In future growth area structure plans, plan for biodiversity corridors along waterways.
- Protect areas of cultural significance within the open space network.



### **Goal 5: A more environmentally sustainable open space network**

One of Council's objectives as listed in the current Council Plan is 'to be a sustainable city'. The development and maintenance of open space are key areas where environmental sustainability can be incorporated into decision making.

Council is already active in this area. Examples include the use of Green Purchasing Principles in Council's Procurement Policy (2012), and Council's Sustainable Water Use Plan (2006). Council should continue to implement these policies.

The design stage provides the best opportunity to improve the ongoing environmental sustainability of open spaces. Environmental sustainability should therefore be considered in the design of all new open spaces or redevelopments.

Examples exist in Warrnambool where the planting of exotic species adjoining environmentally sensitive areas has led to their spread as environmental weeds. To reduce the risk of weed infestation and to provide biodiversity benefits, indigenous species only should be planted in or adjoining open spaces with a conservation function unless there are cultural or heritage reasons otherwise.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- **Adopt a policy that the design of new open spaces or redevelopments demonstrate environmentally sustainable design principles.**
- **Adopt a policy that indigenous species only be planted in and adjoining open spaces where the primary function has been identified as conservation, unless there is a significant cultural or heritage reason otherwise.**

## **Goal 6: A management system that makes efficient use of available resources whilst maintaining quality of provision**

Council has the responsibility of ensuring efficient use of public funds in the development and management of the open space network. Ways of improving efficiency include maximising the use of existing open spaces, incorporating multi-use into the design of open spaces, and ensuring efficient maintenance practices.

At present there is no consistent framework for deciding what infrastructure goes into each open space. This has the potential to impact on infrastructure and maintenance budgets, for example when local parks are developed to a level that is above their intended purpose. Open Space Infrastructure Guidelines have been prepared (Appendix 2), which aim to provide consistent guidelines linked to the classification of each open space. These are based on the Open Space Planning and Design Guidelines developed by Parks and Leisure Australia (2013).

One aspect of open space management that has not been assessed objectively in this Strategy is quality. Whilst community satisfaction is high regarding the presentation and amenity of open spaces, an audit of infrastructure in each open space and assessment against the Infrastructure Guidelines would provide a more objective view of how the network is performing.

A likely outcome of increased reservation of land adjoining waterways will be a larger amount of open space infrastructure in the floodplain. Further strategic work is required to address the issues associated with this.

The preparation of an open space asset management plan will consider open space service levels.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- **Adopt a policy that open space infrastructure in new or redeveloped open spaces should be appropriate to its hierarchy and category, using the Open Space Infrastructure Development Guidelines.**
- **Undertake an audit of all open spaces against the Open Space Infrastructure Guidelines.**
- **Adopt a policy that asset renewal, maintenance and whole of life costs should be considered in the design process for development and redevelopment of open spaces.**
- **Develop a policy on the provision of infrastructure on encumbered land such as floodplains.**
- **Prepare an open space asset management plan**

## Providing for a changing population

### Goal 7: An open space network that meets the needs of current and future residents and visitors

Warrnambool is a growing municipality. Ensuring the open space network continues to provide for all residents and visitors will require ongoing assessment and adjustment.

Open space use can change according to recreation trends and with changing demographics. Providing open spaces for a specific age group or single use may not accommodate these changes. Incorporating adaptability and multi-functionality into the design of new and redeveloped open spaces will help ensure the open space network can adjust to the changing needs of the community.

As development occurs, it is important that increased demand for open space is accommodated. Requiring a fair contribution from these developments is an important component of this. A consistent framework in the form of an Open Space Contributions Policy would help direct this. Factors that should be considered in an Open Space Contributions Policy include:

- *What counts as an open space contribution*
- *Review of the conditions under which a development contribution for open space is requested.*
- *When to request land or cash as an open space contribution*
- *Direction on where developer contributions should be spent*

Of particular importance is ensuring that any land accepted as an open space contribution by developers is useable i.e. available for recreation and fit for its agreed purpose.

Land set aside for drainage and conservation should be incorporated into the network as appropriate, however encumbered land should not be counted towards an open space contribution unless it provides significant recreational benefits.

Given the projected growth for Warrnambool, the demand for open space will only increase. Implementing a position of 'no net loss' of open space (from 2013) would help ensure that future generations can continue to access the benefits of Warrnambool's open space network.

