



Whitehorse Open Space Strategy

Part One

Background and Overall Strategy Recommendations

Prepared by



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in association with



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Background and overall strategy recommendations

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Refer to separate volume

PART THREE

Appendices

Refer to separate volume

Glossary

The Glossary of terms and abbreviations listed below are described as used specifically in this Open Space Strategy.

Abbreviation/Term	Definition in this Strategy
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
Activity Centre	This is specifically relevant to the Melbourne 2030 planning document. In this context, the term refers to an area that provides focus for services, employment and social interaction in cities. They are where people shop, work, meet, relax and often live. Usually well-served by public transport, they range in size and intensity of use from local neighbourhood strip shopping centres to traditional universities and regional malls.
Ancillary open space	Open space that is not formally reserved as part of the public open space system but is publicly owned land which may be perceived as open space and is used for recreation, socialising and enjoying the outdoors. This includes streets, urban plazas and schools.
ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Design
Gaps, gap areas	Throughout the Strategy the term 'gap' is used. For the purposes of this Strategy, this term refers to the areas where there is no open space within the agreed acceptable walking distance* from surrounding residents. These 'gaps' can be addressed in a number of ways such as providing improved links via ancillary open space, streetscapes or other public land, or provision of additional open space. * For acceptable walking distances, refer to <i>Table 3~1, p. 13</i> in this Strategy.
Greenfield site	Undeveloped land which has been identified for residential or industrial/commercial development.
Informal recreation	Same meaning as 'unstructured' recreation i.e. the activity is not organised by a club or other group and participation is initiated by individuals.
MSS	Municipal Strategic Statement which is part of the Planning Scheme's Local Planning Policy Framework and contains strategic planning, land-use and development objectives for the relevant planning authority.
MW	Melbourne Water
Organised sport and recreation	The activity is organised by a club, association, school or community group and participation is by becoming a member of the club or on a fee-paying basis.
PV	Parks Victoria
PW	ParksWide - parks and gardens section of the City of Whitehorse
Ridge lines	The hilltop or elevated area
Safe walking distance	This refers to the perceived safety of the journey on foot between home and the nearest open space. Crossing main roads and other barriers like railway lines and walking along main roads can be perceived as dangerous or physically difficult for people to negotiate.
Shared trails	These are trails/paths designed specifically for shared use by recreational trail users including pedestrians, wheelchairs, cyclists, skaters and prams. They are typically a minimum of 2.5m wide and meet accepted current trail standards regarding gradients, widths, clearances, lines of sight, etc. for their intended purpose and level of use.
Strategic redevelopment sites	Sites within the built-up urban areas designated for higher-density residential development.
Structure plans	Planning tools that set out an integrated vision for the desired future development of an area. They establish a planning and management framework to achieve stated environmental, social and economic objectives.
Unstructured recreation	The activity is not organised by a club or other group and participation is initiated by individuals.
VCAT	Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal
VR	VicRoads (this is used in the Recommendations tables only)
WSUD	Water sensitive urban design

Abbreviations for the Recommendation tables

Abbreviations have been listed in alphabetical order.

In the Recommendations tables the lead agency/s are bold. The areas of Council which follow C in brackets are listed with department taking the lead listed first.

Responsibilities abbreviations table

Abbreviation	Definition in this Strategy
AM	Adjoining municipality
C	Whitehorse City Council
fin	Finance
inf	Infrastructure
ll	Local Laws
os	Open space planning (currently part of Arts and Recreation Development)
PAC	Parkland Advisory Committees
pl	Planning including Strategic, Statutory and Urban Planning
PV	Parks Victoria
PW	ParksWide
ud	Urban Design
VR	VicRoads
MW	Melbourne Water

Priority categories

The recommendations have been prioritised over a 15 year period. Where recommendations are linked to future development, they will be implemented at the time of development. The timing for when this development occurs has been estimated based on current projections and assumptions, however, this may change over the next 15 years. Implementation of many of the recommendations requires allocation of appropriate funding and staff resources by Council on an annual basis. There are a range of recommendations that have been referred to as longer-term which is beyond the 15 year horizon of the strategy. These longer-term recommendations are consistent with the Strategy directions but at this stage are beyond Council's current financial budget forecasts. If opportunities arise to undertake these as part of other projects, they may be pursued during the course of this Strategy. These longer-term priorities are written in grey to reinforce they are long-term recommendations.

Priority table for Recommendations in the Strategy

Priority	Timeframe
H1	Years 1 to 3
H2	Years 4 to 7
H3	Years 8 to 11
H4	Years 12 to 15
O	Ongoing
LT	Longer-term, beyond 15 year planning horizon
D	Linked to development occurring

Acknowledgements

Project team

Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd (TBLD) in association with Environment & Land Management (E&LM) prepared the Strategy. TBLD is a firm of Landscape Architects with specialised skills in landscape planning and E&LM is a firm specialising in strategic and environmental planning.

The project team would like to acknowledge the invaluable input and feedback from the following people during the project:

Whitehorse community

A broad range of the community have provided input to the Strategy including:

- Parkland Advisory Committees
- Community Nurseries
- Sport and Recreation Clubs
- General community who have provided feedback via household surveys (4,089)
- General community by attendance at Workshops. The names of the groups and attendees at workshops are included in Part 3 of the Strategy.

Whitehorse Councillors

The Councillors who have participated in workshops and reviewed papers and the Draft Strategy during its preparation including:

Cr Sharon Ellis
Cr Peter Allan
Cr Hayley Clarke
Cr John Koutras
Former Cr Pauline Richards
Cr Chris Aubrey
Cr Bill Bowie
Cr George Droustas
Cr Helen Harris
Cr Robert Chong

Project Working Group

This group is made up of Council Officers who have met regularly throughout the project and provided valuable input and direction for the Strategy. This includes:

- Terry Wilkinson, General Manager, Human Services
- Bill Morrison, Manager Arts and Recreation Development
- Kendall Sinclair, Team Leader Parks Planning and Recreation
- Steve McGrath, Open Space Planner and Project Manager for the Open Space Strategy
- Gerard Gilfedder, Coordinator Strategic Planning
- Allison Egan, Senior Urban Planner - Projects
- David Stewart, Bushland Coordinator
- David Digby, Manager ParksWide

Council officers

The officers who have been involved in reviewing the Draft Strategy and attended workshops to provide input to the Strategy. These include (by alphabetical order of surname):

- Warren Anderson, Youth Services Team Leader
- Linda Arranga, Senior Planner Subdivisions
- Ian Barnes, Ecovision Coordinator Engineering
- Ian Benjamin, Strategic Recreation Project Officer
- Tania Curwood, Former Assistant Manager Statutory Planning
- Mark Fawcett, Team Leader Cultural Facilities and Programs
- Rohan Fielder, Property Department
- Jacqui Hansen, Former Team Leader Statutory Planning
- Leon Hassall, Former Parks Planner
- Felix Hemingway, Former Manager Urban Design
- Paul Kearsley, General Manager City Development
- Ilias Kostopoulos, Traffic Coordinator Engineering
- Ian Moodie, Education and Assets Coordinator ParksWide
- Peter Panagakos, Manager Development, Statutory and Business Services
- Jeanette Paoletti, GIS Coordinator
- Bernadine Pringle, Former Team Leader Statutory Planning
- Neil Rogers, Community Development Officer, Youth Services
- Nerida Sotko, Management Accountant
- Anthony Traynor, Sportsfield Team Leader ParksWide
- Phil Warner, General Manager Infrastructure
- Kai Yap, Manager City Works

Adjoining municipalities and other public land managers

Officers from the adjoining municipalities and other public land managers who attended an initial workshop held at the Issues Identification phase of the project. The adjoining municipalities and other public land managers were notified that the Draft Strategy was on public exhibition and were invited to submit comments. Some of the public land managers took the option to have a meeting to be briefed on the Draft Strategy and discuss the recommendations relevant to their interests.

The following agencies were involved:

- Cities of Manningham, Monash, Knox and Maroondah
- Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Melbourne Water
- Parks Victoria
- VicRoads

Executive summary

Strategy purpose

The Whitehorse Open Space Strategy sets out a cohesive direction for the future provision, planning, design and management of publicly owned land that is set aside for leisure, recreation and nature conservation purposes. This direction aims to build upon the excellent existing system of open space already established in Whitehorse to cater to the growing and changing needs of the community and the protection of the natural environment. This includes land that is owned by a range of public authorities including Council, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water and VicRoads.

Strategy scope

Definition of open space

For the purposes of this Strategy, 'open space' is defined as all publicly owned land that is reserved for leisure, recreation and nature conservation purposes which includes land owned by Council and other government agencies. There are a range of categories for this land including:

- public land owned and managed by Council;
- public land owned by other government agencies and managed by Council;
- public land owned and managed by other State government agencies which is currently zoned open space; and
- public land owned and managed by Melbourne Water which is reserved for water supply, drainage and flood management purposes and is therefore unlikely to be sold for other purposes.

Ancillary open space is other public land which is used some of the time by the public for leisure, recreation and nature conservation purposes but is primarily reserved for another use. Included in ancillary open space are schools, roads and urban malls. Future provision, design and management of ancillary open space is determined by other strategies and plans, hence these public areas are not directly referred to in this Strategy.

Strategic context

The Strategy has been informed by the following broader strategic directions:

- Melbourne 2030 including the directions for urban growth and walkability, particularly in encouraging sustainable vibrant communities and Activity Centre Structure Plans;
- Eastern Regional Housing Statement and the Whitehorse Housing Study to forward plan for open space as part of urban growth across Whitehorse as identified by Council;
- demographic change towards an ageing population;
- regional open space links highlighted in Linking People and Spaces by Parks Victoria;
- State Planning Provisions which require Council to plan for the open space needs of existing and future communities with different types of open space and their distribution that should ideally be achieved;
- improving the communities public health, well-being and social connectedness as outlined in the Whitehorse Municipal Public Health Plan;
- improving ecological sustainability of open space within the direction of the Whitehorse Ecovision Strategy including improving biodiversity values, water use and sustainable material use and management;
- compatible with the future needs for organised sport and structured recreation provision in Whitehorse as outlined in the Recreation Strategy Plan and the bicycle links outlined in the Whitehorse Bicycle Strategy;
- improving the pedestrian and cycling amenity of streets that link between open space reserves with additional street tree planting consistent with the Whitehorse Streetscape Policy and Strategy; and
- heritage values of open space identified in the City of Whitehorse Heritage Review.

Community consultation outcomes

Understanding existing patterns of community use and open space needs was sought through community consultation at the research phase. This included a series of community workshops and a household questionnaire which was distributed to all households at the commencement of the project. Over 4,000 surveys were returned and the results were summarised on an overall and suburb basis. The results indicated the following:

- that walking is the most popular activity in open space;
- the most frequently visited large reserves include those along waterway corridors such as Gardiners Creek, Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, Bellbird Dell and Wattle Park;
- most frequently visited types of open space include streets for exercise, linear reserves and small parks;
- the requested changes include additional seats, bins, paths, BBQ's, shelters/shade and resolving conflicts between different recreational users;
- the community highly value the existing open space network, are generally satisfied with the level of maintenance; and
- the community would like to ensure that the planned urban growth provides adequate open space to retain the highly valued parkland character in Whitehorse.

Open space vision

Continue to provide a diverse network of linked open space with people of all ages recreating, socialising and enjoying the outdoor space, and bushland reserves brimming with indigenous flora and fauna.

Summary of key outcomes and recommendations

After a thorough analysis, research, site assessment and consultation with the community and Council, the following key recommendations are made to achieve the overall vision for the Strategy:

OUTCOME	RECOMMENDATIONS TO ACHIEVE THE OUTCOME
<p>Improve the links between open space reserves</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investigate opportunities to convert existing Council owned land to open space e.g. road closures to achieve links • improve the design of existing linear open space reserves to improve access including Holland Gully, Collina Glen, Eley Road Reserve, Bushy Creek West, Victoria/Glenmore Chain and Gawler Chain • advocate for improved management and use of non-Council owned land such as the Pipe Track Reserve • investigate the potential to establish an east-west linear link connecting Dandenong and Gardiners Creek utilising a combination of existing reserves, public land not currently reserved for open space, regional open space and streetscapes • liaise with other public agencies to identify opportunities to convert existing public land to open space where they form linear links • seek additional open space as future development occurs to strengthen the links where appropriate • improve streetscapes where they form links between open space reserves including upgrading crossing points over roads, plant street trees in locations where not currently planted and install seats as resting points
<p>Improve access to and use of existing reserves and maintain existing highly valued reserves</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continue to implement existing Masterplans for some of the major reserves including Blackburn Lake Sanctuary and Blackburn Creeklands • prepare Masterplans for other major reserves to guide ongoing upgrade of these reserves including Box Hill Gardens, Bellbird Dell, Gardiners Creek Reserve, land near Schwerkolt Cottage, Koonung Park and Ballyshannassy Park • provide a diversity of open space infrastructure to increase the appeal of parks to the diverse age range and physical abilities of residents and improve their role as social meeting places for the Whitehorse community • ongoing upgrade of small reserves with a focus on seats, paths, natural shade and play where appropriate
<p>Build on diversity which is a key strength of the Whitehorse open space system</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continue to implement the range of existing Masterplans already in place for existing reserves • increase the diversity of unstructured and structured recreational facilities in existing open space reserves to encourage a broad cross-section of community use • increase diversity of play spaces in accordance with the State of Play Strategy being prepared by Council • continue to consult and involve the local community when undertaking new park Masterplans to respond to local needs
<p>Adequate open space to meet existing and future population needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advocate for improved design, use and management of non-Council owned public open space by other agencies including Junction Road Site and Pipe Track Reserve • secure new and/or upgrade existing open space associated with Activity Centres and Higher Density Precincts through appropriate developer contributions to open space • implement the proposed amendments to the open space contribution

OUTCOME	RECOMMENDATIONS TO ACHIEVE THE OUTCOME
	<p>rates in the planning scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in areas where residents need to walk further than 500 metres to reach open space, investigate improvement of links to open space, and where possible, provision of additional open space through a variety of means including conversion of existing public land reserved for other uses to open space, developer contributions and land purchase
<p>Improve the habitat corridor links and values of the existing linear open space system of Whitehorse</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepare a Biodiversity Strategy for all publicly owned land and consideration of adjoining freehold land on a Municipality-wide basis • continue to liaise with Melbourne Water to facilitate implementation of Waterway Management Activity Plans for waterways in Whitehorse • continue to develop and implement Masterplans for reserves which form and strengthen critical links along habitat corridors • advocate for VicRoads to provide land as open space at Bellbird Dell and other environmentally significant areas within the Healesville Freeway reservation to improve the habitat and open space values of this land
<p>Improve environmental sustainability of open space management and maintenance practices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve sustainable open space management and maintenance practices • include guidelines for future design and material use in open space infrastructure • improve links to open space to encourage the community to cycle and walk to open space and reduce vehicle use
<p>Reduce conflicts between different recreational users in open space</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve maintenance and management of existing facilities, particularly paths • improve signage in open space to regulate and inform recreational users • continue to prepare and implement Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan which will consider broad management of dogs in open space

IMPLEMENTATION

The Strategy contains prioritised recommendations to be implemented over a 15 year time frame, and longer-term actions beyond the 15 year planning horizon. Implementation will be influenced by a number of variables including:

- allocation of funds to implement works;
- rate of predicted urban growth and development;
- collection of open space contributions from developers; and
- availability of other funding such as grants and timeframes of other major strategic projects.