The open space audit revealed that Warrnambool has in the past provided a number of smaller, single-use sites for sporting purposes. Whilst these may have met the needs of the community, it is not possible to sustain this in the provision of future active open spaces. A more efficient and integrated model that supports multiple uses should be adopted in future developments or redevelopments of active open space.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Develop an Open Space Contributions Policy.**
- **Adopt a position of no net loss of open space from the open space network.**
- **Adopt a policy that adaptability and multi-functionality should be incorporated into the design and development of open spaces.**



## Encouraging greater use and participation

### Goal 8: An increase in participation and use of open space

Whilst most responses to Councils Health and Wellbeing survey said access to open space was good to excellent, 50% listed lack of physical activity as a concern for themselves or their friends and family. In terms of sport and recreational use, there is obviously a gap between open space being readily accessible and its regular use.

The amenity and provision of facilities in open spaces has an important role in encouraging regular use. Ongoing planning at the municipal and site level should aim to maximise use and include strong community engagement. Existing Master Plans should continue to be implemented and Master Plans developed or reviewed for other municipal- to regional- level open spaces.

Providing a greater variety of recreational opportunities may help increase the appeal of open spaces to a wider range of people. A review or upgrade of the Recreation Plan would help identify priority areas for Council investment in supporting sport and recreational activities. An issue brought up in the consultation for the Open Space Strategy was better provision of dog-off lead areas. This issue should be reviewed within the Recreation Plan.

Public art has a role to play in the appeal of open spaces, by reflecting the character of the local community and providing inspiration for creative thinking. Providing more public art in open

spaces was mentioned several times in the Strategy consultation, particularly in relation to trails. Council should continue to engage with the community in providing public art in open spaces, particularly in municipal and regional level parks.

Supporting childhood development and health through the provision of play spaces is a critical function of the open space network. Results of the open space audit indicated there may be gaps in playground provision across the municipality, and possibly a lack of diversity. Development of a Play Space Strategy would help guide the priorities for redevelopment and provision of new play spaces.

The perceived safety of some open spaces has been brought up in community consultations, and may represent a barrier to greater use. Developments and redevelopments of open space, as well as open spaces where safety has been identified as an issue, should aim to incorporate safety by design principles.

Inadequacies exist in current way-finding signage associated with open spaces. The current planning for way-finding signage in coastal areas should be broadened to include the whole of Warrnambool.

The demand for one or more additional fenced playgrounds in Warrnambool needs further review, preferably in conjunction with the recommended Play Space Strategy. The proposed playground at Swan Reserve may meet this request.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue to implement existing Open Space Master Plans.
- Master Plans to be developed or reviewed for municipal and regional sports or recreation reserves, and for areas of open space that have complex issues to be addressed.
- Develop a Play Space Strategy to guide the priorities for redevelopment and provision of new play spaces.
- Review or update the Recreation Plan to identify priority areas for Council investment in supporting sport and recreation activities in Warrnambool.
- Identify existing open spaces that could be improved for safety and appeal
- Expand the current planning for coastal way-finding signage to include the whole of Warrnambool

### **Goal 9: Strong partnerships between Council and other stakeholders in delivering the recommendations outlined in the Open Space Strategy**

Partnerships play a crucial role in helping Council deliver its vision for the open space network.

Key partners include:

- Government agencies (i.e. Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Parks Victoria, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development)
- Council advisory groups
- Committees of management
- VicTrack
- Non-government organisations
- Landcare groups and networks
- Schools
- Interest groups
- Sport and recreation clubs

Council should continue to actively engage with these partners, and where necessary foster new partnerships in the delivery of this Strategy. The community plays a crucial role in helping direct priorities for open space planning and management. Council should continue to engage the community in all levels of planning around open space.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

- **Continue to engage with the community and partners and develop new partnerships where required to deliver the recommendations outlined in the Open Space Strategy.**



## IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW



**The Warrnambool Open Space Strategy provides a number of recommendations both at the municipal and precinct level.**

This section outlines how these recommendations will be implemented. Recommendations are divided into strategies that have a defined time frame (short to long term), and those which are to be implemented on an ongoing basis. The timeframe for review of the Strategy is also established.

## Implementation

Implementation of the Strategy will take place over the next 4+ years and involve a number of stakeholders. It will be overseen by the Council's internal Open Space Working Group. The community's satisfaction with the presentation of open space will continue to be monitored through Council's participation in the annual Community Satisfaction Survey.

Categories for implementation are:

- Immediate:** To be undertaken in the first year.
- Short Term** To be undertaken in the next 1-3 years.
- Medium Term** To be undertaken in the next 4-6 years.
- Long Term** To be undertaken in the next 7+ years.
- Ongoing** Continual application in operational procedures.

<b>Municipal wide recommendations</b>	<b>Short term (1-3 years)</b>	<b>Timeframe Medium term (4- 6 years)</b>	<b>Long term (7+ years)</b>
Adopt an Open Space Policy that incorporates all recommended policy statements.	Immediate		
Amend the Local Planning Policy Framework to reflect the Warrnambool Open Space Vision and Principles and make reference to the Warrnambool Open Space Strategy.	Immediate		
Review zoning of all open spaces and where required include in an amendment to the Planning Scheme.	Immediate		
Undertake an audit of all open spaces against the Infrastructure Development Guidelines.	Immediate		
Prepare an open space asset management plan.	Immediate		
Undertake a pedestrian network analysis to help identify priority works that improve connectivity to open spaces.			
Develop an Open Space Contributions Policy.			
Develop a Play Space Strategy to guide the priorities for redevelopment and provision of new play spaces.			
Review or update the Recreation Plan to identify priority areas for Council investment in supporting sport and recreation activities in Warrnambool.			
Undertake further strategic assessment at the sub-precinct level where gaps in provision have been identified.			
Develop a consistent, transparent policy for assessing proposals for disposing of or changing the use of open space.			
Develop a policy on the provision of open space infrastructure on encumbered land such as floodplains.			
Develop a way-finding plan for open spaces in conjunction with coastal/ city centre way-finding			
Identify existing open spaces that could be improved for safety and appeal			



<b>Municipal wide recommendations</b>	<b>Short term (1-3 years)</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	
		<b>Medium term (4- 6 years)</b>	<b>Long term (7+ years)</b>
Undertake a review every four (4) years (with release of census data) to review population trends and open space needs.			Ongoing
Fill gaps in open space provision and accessibility through a number of methods, including shared use agreements, streetscape improvements, upgrading existing parks, open space contributions, and where necessary, direct purchase.		Ongoing	
Address key connectivity issues as identified in the precinct analysis with priority given to closing gaps in waterway corridors along Russell's Creek and the Merri River.		Ongoing	
In future growth area Structure Plans, plan for biodiversity corridors along waterways.		Ongoing	
Protect areas of cultural significance within the open space network.		Ongoing	
Continue to implement existing Open Space Master Plans.		Ongoing	
Master Plans will be developed or reviewed for Municipal to Regional sports or recreation reserves, or for areas of open space that have complex issues to be addressed.		Ongoing	
Continue to engage with the community and partners and develop new partnerships where required to deliver the recommendations outlined in the Open Space Strategy.		Ongoing	
<b>Precinct recommendations</b>	<b>Short term (1-3 years)</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	
		<b>Medium term (4- 7 years)</b>	<b>Long term (7+ years)</b>
<b>WARRNAMBOOL (CENTRAL)</b>			
Prepare a Master Plan for Lake Pertobe.			
Seek to strengthen pedestrian and cycling links between the central grid and the Lake Pertobe/ Foreshore precinct.			

Precinct recommendations	Short term (1-3 years)	Timeframe Medium term (4- 7 years)	Long term (7+ years)
Upgrade Cannon Hill to become a key municipal-level open space for central Warrnambool, as per the City Centre Revitalisation Plan.			
<b>WARRNAMBOOL (WEST)</b>			
Seek to partner with local schools in providing out of school hours access to school grounds.			
Develop a plan for improving connectivity and activating the waterway open space between Manuka Drive Reserve and the Queens Road Reserve (Botanic Precinct), including upgrading Woodend Road Reserve with an environmental/ passive recreation focus, and creating a continuous trail between open space north and south of the Merri River.			
<b>WARRNAMBOOL (NORTH)</b>			
Upgrade pedestrian access across Mortlake Road to allow access to St James Park.			
<b>WARRNAMBOOL (BOTANIC)</b>			
Upgrade Swan Reserve in line with its Landscape Plan.			
Develop a plan for improving connectivity and activating the waterway open space between Manuka Drive Reserve and the Queens Road Reserve, including upgrading Woodend Road Reserve with an environmental/ passive recreation focus, and creating a continuous trail between open space north and south of the Merri River.			
<b>WARRNAMBOOL (EAST / RACECOURSE)</b>			
Improve pedestrian and cycling linkages to Brierly Recreation Reserve.			
Develop pathway connections within the Wanstead/ Whitehead/ Fleetwood parks.			

Precinct recommendations	Short term (1-3 years)	Timeframe Medium term (4- 7 years)	Long term (7+ years)
Plan for the provision of neighbourhood recreational open space in a review of the Eastern Activity Precinct Structure Plan.			
Ensure provision of passive and active open space is considered in structure planning for the long growth corridor (East of Aberline Road).			
Investigate the potential to activate the perimeter of the racecourse as a linear trail.			
<b>WARRNAMBOOL (SOUTH EAST / HOPKINS)</b>			
Investigate potential trail south of railway line between Deakin University and City Centre.			
Investigate options of providing recreational open space to residents west of Mahoney's Road.			
Investigate means for providing safe access to waterway open space to residents north of railway line.			
<b>WARRNAMBOOL (SOUTH / MERRIVALE)</b>			
Look at options for providing at least one more safe crossing point for residents south of Merri River to access the rail trail.			
Improve connectivity to the Friendlies Society Park and Victoria Park and look at the potential to upgrade Victoria Park with a trail.			
Investigate opportunities to link the Rail Trail to future open space Merri River corridor.			
<b>WARRNAMBOOL (NORTH EAST)</b>			
Complete Russell's Creek trail at Garden Street.			