Key to the successful implementation of the Strategy is the ongoing monitoring of its progress by Council with regular meetings of key officers to oversee implementation, update actions and revise priorities as required.

1. Introduction

1.1 Definition of open space for this Strategy

The primary focus of this Open Space Strategy is on the publicly owned land that currently or in the future has potential to be set aside primarily for recreation and/or nature conservation purposes. There are a range of categories for this land including:

- public land owned and managed by Council;
- public land owned by other government agencies and managed by Council;
- public land owned and managed by other State government agencies which is currently zoned open space; and
- public land owned and managed by Melbourne Water which is reserved for water supply, drainage and flood management purposes and is therefore unlikely to be sold for other purposes.

Streets and civic spaces provide important links between open space but are not open space in the traditional sense and are designed and managed primarily as transport routes (streets) and urban gathering places (civic spaces). The Strategy recognises that these are important public spaces where people meet, socialise and recreate complementing the use and values in the public open space network. Despite this use, it is recognised there are a range of other Strategies that guide the future planning, design and management of streets and urban spaces. These spaces will be referred to in the Strategy as ancillary open space in recognition of their associated role as part of the public open space network.

The Strategy recognises the contribution of schools especially where these can partner with Council open space. School land, however, will not be added to the inventory of current open space or relied on as a replacement for public open space as schools are not reserved for open space, are not under Council control and can be sold for other purposes. This is referred to as ancillary open space in the Strategy.

Privately owned open space, in many instances, contributes to the landscape significance and habitat values of Whitehorse. Like streets and civic spaces, they may provide important links between open space but their longevity cannot be guaranteed unless they are acquired for open space purposes.

In addition to Council identifying works on their own land, it is recognised Council have a strong advocacy role to improve the design and management of open space owned and managed by other government agencies.

1.2 Overview of the Whitehorse open space network

The City of Whitehorse is located approximately 15 kilometres east of Melbourne. It extends from older established suburbs of Mont Albert, Surrey Hills and Box Hill, east to Blackburn, Burwood and Nunawading and to the more recently established suburbs in the 1970's including Mitcham and Vermont. Broadly, the open space character changes across the Municipality from more formal exotic landscape character in the west to the bushland and native character in the east.

Whitehorse has approximately 335 open space reserves covering approximately 690 hectares of land area which equates to 10.7% of the Municipality. Of the total open space, approximately 590 hectares is Council owned and managed, comprising approximately 324 reserves. The remaining open space is owned and managed by other agencies such as Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria. There is a wide diversity of open space reserves throughout Whitehorse ranging from bushland reserves through to formal gardens.

The linear reserves along the waterways through Whitehorse provide corridors of linked open space including along Gardiners, Koonung, Bushy, Mullum Mullum and Dandenong Creeks. The larger formal gardens include Halliday Park, Box Hill Gardens and Kingsley Gardens which are all exotic formal gardens providing primarily informal recreation. Whitehorse is known for its high quality sporting reserves which include East Burwood Reserve, Box Hill City Oval, Surrey Park and Elgar Park. A range of bushland conservation reserves, with the largest and most well known being Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, along with others across the eastern part of the Municipality including Yarran Dheran, Wurundjeri Walk, Bellbird Dell and Wandinong Sanctuary. Large reserves with a heritage character include Schwerkolt Cottage, Wattle Park and Old Strathdon Orchard. There are two public golf courses including Wattle Park Public Golf Course which is located in the west and Morack Public Golf Course in the east. One private golf course, Box Hill Golf Club in Box Hill, is relatively central in the Municipality.

Of the 335 open space reserves, 220 are smaller reserves less than 1 hectare in size. These form an extensive system of local open space across Whitehorse that is used on a regular basis largely for visiting playgrounds and walking. There are around 35 medium sized open space reserves that serve local neighbourhoods and include a range of facilities. This system of open space supports a range of vegetation including remnant indigenous vegetation, mature exotic and native trees and this provides a habitat corridor framework. The presence of trees in open space have an ongoing role in providing shade, landscape character, habitat value, air quality improvement, and at a broader level assisting off-setting the impacts of climate change.

The topography of City of Whitehorse is gently undulating ranging from approximately 60 to 120 metres above sea level. This undulating topography provides visual interest and diversity in the open space reserves with some reserves located on elevated hilltops offering good views towards the City and the Dandenongs, for example Simpson Park. Many open space reserves are located along the valley lines and form linked systems of linear open space including Gardiners Creek and Lundgren Chain Reserve. The linear reserves are well used by the community, particularly as they are extensively used for walking which is the most popular recreational activity. The linear reserves along the five main waterways provide habitat links between bushland reserves.

The north and western areas of Whitehorse drain to the Yarra River catchment and the south-eastern area of the Municipality drains to the Dandenong Creek catchment. The waterways and their tributaries largely define the location of many of the open space reserves, particularly the system of linear reserves located along them and provide the connections out to the regional reserves along the Yarra River and Dandenong Creek. Koonung Creek flows east to west along the northern boundary with the main tributary of Bushy Creek flowing into the creek at the western end near Elgar Park. Mullum Mullum Creek flows northwards towards the Yarra catchment with the northern area of Mitcham facing towards this waterway, potentially providing future access to major regional reserves located along Mullum Mullum Creek. Nunawading, Blackburn and Forest Hill are the headwaters for Gardiners Creek which flows through Box Hill and Burwood with the popular Gardiners Creek trail. Blackburn Lake Sanctuary and Blackburn Creeklands are all located on the upper tributary referred to as Blackburn Creek by Melbourne Water. Heatherdale Parklands, which includes Simpson Park, Heatherdale Reserve and Somers Trail, are located along Heatherdale Creek which flows into the Dandenong Creek on the south-eastern boundary of the Municipality. Dandenong Creek has a system of linear regional reserves along it and provides an important regional off-road link to the south including major regional parks such as Jells Park. The waterways are one of the main open space links into adjoining municipalities with shared trails continuing for kilometres towards Melbourne on the Main Yarra Trail and south to Dandenong. The waterways provide extensive natural habitat and bushland spines that either currently or have the potential to link together a large number of the bushland reserves in Whitehorse.

1.3 Vision and Principles

1.3.1 MUNICIPAL VISION

Municipal Vision for 2016

Whitehorse will continue to:

- be a vibrant, active community;
- boast a regionally significant economy;
- be recognised as the most liveable parts of Melbourne; and
- become a leader in sustainable practices.

Key result area for Open Space in the Municipal Vision Statement (2006)

Protecting and enhancing our open space environments

- Improve the City's major open spaces
- Create green corridors between bushland areas
- Retain, plan and improve the valuable local small open spaces
- Lobby for conversion of unused public land into open space
- Retain and expand existing tree canopy
- Educate the community on the value of the natural environment, indigenous flora and fauna
- Support and encourage community groups in their participation for the care and improvement of open space

1.3.2 OPEN SPACE VISION

Based on the consultation and research, the following Vision for open space in Whitehorse has been developed:

Continue to provide a diverse linked network of open space with people of all ages recreating, socialising and enjoying the outdoor space, and bushland reserves brimming with indigenous flora and fauna.

1.3.3 PRINCIPLES & AIMS

As a result of consultation and research, the following principles and aims have been developed to guide the future provision, design and management of open space in Whitehorse:

Accessible

The open space network is accessible to the diverse Whitehorse community including all ages, abilities, gender and cultural background

Diverse

A wide variety of reserve types, sizes and character make up the open space network providing the community with a diversity of spaces to visit

Equitable

The Whitehorse community has safe and easy walking access to open space

Connected

Provide habitat, landscape and spatial links between major open space reserves on both public and private land

Adaptable

Open space and its facilities are flexible and adapt to meet changing community needs

Sustainable

Open space is well managed and maintained to meet community expectation,

available funding, enhances biodiversity and achieves an ecological balance in its design

Social

Open space provides the Whitehorse community with a meeting place that is accessible and safe for all

Recreational

Open space encourages the community to keep fit and improve their health and wellbeing

Cultural

Open space design reflects and celebrates the contemporary and historical indigenous and non-indigenous cultural values.

1.3.4 HOW THESE PRINCIPLES ARE APPLIED IN THE STRATEGY

Accessible

- Continue to assess and improve streets that link between open space to encourage pedestrian and cycle use including adequate footpaths widths, adequate surface condition to footpaths, pram crossings, street trees where there is space, integration of cycle paths where appropriate and pedestrian crossings where appropriate.
- Improve pedestrian access and circulation into and through the reserves.
- Identify areas where additional open space is required so that residents of all ages and abilities have safe and reasonable walking distance to open space.
- Identify the need for a diverse range of open space designs to appeal to the broad cross-section of the community.
- Continue to provide adequate levels of maintenance in the reserves to ensure they continue to be accessible.
- Identify the need for adequate facilities to meet a broad range of needs to reduce conflicts between users in open space.

Diverse

- Support a variety of open space sizes and characters across the Municipality.
- Identify the need for a range of different activities in open space in order to appeal to the broadest cross section of the community.
- Protect and improve the complexity of different habitat types and values areas in open space.

Equitable

- Identify areas where residents cannot safely and easily reach open space and include a range of recommendations to address this.
- Identify areas that require additional open space to improve equity across the Municipality.

Connected

- Identify gaps in existing linear reserve links and provide recommendations to address gaps which includes connections via on-road links, off-road links through existing open space and longer term options to secure additional open space where required.

- Identify shared trail links consistent with the Bicycle Strategy.
- Identify opportunities for additional habitat and recreational links.
- Identify opportunities to improve habitat values on public land including measures to protect to habitat values on adjoining freehold land.

Adaptable

- Develop guidelines for future open space design that includes the ability to adapt the reserve design to accommodate different uses and needs as they arise over time (adaptive re-use principles).
- Integrate the principles of multiple use into the planning, design and upgrade of existing and new recreation facilities.

Sustainable

- Support and provide additional direction for continued implementation of environmentally sustainable design and management of open space.
- Identify economically responsible recommendations that benefit the broadest cross section of the community and environmental condition.
- Protect and improve habitat corridors along waterways and between nature conservation reserves.
- Protect and, where appropriate, provide additional trees in open space where it complements other uses and enhances biodiversity.

Social

- Provide meeting places in open space with seating areas and picnic facilities where appropriate.
- Recognise the important role open space plays in the community's health and wellbeing by having open space as a natural break/retreat in the urban environment.
- Increase diversity of facilities in open space to encourage more people to use them.

Recreational

- Integrate the recommendations of the Recreation Strategy Plan into the Open Space Strategy.
- Improve the diversity of recreation opportunities available in open space for both structured and unstructured recreation.
- Encourage design of multi-use and adaptability of recreation facilities.
- Integrate unstructured recreation facilities in some of the Municipal reserves where appropriate.

Cultural

- Identify, protect, interpret and improve the open space with cultural heritage character where appropriate.

2. Strategy scope and method

2.1 Strategy scope and purpose

This Strategy is focussed on providing direction for the provision, management and design of Council owned and managed public open space in the City of Whitehorse. The Strategy is to include consideration and comment on public open space owned by other public authorities within Whitehorse including land owned by Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and VicRoads.

The Strategy has adopted a planning timeframe of up to 15 years. This is consistent with other strategic planning documents prepared by Council and other State government agencies. Over a period of 15 years, there are changes to the built and natural landscape that influence the decisions and priorities for Open Space. It will be necessary to either review or prepare a new Strategy to identify directions and priorities between the 10 year and 15 year period.

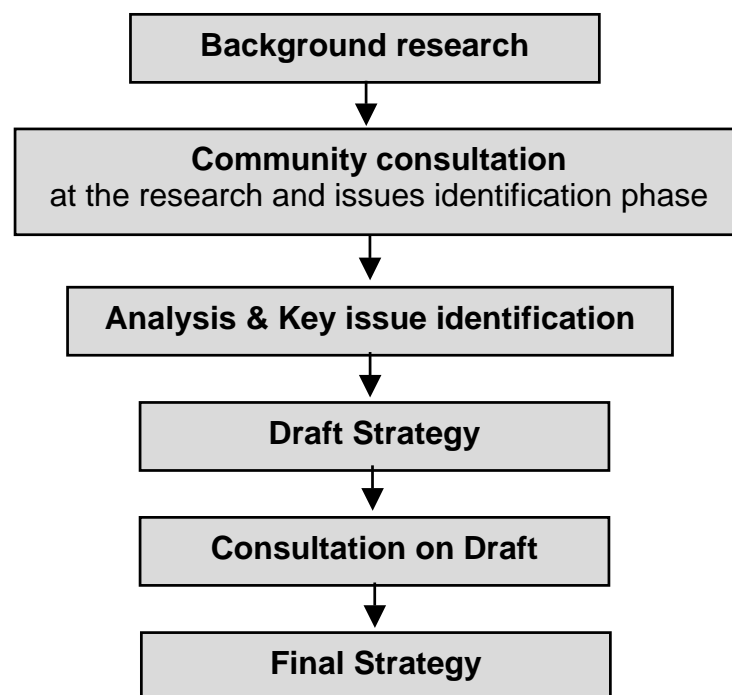
The projects recommended in this Strategy have been developed in response to both the existing conditions and the projected demographic change and population growth in the City of Whitehorse over the next 15 years. The method used to prepare the Strategy links open space planning with Council's future planning for population change (Council's Housing Study and Activity Centre planning). The Strategy implementation timetable is linked to this projected population change. The timetable is dependent on Council maintaining its current level of expenditure on open space capital works and the projected collection of open space contributions from new development. If population growth is slower than anticipated or if development takes a form that is exempt from the contribution, this will consequently reduce the amount of contributions funds collected annually and slow the implementation timetable. Alternatively, if growth occurs at a faster pace, then projects may be able to be accelerated, depending on Council's overall budget position.