Precinct recommendations	Short term (1-3 years)	Timeframe Medium term (4- 7 years)	Long term (7+ years)
<b>WARRNAMBOOL (NORTH MERRI)</b>			
Prepare a Master Plan for the planned open space corridor along the Merri River and the connecting riverside.			
<b>DENNINGTON</b>			
Investigate opportunities to link the Rail Trail to future open space Merri River corridor.			
Upgrade Dennington Reserve as required to accommodate the population growth in North Dennington.		Ongoing	
<b>ALLANSFORD</b>			
Future Structure Planning for Allansford should investigate opportunities to improve access to the Hopkins River.			
<b>BUSHFIELD / WOODFORD</b>			
Formalise a crossing between Jellie Reserve and Jubilee Park to provide Woodford residents access to the trail network.			



## APPENDIX 1: OPEN SPACES IN WARRNAMBOOL AND THEIR CLASSIFICATION

This is a list of open spaces identified in the audit conducted for this Strategy. The hierarchy and category are identified for each open space. Reserves without an allocated hierarchy have not been included (generally drainage reserves where catchment is irrelevant).

### REGIONAL RESERVES

Name of reserve	Location	Size (ha)	Ownership	Category	Other functions
Albert Park	22 Cramer Street	50.3	Crown Land	Sport	Recreation, Linkage
Aquazone	10 Queens Road	1.6	Council	Special Use	Sport, Recreation
Botanical Gardens	6-34 Cockman Street	8.1	Crown Land	Culture and Heritage	Recreation
Brierly Recreation Reserve	28-36 Moore Street	12.4	Council	Sport	Recreation
The Foreshore	50 Viaduct Road	110.1	Crown Land	Recreation	Conservation, Linkage
Lake Pertobe	77 Pertobe Road	61.5	Crown Land	Recreation	Conservation, Linkage
Logans Beach	17-19 Logans Beach Road	5.9	Council	Landscape and Amenity	Conservation, Recreation
Pickering Point	Macdonald Street	4.8	Crown Land	Conservation	Coastal
Rail Trail West to Wellington Street	Wellington Road	15.52	Council	Linkage	Drainage, Conservation, Recreation
Rail Trail East Wellington Street to Harris Street	1/4 McGennan Street	7.83	Council	Linkage	Drainage, Conservation, Recreation
Rail Trail - Swinton Street to Wellington Street	Swinton Street	15.5	Council	Linkage	Recreation
Thunder Point	1 Macdonald Street	1.6	Crown Land	Conservation	Coastal
Warrnambool Golf Course	Younger Street	55.0	Crown Land	Special Use	Sport, Recreation
Warrnambool Racecourse	2-64 Grafton Road	51.4	Crown Land	Special Use	Sport, Recreation

## MUNICIPAL RESERVES

Name of reserve	Location	Size (ha)	Ownership	Category	Other functions
AH Davidson Oval	14-20 Caramut Road	4.2	Council	Sport	Recreation
Albert Park Community Garden	2-16 Grieve Street	3.8	Crown Land	Recreation	Civic
Allansford Recreation Reserve	84 Ziegler Parade	5.9	Crown Land and Council	Sport	Recreation
Arc / Val Bertrum Stadium netball courts	Caramut Road	2.37	Council	Sport	Recreation
Bluehole Car Park Reserve	Hopkins Mouth Road	0.82	Council	Recreation	Conservation, Linkage
Bushfield Recreation Reserve	594 Hopkins Highway	4.1	Crown Land	Sport	Recreation
Cannon Hill	97 Merri Street	3.2	Council	Landscape and Amenity	Heritage, Linkage, Recreation
Civic Green	34-48 Liebig Street	0.2	Council	Civic	Recreation
Connemara Road Reserve	24-28 Balmoral Road	0.5	Council	Recreation	Special Use
Dennington Reserve	2 Station Street	5.7	Council	Sport	Recreation
DW Jones Oval	10 Ward Street	3.1	Department of Education	Sport	Recreation
Friendlyes Society Park	57 Hyland Street	6.6	Council	Sport	Recreation
Harness Racing Track	48 MacDonald Street	10.75	Crown Land	Special Use	Conservation
Harris Street Reserve	66 Harris Street	5.5	Council	Sport	Recreation
Hopkins River Mouth Reserve	Blue Hole Road	11.3	Crown Land	Conservation	Recreation
Jetty Flat Athletics and BMX Track	Lake Pertobe	4.76	Crown Land	Sport	Recreation, Conservation
Levy's Point coastal reserve	Swinton Street	244	Crown Land	Conservation	Coastal
Merrivale Sports Reserve	178-188 Merrivale Drive	4.71	Crown Land and Council	Sport	Recreation

Name of reserve	Location	Size (ha)	Ownership	Category	Other functions
Middle Island	Stingray Bay	1.8	Crown Land	Conservation	Coastal
Showgrounds Reserve	331 Koroit Street	11.16	Crown Land	Special Use	Sport, Recreation
Skate Park	Viaduct Road	0.36	Crown Land	Sport	Recreation
St James Park	5 Wollaston Road	4.77	Council	Recreation	Drainage, Heritage, Conservation, Linkage
The Hill Court Reserve	Woodford	1.1	Council	Conservation	Waterway
Victoria Park Recreation Reserve	360 Koroit Street	13.8	Crown Land	Recreation	
Warrnambool Lawn Tennis Courts	Pertobe Road	2.74	Crown Land	Sport	Recreation

## NEIGHBOURHOOD RESERVES

Name of reserve	Location	Size (ha)	Ownership	Category
Bromfield and Wentworth Street reserves	57 Bromfield Street	1.3	Council	Linkage
Denman Drive Reserve	Denman Drive	4.8	Crown Land	Conservation
Dennington Rowing Club	Merri River	0.72	Council	Sport
Dennington Bowls Club	86 Princes Highway	2.1	Council	Sport
EJ King Reserve	6-34 Simpson Street	2.7	Crown Land	Recreation
Former gun club site	122 Staffords Road	1.3	Crown Land	Conservation
Payne Reserve	15 The Esplanade, Dennington	1.4	Council	Recreation
Harrington Road Reserve	27 Harrington Road	2.3	Council	Landscape and amenity
Harris Street Reserve	5-53 Harris Street	1.6	Crown Land and Council	Linkage

Name of reserve	Location	Size (ha)	Ownership	Category
Hopkins River Bank Reserve	11 Dunvegan Court	2.9	Council	Conservation
Jellie Reserve	6 Joanna Court, Woodford	4.8	Council	Linkage
Jubilee Park	222 River Road, Woodford	3.1	Crown Land	Recreation
Jubilee Park	Jubilee Park Road	2.1	Council	Recreation
Maraki Estate Open Space	Boston Drive	1.8	Council	Linkage
Membrey Way Reserve	20 Membrey Way	1.1	Council	Recreation
Mortlake Road/ Russell's Creek Reserve	22 Mortlake Road	3.2	Council	Linkage
Queens Road / Russell's Creek Reserve	50 Queens Road	1.4	Council	Linkage
Russell's Creek Reserve	26 Cherlin Drive	2.7	Council	Linkage
Russell's Creek Merri River Reserve	38 Daltons Road	1.1	Council	Linkage
Scoborio Reserve	30-46 Hopkins Road	2.9	Council	Landscape and Amenity
St Joseph's Primary School Trail	40 Bromfield Street	1.0	Roman Catholic Trusts Corporation	Linkage
Swan Reserve	550-600 Raglan Parade	0.9	Crown Land	Civic
Whites Road / Russell's Creek Reserve	152 Whites Road	1.2	Council	Linkage



## LOCAL RESERVES

Name of reserve	Location	Size (ha)	Ownership	Category
Adriana Crescent Reserve	24 Adriana Crescent	0.4	Council	Unclassified
Adriana / Grevillia Court Linkage	4 Grevillia Court	<0.1	Council	Linkage
Albert Park Playground	Coulstock Street	1.2	Crown Land	Recreation
Archibald Street Reserve	18-24 Archibald Street	0.6	Council	Recreation
Auty Street Reserve (west)	1 Auty Street	0.1	Council	Landscape and amenity
Auty Street Reserve (east)	2 Auty Street	0.1	Council	Recreation
Baeckea Close / Laurina Close Reserve	7 Baeckea Close	0.2	Council	Recreation
Baileyana Drive Linkage	28 Baileyana Drive	<0.1	Council	Linkage
Baker Grove / Jellie Court Reserve	10 Armstrong Grove	0.1	Council	Linkage
Barber's Lane Park	4 Barbers Lane	0.1	Council	Recreation
Barton Court Reserve	7-8 Barton Court	0.3	Council	Recreation
Beechnut Place / Cassie Close Reserve	11 Beechnut Place	<0.1	Council	Linkage
Blighs Road Reserve	Blighs Road	0.9	Council	Unclassified
Boston Drive to Eliza Court Linkage	57 Boston Drive	<0.1	Council	Linkage
Boval Drive Linkage	32 Sharpe Avenue	0.1	Council	Linkage
Breton/Hayley/Adam Court Reserve	48 Breton Street	0.3	Council	Recreation
Caroville Drive to Gateway Road Linkage	1 Gateway Road	0.2	Council	Linkage
Cassie Close McKenna Place Reserve	5 Cassie Close	0.2	Council	Linkage