The overall vision and principles outlined in the introduction in Section 1.4 are a long-term view and it is anticipated that it will take many years to reach this vision. It is important, however, that the long-term vision is in place to have a consistent goal that Whitehorse works towards achieving for future generations to enjoy.

2.2 Strategy methodology

This Strategy has been guided by a Project Working Group from Council with representatives from all areas of Council that will be responsible for implementing it.

The following flow chart schematically illustrates the project stages:



2.3 Relationship of the Strategy to State and Council policies and strategies

2.3.1 STATE POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

Melbourne 2030

The Open Space Strategy recognises Melbourne 2030 directions on how future population will be housed and where business, education and other non-residential growth will be emphasised. The change in residential population at the local level is discussed in the Eastern Regional Housing Statement and Council's Housing Study.

The housing strategies, in combination with Council's Structure Plans and Urban Design Frameworks for Activity Centres, will inform open space planning for both residential and non-residential change in Whitehorse.

Melbourne 2030 contains a Parklands Code that supports: community involvement in open space planning; transparent, consistent and equitable planning processes; appropriate zoning; public access and acquisition of links through private land (when land is developed or subdivided) or public land is sold; protection of heritage, biodiversity and landscape; areas undersupplied with open space to have priority for land acquisition; and the diversity of needs, abilities and aspirations within the population are accommodated. The Strategy will implement these principles at the local level and they are found in the Vision, Principles and Aims.

Eastern Regional Housing Statement (Eastern Regional Housing Working Group, 2005)

The Housing Statement provides high level estimates of population change in Whitehorse to 2031. This includes 10,400 new households with approximately 4,500 additional households in higher density areas and 5,500 households dispersed in existing residential locations. The Open Space Strategy aims to ensure there is enough open space and that it is appropriately designed and managed taking into account population change over the next 10 years.

Linking People and Spaces (Parks Victoria, 2002)

The broader open space planning for Metropolitan Melbourne will continue to improve access to the regional systems of trails and reserves. The Open Space Strategy includes the short, medium and long-term priorities from Linking People and Spaces to support their implementation at the local level.

Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy (PPWCMA, 2004)

The Strategy emphasises the importance of maintaining and enhancing the ecological health of land, water and biodiversity in the region. Issues most relevant to the Open Space Strategy include land management, control of polluted runoff and protection or expansion of representative vegetation communities. The Strategy has adopted these ecological principles as expressed in the Vision, Aims and Principles.

Victoria's Native Vegetation Management - A Framework for Action

Subject to some exemptions, native vegetation removal requires separate planning approval for sites with a land area of 0.4 hectare (1 acre) or greater.

State Planning Provisions

The State Planning Provisions are included in the Whitehorse Planning Scheme and seek to ensure that open space planning is strategically planned, located, designed and managed. Planning authorities such as Councils are to anticipate and respond to the needs of existing and future communities through provision of land for a range of uses including open space. The Open Strategy will assist Council to stay up to date with this requirement.

Clause 56 of the Victoria Planning Provisions sets out the distribution of different types of open space that should ideally be achieved and this has been the basis for developing the hierarchy used in the Open Space Strategy.

2.3.2 COUNCIL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

Whitehorse Planning Scheme

The Open Space Strategy is being closely coordinated with the Planning Scheme and Council's strategic planning work. The Strategy recommendations will likely lead to future changes to the Planning Scheme. The Strategy will be used to discuss with developers where additional open space or links are required and the development requirements on land that adjoins open space. The Strategy is also reviewing the open space contributions schedule in Clause 52.01 to determine if modifications are needed to support implementation of the Strategy.

Whitehorse Housing Study (City of Whitehorse, 2003)

The Housing Study highlights that changing demographics and different lifestyle preferences indicate the need for more diversity in housing choice, such as townhouses and apartments, in addition to traditional family dwellings. This change is already occurring. Whitehorse has identified the areas of the City where higher densities are more appropriate and other areas where little change is expected. The local information will help fine-tune the Strategy so that future, as well as existing residents, are provided with good access to open space and that the open space suits the diversity within the community.

Whitehorse Municipal Public Health Plan (2004 - 2006)

The Open Space Strategy supports the implementation of the Municipal Public Health Plan (MPHP) by providing direction to improve environmental sustainability, enhance the natural environment and increasing physical activity levels through improvements to open space facilities and provision. Improvements to the open space network will encourage residents to be outdoors and within safe and easy access of public open space. A focus of the Open Space Strategy is also to create social meeting places in open space to improve their role in place making and sense of community. This supports the aim of increasing social connectedness outlined in the MPHP, particularly as open space is an equitable meeting place for all the community irrespective of economics, culture and age.

Whitehorse Ecovision A Strategy for Ecological Sustainability (2002)

The Open Space Strategy has included Ecological Sustainability into the directions for the future provision, design and management of open space. This includes improving biodiversity values, water use, sustainable material use and management practices.

Recreation Strategy Plan (2004 - 2009)

The Open Space Strategy provides further direction for informal recreational use of open space and is consistent with the Recreation Plan's direction for organised sport and structured recreation provision in Whitehorse.

Whitehorse Streetscape Policy & Strategy (2002)

The Streetscape Policy and Strategy has informed the broader landscape character influences in the Open Space Strategy, particularly at the Precinct level recommendations. The Open Space Strategy acknowledges that streets are ancillary open space as the footpaths are part of the journey to and from open space and are a place for exercise. The condition of footpaths and the overall recreational experience of using footpaths are influenced by the street trees planted in them. The implementation of the Streetscape Strategy will continue to strengthen the links between open space reserves.

Whitehorse Bicycle Strategy (2007)

The Whitehorse Bicycle Strategy has identified on-road and off-road bicycle links throughout the Municipality. This Strategy is consistent with the overall direction of these links.

Masterplans and Management Plans for individual reserves

The Open Space Strategy notes where existing plans are in place for reserves and recommends continued implementation of the current and recent plans. Where these plans have existing costings, these have been used to inform the costings for future works in the Open Space Strategy.

3. Open space hierarchy & character

3.1 Hierarchy

3.1.1 DEFINITIONS OF THE HIERARCHY

The hierarchy for Whitehorse open space is based on current open space planning principles with reference to Clause 56 of the Planning Scheme. All open space has been assigned a hierarchy and these are illustrated spatially in **Figures 3~1 to 3~5** in the Strategy and shown on the Open Space Distribution Analysis Plan **Drawing No. WOS-02**. Refer to **Table 3~1** for the definitions of the hierarchy.

The hierarchy classifications assigned to individual reserves are influenced by the intended use of the reserve and its size. The only hierarchy classification that is not linked to size is Regional reserves, where size is nominated as unlimited. Regional open space is influenced by the role it plays in providing access and facilities for the broader region in addition to Whitehorse residents.

Refer to **Table 3~1** on the following page.

Table 3~1 Open space hierarchy for Whitehorse

Open Space	Size	Distance from residents
<p>Regional Caters to the Melbourne-wide population including Whitehorse residents. This includes large regional parks and linear reserves along the major waterways and the Pipe Track Reserve. Regional open space can also meet local open space needs where facilities or space allows for this. Regional reserves may have a role in protecting or improving biodiversity values, particularly within the regional context. Examples of Regional open space in Whitehorse include Wattle Park, Blackburn Lake Sanctuary and Gardiners Creek linear reserves.</p>	Unlimited	No specific distance is included as this open space type is provided for the Melbourne-wide population including Whitehorse residents.
<p>Municipal Caters primarily to residents of Whitehorse but also provides facilities which are used by residents from other municipalities. Municipal reserves may also have a role in nature conservation including protection and improving biodiversity values. Generally, these reserves are large enough in area to provide for a range of activities or adequate reservation of biodiversity values and include the major sporting and bushland reserves in the Municipality. Examples of Municipal open space in Whitehorse include Surrey Park in Box Hill, Elgar Park in Mont Albert North and Bellbird Dell Reserve in Vermont South.</p>	Minimum of 3 hectares	Up to 2 kilometre travel distance for residents to reach Municipal open space.
<p>Neighbourhood Caters primarily to residents within safe walking distance of home providing a range of activities that appeal to the local community and encourages a sense of community and meeting place. These reserves may also have some nature conservation values, particularly as part of a linked network of reserves. Examples of Neighbourhood open space in Whitehorse include Wren Close in Nunawading and Boisdale Street Reserve in Surrey Hills.</p>	Minimum of 1 hectare	Up to 500 metres safe walking distance for residents to reach Neighbourhood open space.
<p>Local Provides for residents within safe easy walking distance of home and large enough to provide at least two activities within the one reserve. An example is an open grassed area for informal ball games and a seating area. They may have a nature conservation role, particularly in the preservation of remnant trees. Examples include Combarton Park in Box Hill, Middlefield Park in Blackburn North, Moresby Dale in Mitcham, Wood Park in Nunawading, Artists Park in Box Hill South and Harding Street Reserve in Surrey Hills.</p>	Less than 1 hectare - (0.99 - 0.26 hectares) (ie. up to 90 x 100 metres)	Up to 300 metres safe walking distance for residents to reach Local open space.

Open Space	Size	Distance from residents
<p>Small Local Provides for residents within safe easy walking distance of home and provides for one activity within the reserve, for example, a toddler playground with seat for supervision. The anticipated time of stay is relatively short, therefore, residents need to be located nearby (i.e. 150 metres). Examples include Pope Square in Blackburn, Primula Park in Blackburn South, Mudjee Flat in Burwood East, Windsor Crescent Reserve in Mont Albert and Trove Park in Vermont.</p>	<p>Up to 0.25ha (ie. 50 x 50 metres)</p>	<p>Up to 150 metres safe walking distance for residents to reach Small Local open space.</p>

The hierarchy has been applied to all open space and **Table 3~2** summarises the quantity of different reserve types in Whitehorse.

Table 3~2 Summary of quantity of open space hierarchy types in Whitehorse

Open space type	No. of reserves	Area m2	Area Ha	Proportion of total amount of open space
Regional	24	2,652,275	265.23	38.4%
Municipal	57	2,992,259	299.23	43.3%
Neighbourhood	35	720,791	72.08	10.4%
Local	65	359,178	35.92	5.2%
Small Local	154	189,354	18.94	2.7%
Totals	335	6,913,857	691.39	100.0%

3.1.2 DISTRIBUTION OF OPEN SPACE HIERARCHY ACROSS WHITEHORSE

All open space in Whitehorse has been assigned a hierarchy in accordance with that described in Section 3.1. The following series of diagrams illustrate their distribution. For more detailed information on the reserve name and location refer to Drawing No. WOS-01.

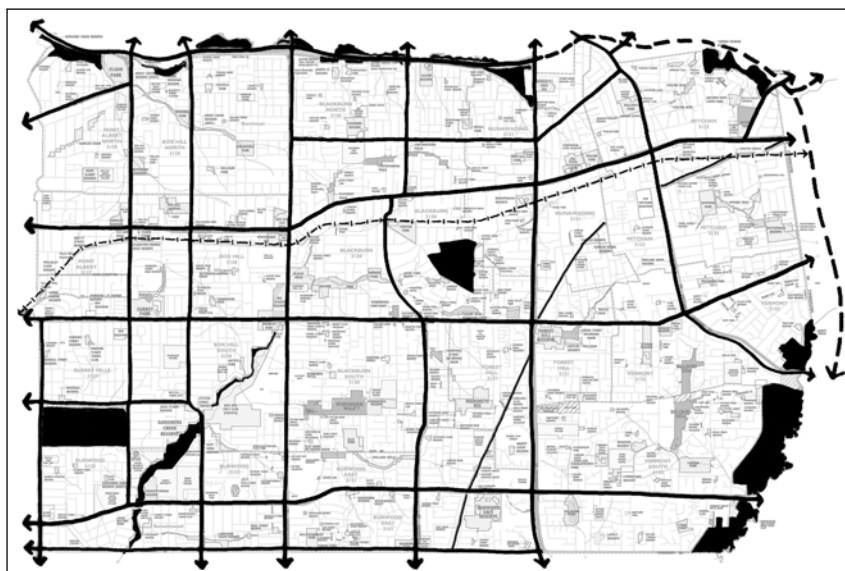


Fig. 3~1 *Regional open space*

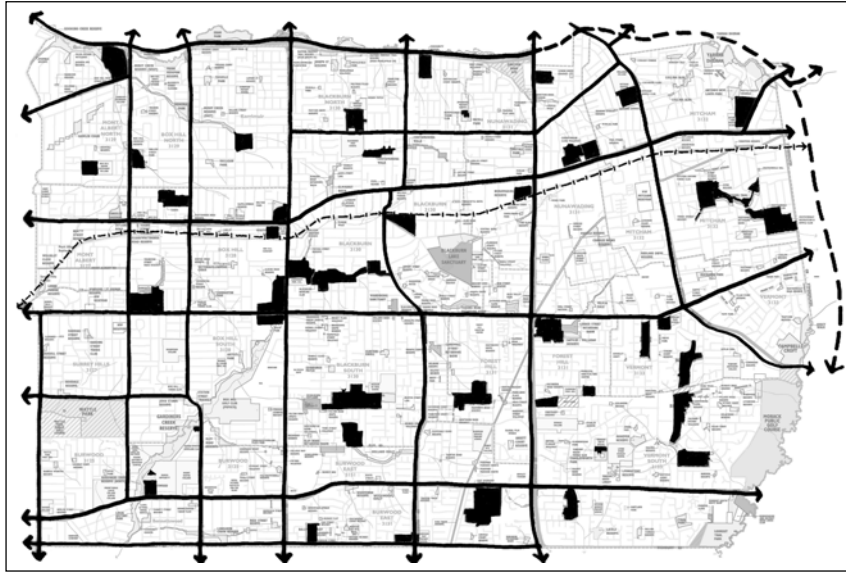


Fig. 3~2 *Municipal open space*

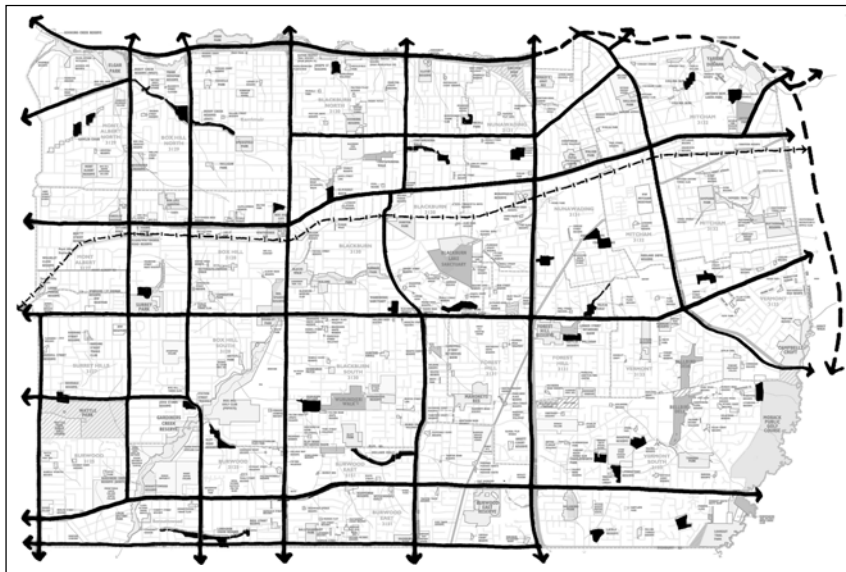


Fig. 3~3 *Neighbourhood open space*

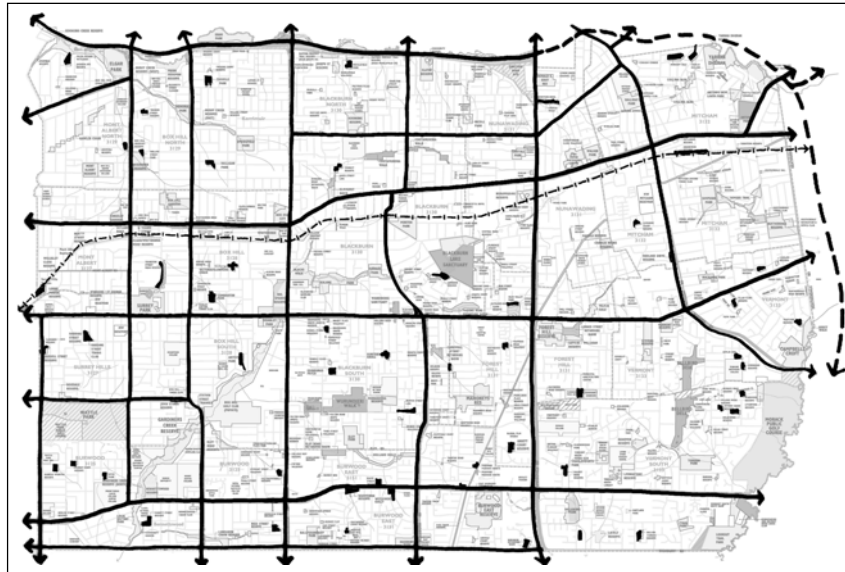


Fig. 3~4 Local open space

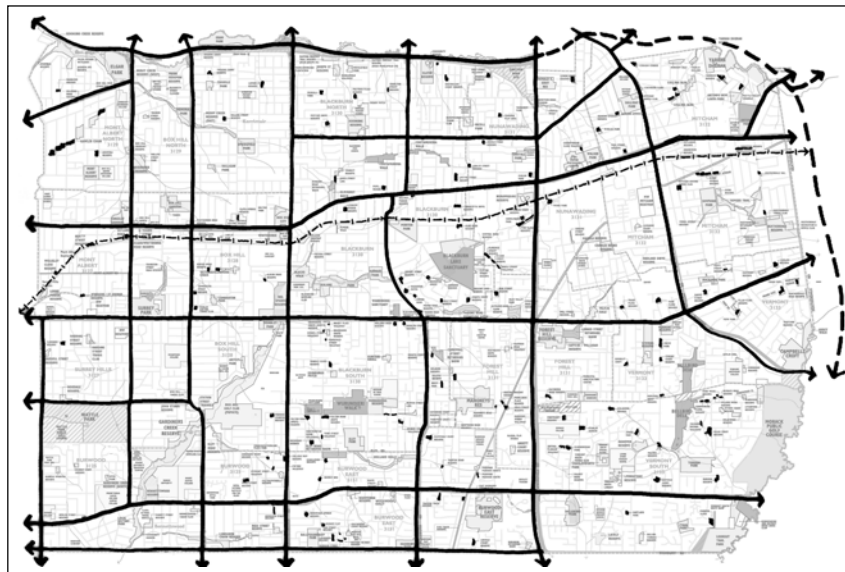


Fig. 3~5 Small Local open space

3.1.3 FACILITY PROVISION IN OPEN SPACE RESERVES

The hierarchy of open space indicates the level of use and length of stay at each type of reserve. This provides guidance for the palette type and level of facilities which may be considered in the different reserve types, however, not all facilities listed will be in each of the reserves. There will be exceptions, however, this guide is intended to assist Council and the community in understanding the level of development intended for the different types of reserves. In some instances, a Local open space may be effectively functioning as a Neighbourhood open space due to the lack of

other available open space in an area. In this example, the Neighbourhood level of facilities would be more appropriate to apply.

Table 3~3 Facility provision in open space reserves

Facilities are listed in alphabetical order. Please note, this is a guide for an appropriate palette of facilities that are suitable for different reserves, however, not all reserves will have all these facilities located within them. This is consistent with the principles of maintaining diversity of the open space system. Facilities to be provided in each reserve will vary depending on the character, environmental values and recreational needs of the neighbourhood.

Facilities	Regional	Municipal	N'Hood	Local	Small Local
BBQs	✓	✓	✓		
Car parking	✓	✓	✓		
Club based indoor recreation and leisure facilities	✓	✓			
Club based outdoor recreation and leisure facilities	✓	✓	✓		
Dog off-lead areas	✓	✓	✓		
Drinking taps	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Feature garden beds	✓	✓	✓		
Informal sport facilities incl. tennis wall, basketball half court, cricket nets	✓	✓	✓		
Large open grassed areas	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Lighting	✓	✓	✓		
Paths - cycle only (dedicated off-road)	✓	✓	✓		
Paths - pedestrians only	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Paths - shared pedestrian and cycle	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Picnic shelters	✓	✓	✓		
Playground - large	✓	✓			
Playground - medium	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Playground - minor		✓	✓	✓	✓
Public transport access	✓	✓	✓		
Rubbish bins	✓	✓	✓		
Seating	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Skate facilities	✓	✓			
Toilets	✓	✓	✓		

CONCLUSIONS 3.1

- Regional open space is located primarily along the waterways as part of the linear network, in addition to larger land areas of Wattle Park, Blackburn Lake Sanctuary and Morack Public Golf Course. There are opportunities to establish an east-west regional trail link between the Dandenong Creek and Gardiners Creek regional linear open space reserves.
- Municipal open space is well provided for and relatively evenly distributed across the Municipality confirming there are no gaps in the distribution of this type of open space.
- Neighbourhood open space is unevenly distributed with a higher proportion located in the north-eastern area of the Municipality.
- Local open space is unevenly distributed with some gaps in its distribution occurring across the Municipality.
- Small Local open space is numerous and over-provided in some areas, and in a few locations, there are gaps in its distribution.

RECOMMENDATIONS 3.1

The recommendations throughout the Strategy are influenced by the Open Space Hierarchy and its distribution. Refer to the Strategy for recommendations.

3.2 Character classification

3.2.1 DEFINITIONS OF CHARACTER CLASSIFICATION

Within the use hierarchy of open space, there are different types of reserves influenced by their location, level of development and design. The following character classification has been used to assess the provision and distribution of different types of reserves within the Municipality. These are listed in alphabetical order.

Table 3~4 Character classification for open space in Whitehorse

Character classification	Description
Botanical	Where there is a significant botanical collection to the City of Whitehorse or where there is botanical interest. This can apply to indigenous and non-indigenous vegetation.
Bushland	Reserves where bushland areas are present and contribute to the overall character of the reserve, however, the conservation of the bushland is not the major intent of the reserve. This classification applies primarily to larger reserves with some bushland located in them that contributes to their character but may also contain other features such as sporting fields. Additionally, bushland character applies to some reserves where indigenous trees provide an extensive cover but the understorey may be predominantly mown grass.

Character classification	Description
Community garden	Where members of the community have assigned 'garden' plots on open space to grow their own plants. These areas are fenced and open only to those who have been assigned garden plots.
Formal	Where the facilities and overall open space layout is set out in a planned and structured manner.
Heritage	Where the presence of Indigenous or non-Indigenous history makes a significant contribution to the open space character and use. This classification is not limited to reserves which have formal heritage status.
Informal	Where the facilities and overall open space layout is not highly structured or formal.
Linear	Linked or continuous reserves which are used primarily for travelling through or along. These reserves are located along waterways, drainage lines, railways, major roads and service infrastructure (e.g. water supply).
Linking spaces	Where a reserve provides a local link or connection between streets or individual open space reserves and is not part of a linear network.
Nature conservation	Where the main intent of the reserve is protecting and/or improving the biodiversity and habitat values of Whitehorse. This may include reserves with existing value or those identified to have potential to provide this in the future.
Railway easement/siding	Open space (other than linear) where the railway use significantly influences the reserves future use and design.
Restricted sporting/recreation	Available on a club membership or fee-paying basis only and is not available for general public use at any time. This includes golf courses, tennis courts, bowling clubs and community gardens.
Service easement	Open space where the level of use, design and management is influenced by the presence of services in the reserve.
Significant road reservation	Road reserves of a significant size or width to contribute to the open space network for nature conservation, visual landscape or recreational use. This classification recognises the land's primary use and influence of vehicle transport.
Sporting	Primarily provides for organised club based sporting use and the outdoor grounds and facilities are available for general public use when no organised sporting events are in progress.
Undefined	Open space which has not been developed and may appear as 'left over space' without facilities.
Urban/Civic	The surrounding urban setting significantly influences the character and function of the space. These spaces are primarily located in commercial, civic or business precincts. These spaces can be guided by a range of other urban design strategies and planning frameworks.
Waterway/wetland	The presence of a waterway or waterbody makes a significant contribution to the character and use of the reserve. Waterbodies include wetlands and lakes and these contribute to the design and variety of recreational and habitat opportunities offered in these reserves.

3.2.2 CHARACTER DISTRIBUTION ACROSS THE MUNICIPALITY

Each reserve is assigned a primary character classification along with one or more secondary character classifications. The following diagrams summarise the distribution of the main character types across the Municipality. The first three diagrams include two character classifications including:

- Sporting and restricted sporting
- Nature conservation and bushland
- Waterway and wetland
- Heritage and Formal
- Linear
- Service easement
- Community Gardens
- Botanical