Name of reserve	Location	Size (ha)	Ownership	Category
Chisholm Street / Natalie Court Reserves	27 Chisholm Street	0.2	Council	Recreation
Clancey Court Reserve	10 Clancey Court	0.9	Council	Linkage
Cody Place Reserve	7 Cody Place	<0.1	Council	Unclassified
Council Reserve	Whites Road	1.4	Council	Linkage
Cove Land open space	Whites Road	1.5	Council	Recreation
Cowie Close Linkage	4 Cowie Close	<0.1	Council	Linkage
Crawley Street Reserve (east)	Crawley Street	0.5	Council	Recreation
Crawley Street Reserve (West)	65-73 Crawley Street	0.2	Council	Recreation
Christina Court / McKellar Court Linkage	McKellar Court	<0.1	Council	Linkage
Dales Road Reserve	18 Dales Road	<0.1	Council	Linkage
Darwinia Street Linkage	24 Darwinia Street	R1Z	Council	Linkage
Dennington War Memorial	53 Drummond Street	<0.1	Council	Heritage
Dobson Way Linkage	44 Dobson Way	<0.1	Council	Linkage
Donald Court Reserve	11 Donald Court	0.1	Council	Recreation
Dunroe Court Linkage	7 Dunroe Court	<0.1	Council	Linkage
Dunvegan / Greenvale Court Reserve	14 Dunvegan Court	0.1	Council	Linkage
Fairway Crescent Reserve (east)	6-8 Fairway Crescent	0.2	Council	Drainage
Fairway Crescent Reserve (west)	42 Fairway Crescent	0.2	Council	Recreation
Ferguson Street Reserve	24 Ferguson Street	<0.1	Council	Landscape and amenity
Ferguson Street Linkage	4 Ferguson Street	<0.1	Council	Linkage

Name of reserve	Location	Size (ha)	Ownership	Category
Fitzroy Road Reserve	1-3 Fitzroy Road	0.6	Council	Landscape and amenity
Land adjoining Flagstall Hill	89 Merri Street	0.4	Crown Land	Unclassified
Garden Street Russell's Ck Reserve	13-19 Garden Street	0.6	Council	Linkage
Glenview Drive Reserve	45 Glenview Drive	0.2	Council	Unclassified
Dobson Way / Greenvale Court Res	14 Dunvegan Court	0.1	Council	Linkage
Hakea / Grevillia Court Linkage	8 Grevillia Court	<0.1	Council	Linkage
Hayley Drive Reserve	42 Hayley Drive	0.2	Council	Recreation
Heritage Court Reserve	11 Heritage Court	0.4	Council	Recreation
Hibiscus Avenue Reserve	9-11 Hibiscus Avenue	0.2	Council	Recreation
Ilex Avenue / Flaxman Street Reserve	2 Ilex Avenue	0.1	Council	Unclassified
Iona Avenue Orchid Avenue Reserve	33 Iona Avenue	0.1	Council	Recreation
Jamieson Street Reserve	Jamieson Street	0.8	Crown Land	Recreation
Jellie Court Reserve	Jellie Court	<0.1	Council	Linkage
Karana Drive Reserve	15a Karana Drive	0.3	Council	Recreation
Kermond Court Reserve	21 Kermond Court	0.1	Council	Unclassified
Kingfisher Grove Reserve	10-14 Kingfisher Grove	0.4	Council	Linkage
Koroit Street Playground Reserve	72-74 Koroit Street	0.1	Council	Recreation
Lancefield Street Reserve	Lancefield Street	0.3	Council	Landscape and amenity
Loyola Court Reserve	29 Loyola Court	0.3	Council	Landscape and amenity