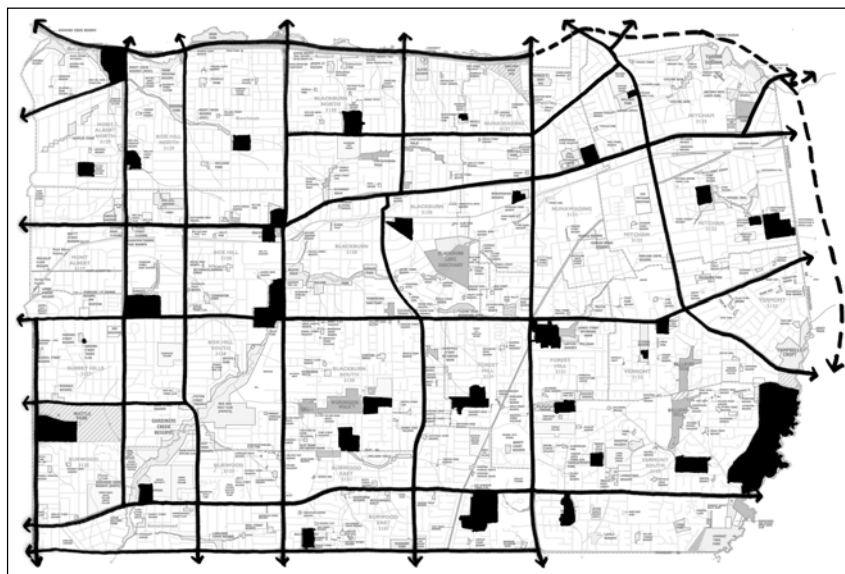


Fig. 3~6 *Sporting and restricted use*

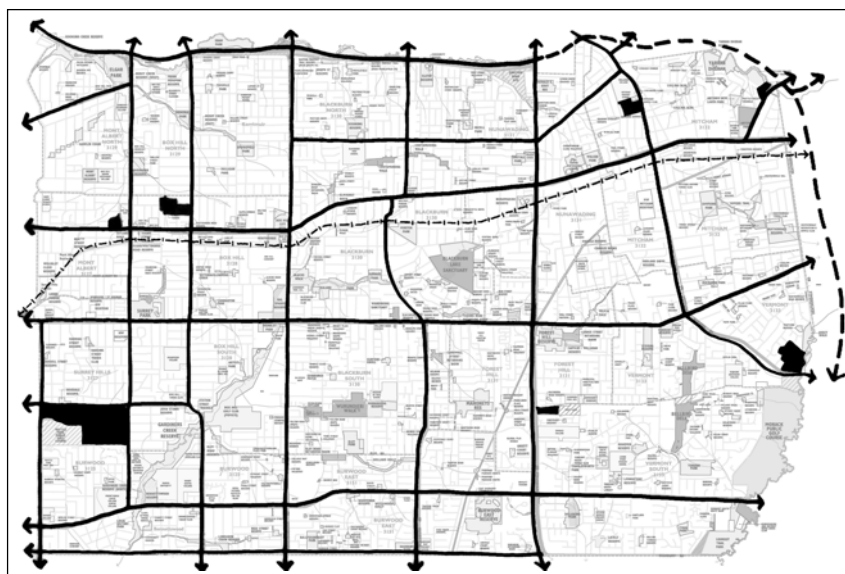


Fig. 3~7 *Heritage & Formal*

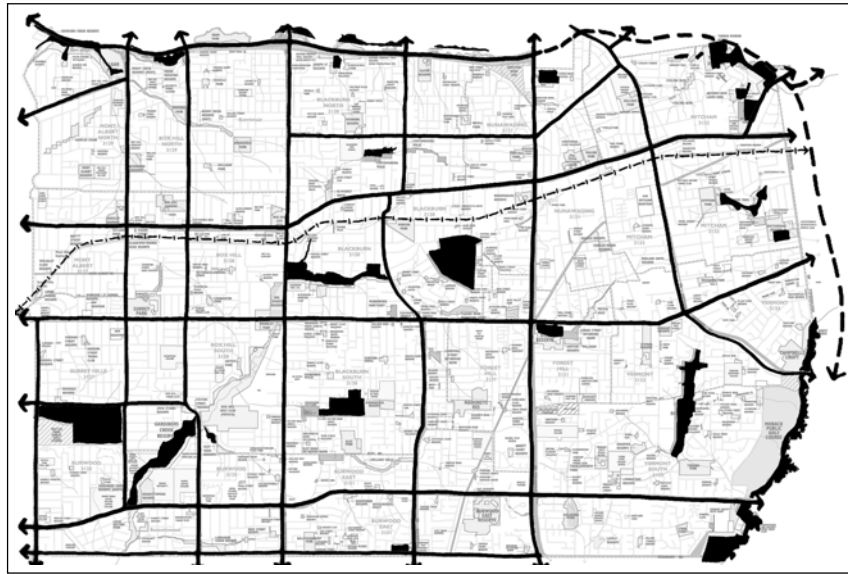


Fig. 3~8 *Nature conservation & bushland*

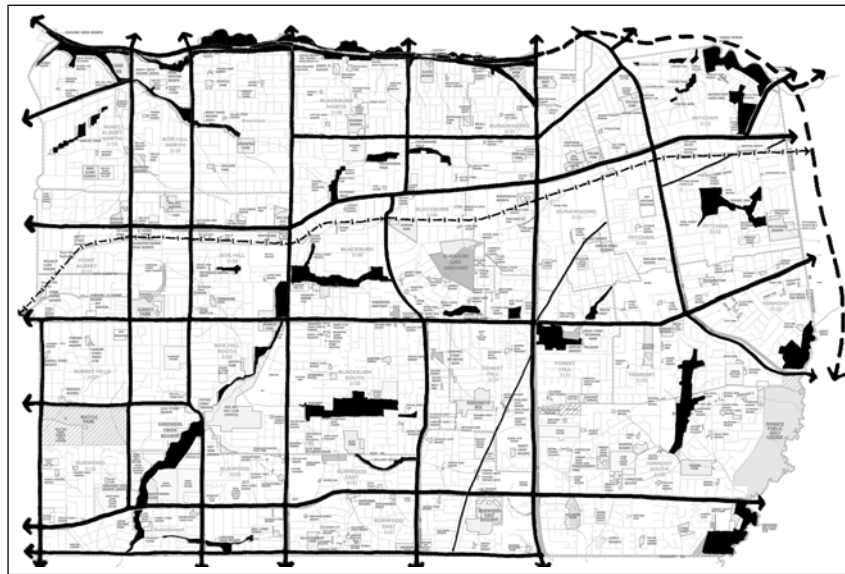


Fig. 3~9 *Linear*

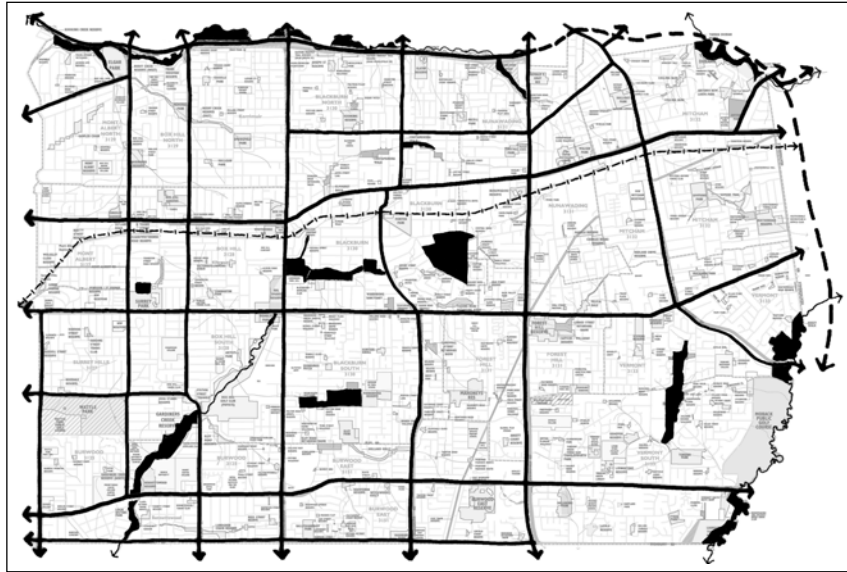


Fig. 3~10 Waterways

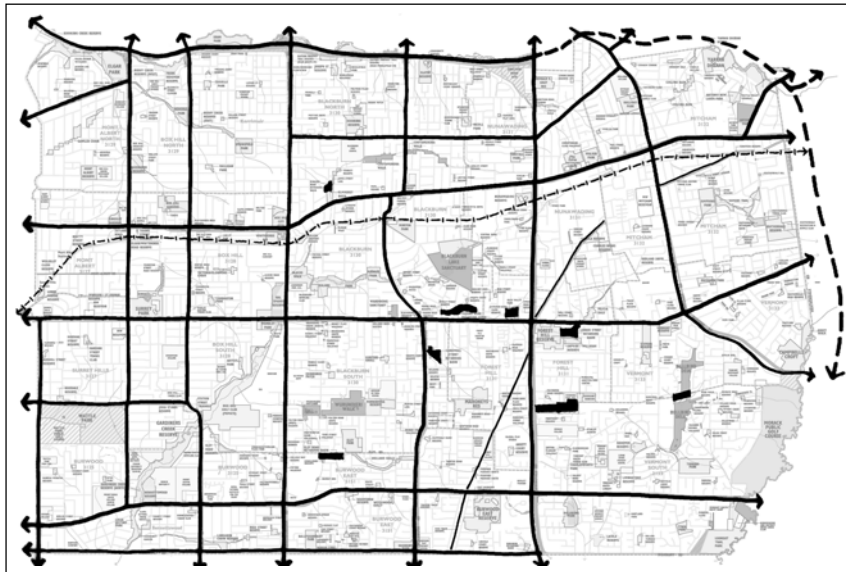


Fig. 3~11 Service easements

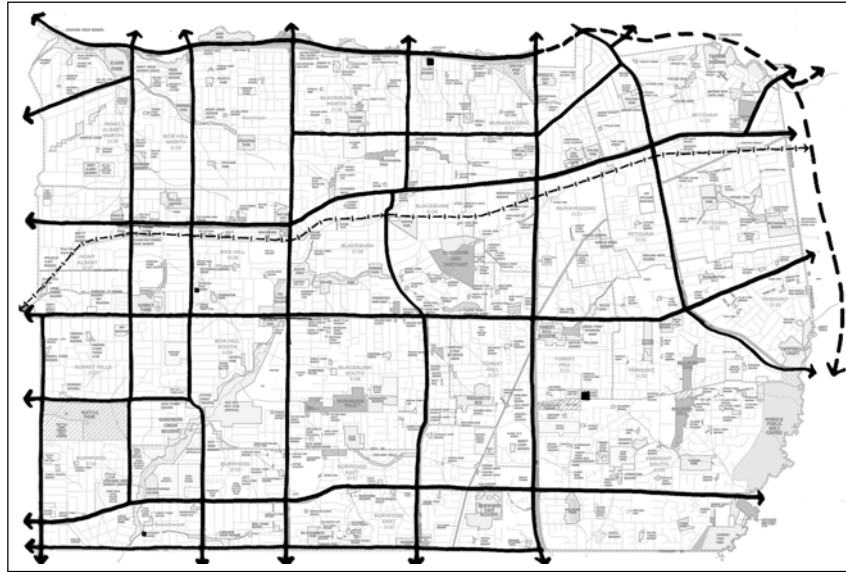


Fig. 3~12 *Community gardens*

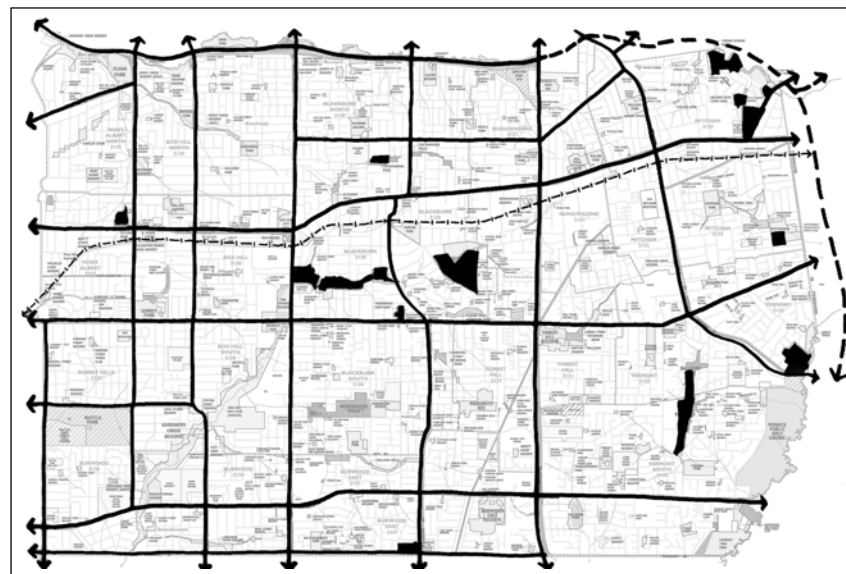


Fig. 3~13 *Botanical*

CONCLUSIONS 3.2

- There is a need to increase the connectivity between linear reserves and the nature conservation and bushland reserves.
- A number of service easements, primarily owned by other government and statutory authorities, overlap with the linear reserves highlighting the need for Council to liaise with these authorities to negotiate suitable agreements regarding design, maintenance and management.
- Overall, there is an even distribution of sporting reserves and there is no demonstrated need to establish additional sporting reserves at this stage.

Council's Recreation Plan identifies a range of improvements to sporting facilities in Whitehorse and these will be accommodated within the existing open space network.

- There are a limited number of Heritage and Formal open spaces, however, the household survey outcomes revealed these types of open space are not highly valued by residents (refer to household survey outcomes in Part Three of the Strategy). There are opportunities to potentially establish additional heritage open space as part of future development associated with the Daniel Robertson site in Nunawading. Based on the household survey outcomes, it is not a priority to increase the number of formal open space in the Municipality, however, there is scope to continue to improve the quality of existing formal and heritage reserves in Whitehorse.
- Many of the linear and nature conservation areas are located along waterways or service easements and there are opportunities for Council to advocate for other agencies to improve their management of these reserves and easements, particularly to improve their habitat value. There is potential for open space and habitat linkages between these reserves to be improved and these are addressed in Section 4 of this Strategy.
- There are four community gardens in Whitehorse and representatives from some of the organisations who run the gardens attended the Community Workshop, made submissions during the consultation phase and identified that there are more applicants than they can provide plots for at the gardens. Their distribution illustrates that they are provided in different areas of the Municipality and further work/investigation of these is proposed.
- Open space with Botanical as a primary or secondary character classification is distributed across the Municipality. These are for both indigenous and exotic vegetation values with the majority being indigenous values. Protection of the unique vegetation values in Whitehorse is an ongoing priority across the Municipality and the preparation of the Biodiversity Strategy is a key recommendation which will identify that priorities for future management of the botanical values in open space are required. Refer to Recommendations in Section 6.2 of this Strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS 3.2

The review of the hierarchy and character of open space has informed the Recommendations in the Strategy. Refer to Sections 4, 5 and 6 for specific recommendations that address the design and management of the existing open space system and where additional open space is required.

4. Open space distribution and quantity

NOTE: Throughout the Strategy the term '**gap**' is used. For the purposes of this Strategy, this term refers to the areas where there is no open space within the agreed safe walking distance* from surrounding residents. These 'gaps' can be addressed in a number of ways such as providing improved links via ancillary open space, streetscapes or other public land, improved road/barrier crossings and provision of additional open space.

* For safe walking distances, refer to Table 3~1, p. 13 in this Strategy.