Name of reserve	Location	Size (ha)	Ownership	Category
Lucas Street Reserve	8 Lucas Street	0.2	Council	Linkage
Lutana Grove / Serenity Way Reserve	11 Lutana Grove	0.2	Council	Unclassified
MacDonald St Linkage	2 MacDonald Street	<0.1	Council	Linkage
Mahogany Gardens Reserve	39 Merrivale Drive	0.3	Council	Recreation
Duirs Street / Merrivale Drive Reserve	59 Merrivale Drive	0.1	Council	Landscape and amenity
Mannix Street Reserve	Mannix Street	0.2	Council	Landscape and amenity
McGregors/Raingill/Wanstead Reserve	10 Armstrong Grove	0.8	Council	Linkage
McKenna Place Reserve	13 McKenna Place	0.1	Council	Linkage
McMeekin Road Reserve	50 McMeekin Road	1	Council	Landscape and amenity
Mechanics Institute Park	Bridge Road, Woodford	0.2	Council	Heritage
Melanesia Court Reserve	7 Melanesia Court	0.2	Council	Linkage
Merrivale Drive Reserve	185 Merrivale Drive	0.9	Council	Recreation
Merrivale Drive / West Court Reserve	124-144 Merrivale Drive	1	Council	Landscape and amenity
Merri River Reserve Woodford	227 Bridge Road	0.1	Council	Conservation
Merri Street Open Space	89 Merri Street	0.4	Council	Unclassified
Minerva Drive / Newry Court Reserve	26 Curtin Street	0.5	Council	Unclassified
Nicholson Street / Wattle Grove Reserve	85 Nicholson Street	0.2	Council	Landscape and amenity
Nicholls Drive Reserve	8 Nicholls Drive	<0.1	Council	Recreation
Merri Crescent Ornamental plantation	231 Merri Crescent	1.3	Council	Landscape and amenity



Name of reserve	Location	Size (ha)	Ownership	Category
McIntyre Court Linkage	6 McIntyre Court	<0.1	Council	Linkage
Mitchell Street Linkage (east)	40 Mitchell Street	0.1	Council	Linkage
Mitchell Street Linkage (west)	24 Mitchell Street	0.1	Council	Linkage
Mitchell Street Linkage	43 Mitchell Street	<0.1	Council	Linkage
Wangoom Water Reserve	222 Hopkins Highway	0.9	Crown Land	Drainage
Pappas Drive Reserve	Pappas Drive	0.2	Council	Recreation
Pecten Avenue Reserve	12-16 Pecten Avenue	0.7	Council	Recreation
Ponting Drive Reserve	23 Ponting Drive	0.8	Council	Recreation
Raglan Parade / Wanstead Street Linkage	300 Raglan Parade	0.2	Council	Landscape and amenity
Raglan Parade / Wanstead Street Reserves	300 Raglan Parade	0.6	Council	Landscape and amenity
Rentch Court Linkage	9a Rentch Court	<0.1	Council	Linkage
Reserve Cnr Fitzroy Road / Raglan Parade	983 Raglan Parade	0.1	Council	Landscape and amenity
Riverdale Court Reserve	5 Riverdale Court	0.1	Council	Unclassified
Riverview Terrace Walkway	33 Riverview Terrace	0.1	Council	Landscape and amenity
Rodger Place Linkage	89 Rodger Place	<0.1	Council	Linkage
Russell's Creek Reserve Wangoom Road	Wangoom Road	1.2	Council	Linkage
Ryot Street Road Reserve	Ryot Street	0.3	Council	Linkage
Saywell Court Linkage	20 Saywell Court	0.1	Council	Linkage
Shirley Grove Reserve	10 Shirley Grove	<0.1	Council	Recreation

Name of reserve	Location	Size (ha)	Ownership	Category
Shrader Park Reserve	13-17 Tooram Road, Allansford	0.1	Council	Recreation
Silesia Court Linkage	13 Silesia Court	<0.1	Council	Linkage
Stacey Court and Karen Street Reserves	7 Melanesia Court	0.2	Council	Unclassified
Stanley Street Playground	24 Stanley Street	0.1	Council	Recreation
Swan Street Reserve	7-9 Swan Street	0.1	Council	Unclassified
Tania Court Linkage	3 Tania Court	<0.1	Council	Linkage
Tarhook Road / Boronia Court Reserves	7 Tarhook Road	0.2	Council	Unclassified
Thackeray Drive Reserve	89 Thackeray Drive	0.6	Council	Recreation
Timor Street Recreation reserve	39 Timor Street	0.2	Council	Recreation
Toohey Estate Open Space	Gaspar Street	0.6	Council	Drainage
Thompson Street Reserve	42 Thompson Street	<0.1	Council	Recreation
Tower Square Reserve	Tower Square	0.6	Council	Utility
Watsons Lane Drainage Reserve	Watsons Lane, Woodford	1.8	Council	Drainage
Wollaston Road River Reserve (west)	Wollaston Road	1.2	Council	Linkage
Ziegler Parade Industrial Buffer	Ziegler Parade, Allansford	0.1	Council	Landscape and amenity
Wanstead Street /Whitehead Ct Reserves	22a Wanstead Street	0.3	Council	Linkage
Wanstead Street to Caroville Drive Linkage	Caroville Drive	0.4	Council	Linkage
Wendy Place / Matthews Court Reserve	10 Wendy Place	0.3	Council	Recreation
Wesak Drive and Alice Place Reserves	14 Wesak Drive	0.2	Council	Recreation