4.1 Opportunities to improve linear links and connections

The community and Council have identified completion of linear trail links to be a priority issue to be addressed in the Strategy. After review of the existing open space network, there is potential to improve the open space linear links in a number of locations which are illustrated in **Figure 4~1**. The gaps are summarised as follows:

- A Dandenong Creek to Gardiners Creek
- B Gardiners Creek
- C Gardiners Creek to Koonung Creek (via Bushy Creek)
- D Gardiners Creek to Blackburn Lake Sanctuary
- E Forest Hill to Gardiners Creek

- F Pipe Track Reserve
- G Heatherdale Parklands to Pipe Track Reserve
- H Heatherdale Parklands to Heatherdale Creek
- I Heatherdale Creek to Dandenong Creek
- J Koonung Creek to Mullum Mullum Creek
- K Antonio New Lands Park to Mullum Mullum Creek
- L Gawler Chain Bushy Creek
- M Victoria Glenmore Chain to Surrey Park
- N Lundgren Chain Reserve to Gardiners Creek
- O Blackburn Lake Sanctuary to Nunawading
- P Bellbird Dell north and south and to Dandenong Creek
- Q Collina Glen to Hillcrest Reserve on Mullum Mullum Creek
- R Elmhurst Basin to Cootamundra Walk
- S Cootamundra Walk West to Cootamundra Walk East

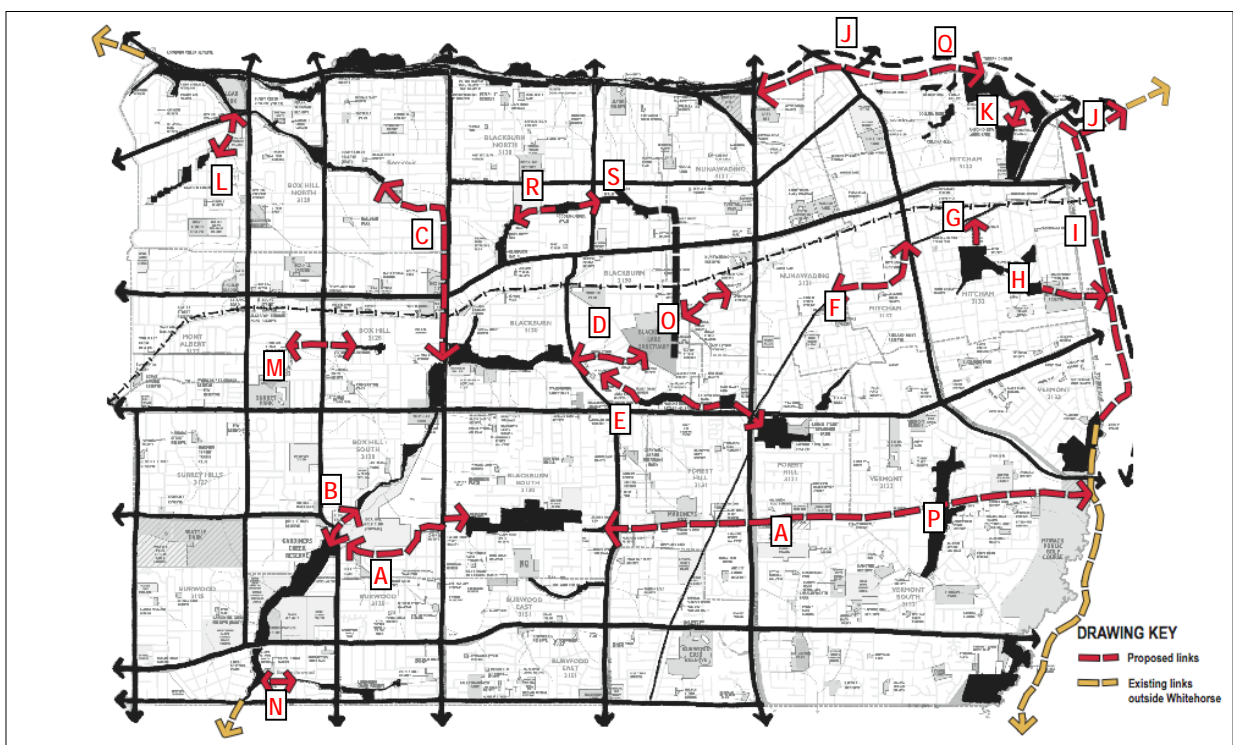


Fig. 4~1 Opportunities to improve linear links and connections

CONCLUSIONS 4.1

There are three broad categories of gaps in the linear open space system:

- Regional shared trail links which are provided for residents of the broader metropolitan region and Whitehorse residents. These Regional links involve other agencies including Parks Victoria and VicRoads to achieve them.
- Local connections into the Regional linear open space reserves which are primarily provided for the benefit of Whitehorse residents. These local links are primarily the responsibility of Council but may also involve VicRoads and adjoining municipalities.

- Local connections between Municipal reserves to improve connectivity and access to these reserves for Whitehorse residents. These local links are primarily the responsibility of Council.

In addition to the gaps in the linear open space outlined in this section, there is a finer grain of analysis of open space distribution (i.e. outside of linear trail links) undertaken at the suburb level. Refer to the precinct recommendations in **Part Two** of this Strategy for these.

It is recognised that not all the linear open space links can be made via open space and off-road links. The Recommendations identify whether the link is to be made via an on-road link, areas where additional open space is desirable to create off-road links and locations where open space is necessary to make the link. In all cases, the interim and short-term solutions are to improve the on-road path connections.

RECOMMENDATIONS 4.1

A series of recommendations are outlined below. Where an Agency code (refer to page vii) is in bold, this indicates a major role, and where they are left un-bold, they are referral agencies or have a minor role. Parks Victoria is in bold in addition to Council in actions where the works are catering to regional as well as local needs.

Priority table for Recommendations in the Strategy

Priority	Timeframe
H1	Years 1 to 3
H2	Years 4 to 7
H3	Years 8 to 11
H4	Years 12 to 15
O	Ongoing
LT	Longer-term, beyond 15 year planning horizon (grey text)
D	Linked to development occurring

A **Dandenong Creek to Gardiners Creek**

The east-west connection between these two creeks and catchments is an opportunity afforded both by the existing Healesville Freeway Reservation and the existing system of reserves between Springvale Road and Gardiners Creek. This would provide increased connectivity for Whitehorse residents to the existing system of bushland reserves including Wurundjeri Walk and Bellbird Dell. Refer to **Section 27.6, Part Two** of this Strategy for further specific recommendations.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.1.1	Council to investigate with VicRoads an east-west shared trail connection along the Healesville Freeway Reserve between the Dandenong Creek and Springvale Road. Refer to Recommendations in Section 27.6.	H1 C (pl, os) VR

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.1.2	Council to investigate with VicRoads an open space as part of the east-west connection where there is existing open space values that require protection. This includes the land in the vicinity of Bellbird Dell, Old Strathdon Orchard, Davy Lane and the Community Gardens. Refer to Recommendations in Section 27.6	H1 C (pl, os) VR
4.1.3	Provide a safe crossing point over Springvale Road at Old Strathdon Orchard and improve the on-street links to Mahoneys Reserve and Wurundjeri Walk. Where possible, provide these links on streets that already have Local or Small Local open space reserves located on them. Refer to Recommendations in Section 20.6 and 17.6.	H3 C (os, inf) VR
4.1.4	Continue to investigate opportunities to link this shared trail connection from Wurundjeri Walk/Wetlands west to Gardiners Creek. This includes liaison with private landholders including Box Hill Golf Course and large industrial landholders and Council's Depot. An interim on-road trail link (consistent with the Bicycle Strategy) will be required with long-term opportunities identified for an off-road link. Refer to Recommendations in Section 14.6 and Section 17.6.	O C

B Gardiners Creek

Station Street in Box Hill is a barrier to direct safe off-road access along Gardiners Creek which is well used to the east and west of Station Street and the provision of a more direct link across Station Street will improve the safety and usability of the trail for regional visitors and residents of Whitehorse.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.1.5	Council and Parks Victoria along with other relevant agencies and landholders to continue to investigate a more direct, and where possible, off-road shared trail link from Sycamore Street and across Station Street Box Hill to connect to the existing shared trail downstream.	H2 C (os, inf), PV, VR

C Gardiners Creek to Koonung Creek (via Bushy Creek)

This is a regional shared trail link included in Parks Victoria regional open space plan *Linking People & Spaces (2002)*. The investigation will be via the existing road and open space network to determine the most suitable link.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.1.6	Council to investigate and construct a shared trail connection between the Gardiners Creek trail and Koonung Creek via Bushy Creek trail. This will allow a circuit shared trail network along the Yarra River, Koonung Creek and Gardiners Creek. The shared trail will need to partially be an on-road link and may require liaison with VicRoads depending on the final alignment selected.	LT C (os, inf), PV, VR

D Gardiners Creek to Blackburn Lake Sanctuary

This connection will improve regional and local access to Blackburn Lake Sanctuary from the Gardiners Creek trail. The long-term objective is to achieve an off-road open space link which recognises the regional significance of this reserve and the importance of Gardiners Creek to the Whitehorse community. Parks Victoria has identified this in the regional open space plan for Melbourne *Linking People & Spaces (2002)*.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.1.7	Council to improve the on-road shared trail connection between Furness Park and Blackburn Lake Sanctuary. This may include utilising Jamieson Reserve as part of this link along with footpath widening and signage.	LT C (os, inf) PV
4.1.8	In the longer-term, investigate means to achieve public access through freehold land connecting the smaller series of reserves including Jamieson Reserve, Naughton Grove and Jeffrey Street Reserve.	LT C (pl, os) PV

E Forest Hill to Gardiners Creek (including Blackburn Lake Sanctuary and Blackburn Creeklands)

This is a local open space and path link to establish improved access between Blackburn and Forest Hill including to the Aqualink Nunawading located in Forest Hill Reserve. The tributary flowing through the northern part of the Forest Hill Reserve is a tributary of Gardiners Creek. The signalled intersection at Springvale Road and Canterbury Roads has pram crossings and footpath connections from Forest Hill Reserve to the north-western side in the commercial precinct. There is potential to liaise with Melbourne Water to investigate opening up access through Glen Valley Retarding Basin, or alternatively investigate the on-road link through Glen Valley Road. The tributary flows downstream through Masons Road Retarding Basin and there are two sections of freehold land ownership to the waterway which is a barrier to public access.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.1.9	Council to investigate the potential to improve the open space and trail link from Forest Hill Reserve to the Gardiners Creek including Blackburn Lake Sanctuary and Blackburn Creeklands. This includes connections and access to and between Glen Valley Park, Masons Road Retarding Basin and Furness Park. This will include a combination of on-road and off-road path connections.	LT C (os, inf) MW

F Pipe Track Reserve

This linear connection will be required in the longer-term when a future linear trail is constructed along the length of the Pipe Track Reserve. The connection is likely to be via the street network rather than open space reserves.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.1.10	Council to continue discussions with Melbourne Water to reach a suitable management agreement for the Pipe Track Reserve	O C (os, infr) MW
4.1.11	Council to investigate a direct link between the two sections of Pipe Track Reserve between Nunawading and Mitcham. This is likely to be an on-road link with safe crossings, signage and improved pedestrian and cycle amenity.	LT C (os, infr) MW

G Heatherdale Parklands to Pipe Track Reserve

The connection between these two trails will provide a trail link to the north including potentially to Mullum Mullum Creek and the Eastern Rail Trail.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.1.12	Council to improve the connection via the street network to link Somers Trail and the Pipe Track Reserve.	LT C (os, inf)

H Heatherdale Parklands to Heatherdale Creek

This provides a local open space link to the south and potentially to Dandenong Creek residents of the Mitcham area.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.1.13	Council to investigate a safe crossing/link over Heatherdale Road to the future trail link along Heatherdale Creek to Dandenong Creek. As this is subject to Eastlink construction, this Action has been given a high priority to resolve it as part of the regional trail network via the Eastlink.	H1 C (pl, os) VR, AM

I Heatherdale Creek to Dandenong Creek

This is a broader regional link that will benefit Whitehorse residents but is located to the east of the Municipality boundaries. These regional links will be led by VicRoads and the adjoining municipalities, however, Whitehorse is to be involved to ensure there is a link to Whitehorse residents via Heatherdale Parklands.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.1.14	Council to continue to liaise with VicRoads and adjoining municipalities (particularly Maroondah City Council) to achieve path links to Heatherdale Parklands to Heatherdale and Dandenong Creeks.	H1 AM, VR, C (os,pl) MW

J Koonung Creek to Mullum Mullum Creek

This regional link is identified by Parks Victoria and is to be resolved in conjunction with the Eastlink.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.1.15	Council to liaise with VicRoads, Parks Victoria and adjoining municipalities to achieve a shared trail link from Koonung Creek to Mullum Mullum Creek as part of the proposed Mullum Mullum Park. The trail link is to be integrated with the Eastlink construction and include liaison with Manningham and Maroondah City Councils.	H1 C (os, pl) VR, AM

K Antonio New Lands Park to Mullum Mullum Creek

This local connection is a future open space and path link into the Mullum Mullum Creek linear open space system and the proposed Mullum Mullum Park. Council is to identify future opportunities to achieve this with any future development that may occur in this area.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.1.16	Council to investigate open space off-road path connections into the Mullum Mullum Creek trail from Antonio New Lands Park and Wattle Valley Triangle.	LT & O C (os)

L Gawler Chain to Bushy Creek

This is a local open space link to provide improved access for residents of Mont Albert North to the linear reserve systems of Koonung Creek and Bushy Creek.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.1.17	Council to investigate on-road links from Gawler Chain to the	LT

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
	Bushy Creek and Koonung Creek trail, via Arnott Street and the wide nature strip on the western side of Box Hill Crescent, and a crossing over Belmore Road.	C (os, inf)

M Victoria Glenmore Chain to Surrey Park

This local open space link is to provide improved access to Neighbourhood open space for residents in this area of Box Hill. The area is identified as a Higher Density Precinct which means it is anticipated there will be an increased number of residents in the next ten to fifteen years.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.1.18	Council to improve the on-road links between Victoria Glenmore Chain and Surrey Park over Station Street to improve accessibility and use of Surrey Park by Box Hill residents east of Station Street. This area is located within a Higher Density Precinct and is therefore anticipated to receive higher levels of use (Refer to Recommendation 4.3.15).	LT C (pl, os)
4.1.19	Council to identify opportunities to achieve additional open space as an extension to the Victoria Glenmore Chain in future development applications in the area to improve the east-west link between Thurston Street road reserve and Victoria/Glenmore Chain. Refer to Recommendation 5.3.1.2 for the description of this recommendation in the context of the Box Hill Principal Activity Centre.	H3/D C (pl, os)

N Lundgren Chain Reserve to Gardiners Creek

This local link is to connect the Lundgren Chain to Gardiners Creek. This would require additional open space.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.1.20	Council to continue to investigate opportunities to extend the off-road path connection from Lundgren Chain Reserve through to Gardiners Creek.	LT & O C (os, pl)

O Blackburn Lake Sanctuary to Nunawading

This local and regional link has the potential to provide off-road shared trail access from Springvale Road near Nunawading Station to Blackburn Lake Sanctuary and the residents of Blackburn. The tributary of Gardiners Creek through here has some public open space reserved along it near Springvale Road. The tributary then flows through private land to Central Road adjacent to Blackburn Lake Sanctuary. This will require ongoing liaison for Council with the private landholders to achieve public access. The need for this link will increase as the Nunawading Megamile Activity Centre develops.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.1.21	Investigate provision of linear open space corridor and linear path link from Blackburn Lake Sanctuary upstream to Tyne Close Reserve which then completes the link to Springvale Road and the Nunawading Activity Centre.	O C (os, pl)

P Bellbird Dell north and south and to Dandenong Creek

Bellbird Dell is a Municipal reserve with nature conservation and unstructured recreation facilities. There is a need to secure the north-south connection between these reserves which is over the Healesville Freeway Reserve owned by VicRoads.