Name of reserve	Location	Size (ha)	Ownership	Category
Whitehead/Wooles/Fleetwood Reserves	19 Armstrong Grove	0.6	Council	Recreation
WP O'Sullivan Reserve	1337 Raglan Parade	0.3	Council	Recreation

## APPENDIX 2: WARRNAMBOOL OPEN SPACE INFRASTRUCTURE GUIDELINES

These guidelines are based on the Open Space Planning and Design Guidelines (Parks and Leisure Australia 2013), adapted to suit Warrnambool's open space network. **Legend:** ✓✓ = must have   ✓ = might have   x = generally should not have   xx = must not have

Infrastructure	Recreational park				Linkage/ linear trails			Sports reserve			Conservation		
	Local	Neighbourhood	Municipal	Regional	Local/ Neighbourhood	Municipal	Regional	Neighbourhood	Municipal	Regional	Neighbourhood	Municipal	Regional
<b>PLANTING / LANDSCAPE</b>													
Shade planting	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓
Barrier/fencing - safety	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>PLAY/SPORT</b>													
Open areas (informal play)	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	xx	xx	x	✓	✓✓	✓✓	xx	xx	xx
Natural play elements	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
Play equipment	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	xx	xx	x	✓	✓	✓	xx	xx	xx
Basketball ring/hitting wall	x	x	✓	✓✓	xx	xx	xx	✓	✓	✓	xx	xx	xx
Skateboard area	x	✓	✓	✓	xx	xx	xx	x	✓	✓	xx	xx	xx
Fitness equipment	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	xx	✓	✓	xx	xx	xx
Sports playing areas	xx	xx	x	✓	xx	xx	xx	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	xx	xx	xx
Training fields/cricket practice nets	xx	xx	x	✓	xx	xx	xx	x	✓	✓✓	xx	xx	xx
Courts - tennis/netball/multi-use	x	x	✓	✓	xx	xx	xx	✓	✓✓	✓✓	xx	xx	xx



Infrastructure	Recreational park				Linkage/ linear trails			Sports reserve			Conservation		
	Local	Neighbourhood	Municipal	Regional	Local/ Neighbourhood	Municipal	Regional	Neighbourhood	Municipal	Regional	Neighbourhood	Municipal	Regional
<b>ACCESS</b>													
Disability / wheel access	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	×	×	×
Provision for a range of abilities	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	×	✓	✓
Shared pedestrian/bike pathways	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	×	✓	✓✓	×	×	×
Car parking	×	✓	✓	✓✓	×	✓	✓	×	✓✓	✓✓	×	×	✓
Disabled car parking	×	×	✓	✓✓	×	✓	✓✓	×	✓✓	✓✓	×	×	✓
<b>PARK FURNITURE</b>													
Seating	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓
Picnic tables	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	×	✓	✓
Rubbish bin	×	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	×	✓	✓
Bike racks	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	×	✓	✓
Barbecues	×	×	✓	✓✓	×	×	✓	×	✓	✓	×	×	✓
Shade structure/shelter	×	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓✓	×	✓	✓
Drinking fountain	×	✓	✓✓	✓✓	×	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	×	×	×
Information signage	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓
<b>WATER MANAGEMENT</b>													
Water sensitive urban design	×	×	×	✓✓	×	×	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	×	×	×

Infrastructure	Recreational park				Linkage/ linear trails			Sports reserve			Conservation		
	Local	Neighbourhood	Municipal	Regional	Local/ Neighbourhood	Municipal	Regional	Neighbourhood	Municipal	Regional	Neighbourhood	Municipal	Regional
Irrigation/irrigation system	× ×	× ×	✓	✓	× ×	× ×	× ×	✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	×	×	×
<b>STRUCTURES/FEATURES</b>													
Pavilion/change rooms	× ×	× ×	× ×	×	× ×	× ×	× ×	✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	× ×	× ×	× ×
Public toilets	× ×	×	✓	✓ ✓	× ×	× ×	✓	✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	×	✓	✓
Lighting	× ×	× ×	×	×	×	×	✓	✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	× ×	× ×	× ×
Artworks/sculptures	✓	✓	✓	✓ ✓	× ×	×	✓	× ×	× ×	×	× ×	✓	✓

APPENDIX 3: WARRNAMBOOL PLANNING AREAS