This connection is required for nature conservation and recreational purposes. There is also an opportunity to establish a shared trail link to the Dandenong Creek shared trail (refer to recommendations in Section 6.2). There is potential to substantially improve the Municipal reserve and regional connection utilising the Parks Victoria land as a key entry point to the Dandenong Creek, Campbells Croft and Bellbird Dell. Refer to Part Two of the Strategy for further description of this.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.1.22	Council to negotiate with VicRoads to secure an open space and path link between Bellbird Dell north and south.	H1 C (pl, os)VR
4.1.23	Council to negotiate with VicRoads to secure a linear open space connection between Bellbird Dell and Dandenong Creek to protect and improve nature conservation values and recreational access to the regional trail along Dandenong Creek.	H1 & O C (pl, os) VR, PV

Q Collina Glen /Cassella Street to Hillcrest Reserve on Mullum Mullum Creek

This local link to Hillcrest Reserve in the adjoining municipality is for both recreation and nature conservation purposes and will provide a connection to the regional linear reserve along Mullum Mullum Creek.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.1.24	Council to liaise with City of Manningham to investigate a suitable open space link between Hillcrest Reserve and Collina Glen.	H2 C (os), AM

R Cootamundra Walk (west)

Elmhurst Basin, James Street Link and Stanley Reserve are linked open space reserves on the same drainage line as Cootamundra Walk. There is currently a gap in the open space and potentially in the overstorey canopy link between Stanley Reserve and Cootamundra Walk, and the Cootamundra Walk Advisory Committee have worked with the Blackburn High School to encourage revegetation projects on the school grounds. This may be achieved along the southern boundary of Blackburn High School in consultation with DET.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.1.25	Investigate the potential to improve pedestrian safety and access between Stanley Reserve and Cootamundra Walk. This will include liaison with Blackburn High School to investigate the potential to take an off-road path and indigenous overstorey link through the southern part of the High School grounds. Alternatively the link will need to be established along Stanley Grove.	LT C (os, inf) DEET

S Cootamundra Walk (east)

There is a gap in the open space link between Cootamundra Walk east and Cootamundra Walk west. Whilst this is not a high priority, achieving a continuous open space link through Cootamundra Walk will improve the recreational values.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.1.26	Investigate the long-term opportunity to achieve an off-road open space connection and extension of Cootamundra Walk from Cootamundra Crescent to Surrey Road.	LT C (os, pl)

4.2 Open space distribution analysis of the provision of open space



Fig. 4~2 Areas where land area as open space will be required within the next 15 years and in the longer-term

Areas with inadequate provision of open space

The Open Space Hierarchy, refer to **Section 3.1**, has been applied to the existing open space system across Whitehorse. Municipal open space is well provided for with a Municipal reserve within 2 kilometres of all residents in Whitehorse. Neighbourhood, Local or Small Local open space reserves are well provided for in the majority of areas with some gaps in their provision. For a full discussion of the open space distribution analysis, please refer to **Section B1.4.2** in the Issues Paper and **Part Three** of this Strategy. In summary, whilst there is a reasonable amount of open space overall, there are some areas in the Municipality where residents have to walk further than the distances specified in the hierarchy to reach open space. This can be addressed in a range of ways including improving safety of road crossings to improve access, interim agreements with other authorities, such as schools, to negotiate use of their land.

Due to historical development patterns, the western part of the Municipality has more areas where gaps occur with the largest of these being in the vicinity of Box Hill South.

Criteria for prioritising where new land area for open space is required

Providing new land area as open space is recognised to be expensive and difficult in existing urban areas. In order to prioritise areas where additional land is required, which is distinct from areas where other improvements can help overcome difficulties of access to open space, the following criteria has been developed and applied to the analysis.

Additional land area for open space is required:

- Where there is no open space adjoining the gap area within the specified reasonable walking distances including the need to cross major roads or railways.
- Where there is no other ancillary open space (other than streets) available to the public as an alternative to public open space (e.g. public school grounds or urban plazas).
- Where there is no open space in adjoining municipalities within the specified walking distance.
- Where there are concentrations of future planned residential growth (i.e. in the Activity Centres)

Applying the aforementioned criteria across the gap areas identifies that there are 18 areas where land area for Local or Small Local open space is required. These areas have been separated into high priority and lower priority areas. These are represented with two shades of green in **Figure 4-2**.

Within the 18 areas highlighted as requiring land, 13 of these areas are identified for the next fifteen years, with the other 5 areas as longer-term priorities. There are opportunities to undertake other improvements to address gaps including improving connections across barriers (i.e. major roads and railways) and the on-street links between existing reserves. This will depend on the type of future land area that is provided as to whether it is suitable for a broader catchment of users.

CONCLUSIONS 4.2

Some areas of Whitehorse currently require residents to travel further than the safe walking distance (*Table 3-1, p. 13*) to Neighbourhood, Local and Small Local open space. **Figure 4-2** highlights the areas where access may be more difficult, referred to as the 'gap' areas. In accordance with sound open space planning principles and recently reinforced in Melbourne 2030, it is an aim to have open space within safe and reasonable walking distance of residents. It is acknowledged that in existing urban areas, it is not always possible to achieve this, but where possible, improvements to access and use of open space by residents are identified in this Strategy. Encouraging walking access to open space has the wider benefit to the broader community's physical and mental health.

RECOMMENDATIONS 4.2

In existing urban areas, as with Whitehorse, there is a range of ways to improve access to open space for residents. These include the following:

- improve the walkability of the local streets in the neighbourhood to encourage those with adequate fitness levels to safely reach open space beyond their local area;
- address the barriers to safe walking access which includes major roads and railway lines with the inclusion of additional crossing points including lights/underpasses, central median pedestrian refuges, etc; and
- provide additional areas of open space within the 'gap' areas.

4.2.1 Improve walkability of local streets

The consultation outcomes identified that around 80% of respondents use local streets for exercise. Whilst streets do not replace open space, they can be made more pedestrian friendly to encourage people to walk rather than drive to open space. This includes planting street trees for shade, providing pram crossings at intersections for access, providing footpaths on both sides of the road and regular maintenance of footpath surfaces. Refer to Precinct Recommendations, Part Two of the Strategy, for specific improvements.

4.2.2 Addressing barriers to safe walking access to open space

Major roads and railways form barriers to direct and safe access to open space. This can be a physical and psychological barrier. Generally, most fit and healthy adults will cross a major road to reach open space and this would not be a disincentive to visiting open space. People who are less physically able may be deterred or prevented from visiting open space if there is a need to cross a major road without any assistance. Installation of pedestrian crossings, overpasses, central median/refuge islands, signals and traffic calming can assist to make crossing roads/railways easier for the less mobile. Whilst these measures will improve the situation, Council will continue to seek opportunities to provide at least Small Local open space within reasonable walking distance of residents. Part Two of the Strategy contains recommendations to address these where appropriate.

4.2.3 Additional areas of open space

The Strategy recommends locations where new land areas are required, summarised in **Figure 4-2** and included in Recommendations in Section 5 of Part One and throughout the Precinct Recommendations in Part Two of the Strategy. Additional land area as open space in existing urban areas can be achieved in a range of ways including:

- requiring land area as an open space contribution;
- acquire land;
- change of use of existing Council owned or public land including roads;
- Committee of Management or other management ownership/agreements; and
- a combination of the above.

Land that is being considered for open space needs to be suitable for that purpose and criteria has been developed for Council to guide future assessment of whether proposed land parcels are suitable as open space in **Table 4-2, p. 36**.

Table 4~2 Assessment criteria for assessment of future proposals for land area as public open space

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION
Accessibility	Physical access into the site including the inherent topography and ability to make the site safe and accessible to people with limited mobility or with a disability. (Note - refer also to Transport, Visibility, Condition and Location in this list of Criteria for other access related issues).
Adjoining land use	The influence of adjoining land use on the ecological, social and cultural value of the open space.
Amenity	Visual and passive amenity values relates to the influence open space has on the liveability of neighbourhoods, providing visual relief from built form, the break open space provides from noise levels associated with traffic and other urban land use activities and adequate levels of sunlight (at least 5 hours a day).
Council Policies	The land is subject to other planning processes and policies that may be consistent or inconsistent with all or part of the site becoming public open space.
Condition	The existing physical condition of the land which may have inherent issues such as contamination or weed infestation which have a significant financial or safety implications for Council if the land becomes public open space.
Ecological	Includes the site's existing biodiversity values and the sites potential to contribute to the protection and enhancement of these values along with a site's contribution to existing or future habitat corridors.
Equity	All residents in the Municipality should have reasonable access to public open space.
Financial (land acquisition and improvement)	The cost to Council in obtaining and improving the land as open space.
Heritage character	Indigenous and non-indigenous values that could be enhanced and protected in the open space. These values will also influence the future use and design of the open space.
Landscape character	Its contribution to the character and attractiveness of the neighbourhood.
Location/Linkages	The sites contribution to the wider open space network including forming open space corridor links. This includes consideration of the other strategic planning projects in Council for future expansion of the residential population, and where it is appropriate, to provide connections.
Ongoing maintenance & management	The ongoing cost and responsibility for Council to maintain and manage the land.
Ownership	Where the land is already in public ownership, there is more potential for Council to negotiate to obtain the land without the need for purchase. Where the land is privately owned, there are methods for acquiring the land through open space contributions.
Recreation	The potential for the site to accommodate a range of formal and informal recreational uses. These can include organised sports, play, sitting, walking, jogging, exercising, informal games, picnicking and dog walking.
Services/Easements	Extent of other services which may restrict access including water supply, power supply, flood mitigation and drainage.

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION
Size	The minimum size for the site to meet its intended purpose, on its own or in combination with adjoining land. Refer to minimum size parcels for each type of open space as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional open space, unlimited • Municipal open space, minimum 3 hectares • Neighbourhood open space, minimum 1 hectare • Local open space, minimum 0.26 hectare (up to 0.99 hectare) • Small Local open space, 0.03 hectares (up to 0.25 hectare) • Linking space, minimum 5 metres wide
Transport	The range of transport options for residents to access the site including proximity to public transport, linear shared trails and major roads.
Visibility	The site's visual prominence to maximise its use and contribution to the broader community. Generally, land which has at two access points and local roads to two sides.

The assessment criteria in this table can be used to determine the suitability of any future open space that is provided as part of redevelopment including in Strategic Sites and Activity Centres.

Refer to the precinct level recommendations in **Section Two** of this Strategy for specific recommendations to address the open space distribution and provision.

4.2.4 Potential disposal of open space

The consultation and site assessment work completed for the project has identified that residents in Whitehorse highly value their open space. The household survey outcomes included a large number of comments that no further loss of open space should occur in the Municipality. The provision of open space is one of the main reasons why those who responded to the questionnaire live in Whitehorse.

The assessment work undertaken for the Strategy, particularly in regard to the Local and Small Local open space is not detailed enough to determine whether areas of open space are excess to requirements. During more detailed assessment, analysis and consultation in the future, Council may find that some reserves do not meet some of the assessment criteria for functional and useable open space (*Refer Table 4~2, p.36*). This may include issues such as a small isolated reserve which is servicing residents in a local street but is difficult for other residents to access. In this situation, Council may wish to consolidate their resources by disposing of the small reserve and using the funds to improve other nearby open space. Alternatively, opportunities may arise to secure a new piece of land which is highly suitable for open space and make a less accessible piece of open space nearby surplus to requirements. Each of these cases would need to be assessed at a more detailed level than this Strategy is able to do to determine an appropriate course of action. This would in all cases involve consultation with the local community.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.2.4.1	If an open space reserve is investigated for future disposal, a thorough written assessment is required on how the reserve does not meet the assessment criteria for suitable open space included in Table 4~2, p. 36 of the Open Space Strategy and how it will result in an overall improvement to the open space in a local neighbourhood.	O C (os)

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.2.4.2	Council to consult with the community regarding any potential investigation on disposal of open space where it is assessed to be excess to community needs.	O C (os)
4.2.4.3	If an open space reserve is deemed excess to requirements and Recommendations 4.2.4.1 and 4.2.4.2 have been accepted, all funds from the potential sale are to be spent on open space in the local neighbourhood where the sale occurred.	O C (os)

4.3 Ancillary open space role in the open space network

Ancillary open space is publicly owned land that is not formally reserved as open space but is regularly used for recreational purposes by the community. This includes streets, urban plazas, public schools, public universities, colleges and railway reserves. Refer to **Section B1.11 of Part Three** of the Strategy for further background information.

CONCLUSIONS 4.3

Whilst this Strategy cannot directly inform the provision, design and management of Ancillary Open Space, it does recognise that they contribute to recreating, socialising and enjoying the outdoors. As they do contribute to the open space network, changes to them may affect the recreational use and access and alter the perceived need for public open space. The value of these spaces for their visual and recreational use should be considered in the future planning, design and management of them.

RECOMMENDATIONS 4.3

4.3.1 Streets

Whilst streets are reserved primarily for transport purposes, their use for recreation and connectivity between open space reserves is critical to good access to open space. Council already have in place a Streetscape Strategy which provides direction on street tree planting and maintenance programs. Council also have an ongoing street maintenance and upgrade program which is directed by their Road Management Plan. It is important to note however, that streets are not a replacement for open space as they are only suitable for walking and in some cases cycling but not for the range of other recreational uses parks provide including ball games, meeting places, picnics, BBQs and playgrounds.

It is Council's aim to improve the connectivity between open space and encourage the use of streets by pedestrians and cyclists to improve these links and overall community health. Encouraging residents to walk also achieves the environmental sustainability objectives of decreasing car use, particularly for short local trips to the shops, schools and open space.

Linear links and connections

There are some streets which have been identified as part of establishing the linear shared trail or walking link connections. These are highlighted in **Figure 4-1** and specific Recommendations described in **Section 4.1**.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.3.1.1	Establish an internal referral system to have input to the road planning and design in streets which form linear links and connections between open space. This will allow pedestrian and cycle use along with streetscape amenity and nature conservation values to be considered in the ongoing upgrade of roads. These are likely to occur across the road hierarchy including link, collector and access roads.	H1 & O C (os)

Streets in gap areas

Streets in areas with some deficiencies in open space are to be identified as a priority for streetscape works including street tree planting, footpath repair, inclusion of pram crossings, traffic calming and pedestrian crossings to improve access to open space reserves which are further away. These areas are highlighted on **Figure 4-2**.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.3.1.2	Establish an internal referral system to have input to the road planning and design in streets located in gap areas. This includes assessment of improvements to be made to the pedestrian and cycle access along the streets and into open space reserves. Refer to the Precinct Recommendations in Section Two of this Strategy for specific recommendations.	H1 & O C (os, inf)

Streets in the vicinity of nature conservation reserves

The street network can provide some connectivity in regards to presence of overstorey trees between or in proximity to nature conservation reserves. These areas are highlighted on **Figure 6-2**. The Streetscape Strategy is the key implementation tool for this.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.3.1.3	Continue to implement the Whitehorse Streetscape Strategy to strengthen the nature conservation values in proximity to and between nature conservation reserves.	O C (pw)

Large median strips and central medians

These are primarily located on the major arterial roads through Whitehorse and contribute to the treed character of the Municipality. The central median in Box Hill contains a war memorial (which is being moved), established planting and seating, however, its position restricts the use of these open space areas. Council currently have plans to develop this as part of the Box Hill Structure Plan and Urban Design Framework.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.3.1.4	Council to liaise with VicRoads to maintain the central medians for the major arterial roads through Whitehorse in recognition of their contribution to the overall open space character and image of the Municipality.	O C (os, ud, pw) VR

4.3.2 Urban plazas and malls

The public street closure/malls in Whitehorse include:

- The Box Hill Mall which is located in the main Box Hill Activity centre near the train station. The Mall is a meeting place and includes seating, paved areas and street trees in the commercial and transport hub of Box Hill. The Mall has been through a number of design changes since Market and Main Streets were closed to traffic. The future direction of this public mall is guided by other strategies including the Box Hill Urban Design Framework and the Box Hill Structure Plan.
- Britannia Mall is near the corner of Mitcham Road and Whitehorse Road in Mitcham and is included in the Mitcham Neighbourhood Activity Centre Structure Plan currently being prepared. The Structure Plan will guide the future design and function of Britannia Mall.
- Brentford Square on Canterbury Road in Forest Hill is a shopping precinct and the future design of the mall will be guided by future urban design and streetscape plans for this area.

Other urban spaces include outdoor areas as part of the linear shopping precincts across the Municipality.

As part of the current Urban Design Frameworks and Structure Plans, it is anticipated that additional urban plazas and spaces will be designed within the Activity Centres in Whitehorse. Funding, maintenance and management of these spaces will be guided by other areas of Council and the State Government, however, their ancillary role within the open space network is acknowledged.

Recommendations 4.3.2

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.3.2.1	Arts and Recreation Development to provide open space and recreation context and input to the design development of urban spaces acknowledging that they are the responsibility of other areas of Council.	O C (os, ud)

4.3.3 Department of Education & Training land

The Department of Education & Training (DE&T) is responsible for schools and TAFE Colleges in Whitehorse. Some of the DE&T land is available for public use either informally or as part of agreements between the DE&T and Whitehorse City Council. The agreements are for structured sporting use, however, there is informal use of these grounds and external facilities after hours by the general community. The presence of the open space as part of the schools, colleges and university grounds contributes to the green character and provides a break in the urban form. Whilst they contribute to the public open space system, these areas of land can be redeveloped for other education purposes at any time and Council do not have control over the condition, design and retention of the open space and recreation facilities. The Strategy therefore acknowledges that they complement the open space network, however, it is important that they are not considered as replacement for provision of adequate public open space and recreation facilities on public land reserved for recreation or nature conservation purposes.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
4.3.3.1	Council to continue to develop partnerships with schools, colleges and universities to utilise recreation facilities consistent with the Recreation Strategy Plan.	O C (os), DE&T
4.3.3.2	Council to investigate opportunities to develop partnerships with schools, colleges and universities in precincts where there are gaps in open space provision. These have been identified to occur in Mont Albert North, Box Hill North (Kerrimuir), Blackburn North, Box Hill South, Blackburn South and Mitcham. Refer to the Precinct Recommendations for further information in Part Two of the Strategy.	O C (os), DE&T

4.3.4 Railway land

The railway extends east-west across Whitehorse generally just south of Whitehorse Road. The Whitehorse Bicycle Strategy has identified the future provision of a cycle path along the railway which will improve east-west connectivity in the City. The future Biodiversity Strategy may also identify the railway land has a role in habitat corridors. The Open Space Strategy recognises these important ancillary linear corridor uses for railway land.

5 Open space for future change

5.1 Demographic change

The population profile is anticipated to change between 2006 and 2011. Proportionally the age structure trends are shown in **Table 5~1**.

Table 5~1 Forecast age structure trends 2006-2011

Age range	Forecast trend from 2006 to 2011	Proportion of population 2011
0 to 4	slight decline from 5.7% to 5.4%	5.4%
5 to 11	slight decline from 7.7% to 7.5%	7.5%
12 to 17	stable at 6.6%	6.6%
18 to 24	stable at 8.9%	8.9%
25 to 34	moderate decline from 14.1% to 13.7%	13.7%
35 to 49	slight decline from 21.9% to 21.7%	21.7%
50 to 59	slight decline from 12.3% to 12.2%	12.2%
60 to 69	moderate increase from 9.8% to 10.4%	10.4%
70 to 84	slight increase from 11% to 11.2%	1.2%
85+	slight increase from 2.1% to 2.2%	2.2%

These figures illustrate that the largest proportion of the population will be in the 35 to 49 age range, followed by the 24 to 34 and the 50 to 59 age. The trends are towards an ageing population with an increase in the 60 to 85+ age range, stable between 12 to 24, and decline in the 0 to 11 and the 23 to 50 age range.

CONCLUSIONS 5.1

Future open space planning needs to take into account the ageing population whilst recognising that the younger age groups, though slightly declining, will still make up a reasonable proportion of the population.

RECOMMENDATIONS 5.1

These trends have informed the recommendations made throughout the Strategy.

5.2 Where change will occur

From 2006 to 2021, population and housing change in Whitehorse will vary across the Municipality. The Council has developed estimates by suburb including the amount of change anticipated in some of the Activity Centres. The estimated population and dwelling numbers used in the Strategy are sourced from the Council's Housing Study (2003), the current Eastern Regional Housing Statement and i.d. Consulting population and housing forecasts prepared for the City of Whitehorse. These estimates were prepared at different times and for different planning periods but provide consistent and useful data to plan for future open space needs. Structure Plans and Urban Design Frameworks are being prepared for some Activity Centres and the Strategy discussion reflects these where relevant.

The main areas of change in Whitehorse over the next 15 years will be in larger Activity Centres (which may include commercial, mixed and residential areas) and key redevelopment sites (strategic sites) identified by Council in its Housing Study (2003) as suitable for higher residential density development. Some suburbs will experience infill development. Growth in all of these areas, along with minimal change or decline in other suburbs, must be considered in identifying the quantity and type of open space needed in the future.

One aim of Activity Centre planning is to increase the density and diversity of housing in and adjoining commercial centres where the business mix and redevelopment opportunities support residential growth. Strengthening the centres is also expected to bring an increase in employment/workers (not currently quantified) and visitors with the greatest change anticipated during the next 15 years in larger commercial centres such as Box Hill, Burwood Heights, Tally Ho and Forest Hill Chase. Student and worker numbers are also expected to increase at Deakin University which is developing a master plan for new facilities.

In 2001, the total population of the City was estimated at 147,085. By 2006, it was estimated at 149,640. It is expected to increase by almost 11,800 people between 2006 and 2021 bringing the population to a total of about 161,450 by 2021 which is an

overall growth rate of about 8%. This is based on an increase of almost 6,200 households during the period with the average number of persons per household falling from 2.48 in 2006 to 2.43 in 2021. *Table 5-2* describes the trends for forecast population and dwelling numbers between 2006 and 2021 (i.d. Consulting figures).

Table 5-2 Forecast population and dwelling trends 2006-2021

Suburb	Forecast trend from 2006 to 2021	Total population 2006	Total population 2021	Total dwellings 2006	Total dwellings 2021
Blackburn	Population increase of 7% with dwelling increase of 8%	12,680	13,601	5,200	5,623
Blackburn North	Population increase of 8% with dwelling increase of 9%	7,134	7,676	2,766	2,997
Blackburn South	Population and dwelling increase of 7%	10,621	11,330	4,189	4,477
Box Hill	Highest level of population increase of 25% with 29% increase in dwellings, reflecting the presence of the Box Hill Activity Centre	8,737	10,897	3,885	4,943
Box Hill North	Population increase of 4% with dwelling increase of 5%	10,966	11,390	4,535	4,771
Box Hill South	Population increase of 4% with dwelling increase of 7%	7,751	8,068	3,230	3,438
Burwood	Population increase of 5% with dwelling increase of 6%	10,082	10,636	4,103	4,332
Burwood East	Population increase of 18% with 21% increase in dwellings, reflecting the presence of the Burwood Heights Activity Centre	10,115	11,979	3,934	4,731
Forest Hill	Population increase of 6% with dwelling increase of 8%	10,064	10,714	4,062	4,363
Mitcham	Population increase of 8% with dwelling increase of 12%, reflecting the presence of the Mitcham Activity Centre	14,783	16,036	6,144	6,819
Mont Albert	Population increase of 7% with dwelling increase of 15%	4,731	5,084	1,907	2,164
Mont Albert North	Population increase of 2% with dwelling increase of 6%	5,346	5,459	2,114	2,231
Nunawading	Population increase of 9% with dwelling increase of 13%, reflecting the presence of the Nunawading Megamile Activity Centre	10,597	11,589	4,501	5,080

Suburb	Forecast trend from 2006 to 2021	Total population 2006	Total population 2021	Total dwellings 2006	Total dwellings 2021
Surrey Hills	Population decline of 2% with dwelling increase of 5%	5,199	5,098	2,050	2,137
Vermont	Population decline of 2% with dwelling increase of 3%	9,218	9,074	3,683	3,780
Vermont South	Population increase of 10% with dwelling increase of 15%	11,614	12,795	4,052	4,632
Whitehorse totals	Overall population increase of 8% with 11% increase in dwellings	149,638	161,426	60,355	66,518

The figures in the table indicate that population change will vary greatly across the Whitehorse Municipality requiring evaluation of open space at the suburb level or below. The general trend is that increased dwelling densities will not be matched by an equal population increase, reflecting a decline in household size. Overall, the figures indicate 8% growth in the population over the next 15 years and housed in 11% more dwellings than those that exist today.

Refer to **Section B1.5 in Part Three** of the Strategy for additional population and dwelling data.

CONCLUSIONS 5.2

Future open space planning needs to take into account the increase in residential population and where development is likely to occur. There are significant variations across the Municipality, with some suburbs expected to account for substantial increases while others will remain static or decline in population.

RECOMMENDATIONS 5.2

The population and dwelling forecasts have informed the recommendations made throughout the Strategy. The recommendations are focussed towards ensuring adequate provision of open space for the new population, meeting current best practice principles of walkable neighbourhoods and diversity of open space that builds on the green and bushland character that Whitehorse is known for.

5.3 Activity Centres

Activity Centres are the locations where the most concentrated change will occur over the 15 year planning horizon of the Open Space Strategy. Activity Centres include substantial change residential areas (higher density precincts - HDP) and most of the strategic redevelopment sites identified through Council's Housing Study (2003).

Activity Centres are defined in Melbourne 2030 as areas that provide a focus for services, employment and social interaction. There are many Activity Centres in

Whitehorse ranging in size from the Principal Activity Centre and Transit City at Box Hill to local shopping centres termed Neighbourhood Activity Centres. The Open Space Strategy discusses the Principal, Major and Specialised Activity Centres as well as the local centres where higher density precincts and/or strategic development sites have been identified by the Housing Study (2003). These include the Box Hill Transit City, Nunawading/Megamile/Mitcham, Burwood Heights, Burwood East Tally Ho, Forest Hill, Deakin University, Blackburn, Burwood and Laburnum Activity Centres. Box Hill, Burwood Heights and Nunawading/Megamile/ Mitcham are the subject of current Structure Plans. An Urban Design Framework has been prepared for Tally Ho which is primarily a commercial centre. Activity Centres supporting a mix of uses which include additional residential populations, increased visitor numbers and higher worker populations and the balance of each varies between the centres. For background information on the Activity Centres, higher density precincts and strategic redevelopment sites refer to **Section B1.5 in Part Three** of the Strategy. These locations are shown on **Drawing No. WOS-03**.

Activity Centres present opportunities to create open space, open space links and associated ancillary public spaces. Additional open space will be required to serve new worker and/or residential populations at these locations.

CONCLUSIONS 5.3

The Activity Centres will have an impact on the levels of use, design and provision of open space nearby. This needs to be carefully planned for to ensure the existing population's use and enjoyment of the existing open space is not reduced by the increased numbers and that the open space needs of new residents are well provided for.

RECOMMENDATIONS 5.3

5.3.1 **Box Hill Principal Activity Centre and Transit City**

Box Hill is a major centre for the eastern suburbs and contains a range of retail, education, medical and community services as well as a key transport hub with Box Hill train station, tram and bus services. The Activity Centre and Transit City study area encompasses the central area of Box Hill extending from Kingsley Crescent and Elgar Road in the west, Severn Street in the north, Albion Road in the south and William Street in the east. Refer to **Drawing No. WOS-03** for accurate study area boundaries of the Activity Centre.

Existing open space includes Box Hill Gardens which is a Municipal open space reserve and is well used by the existing population to the north of Whitehorse Road. Kingsley Gardens is a historical Neighbourhood park located to the west of Elgar Road adjacent to Box Hill TAFE. The Box Hill Bowls Club occupies Municipal open space on the north side of Whitehorse Road. Open space to the south is smaller with Linsley Park, Ashted Park and part of the Victoria Glenmore Chain, both Local open space reserves. Ancillary open space includes the Box Hill Mall and Young Street Closure and these spaces, whilst part of the central Box Hill commercial precinct, are used as outdoor meeting and resting places. In addition to these, Surrey Park and Surrey Dive are located to the south of the railway within 500 metres of the southern

extent of the Activity Centre and are linked to the centre by a 'green' spine along the wide road reserve of Surrey Drive.

Council anticipates that residential growth within this Activity Centre is likely to be in the order of 500 dwellings over the 15 year life of the Strategy. This includes four higher density precincts within its boundary (refer to HDP5, HDP6, HDP7 and HDP8 on **Drawing No. WOS-03**). Overall, it is anticipated there will be an expansion to the commercial, business and residential activity in the Centre. Box Hill TAFE is a major education landholder in the Activity Centre. The Box Hill Town Hall has been upgraded as a 'community hub' including housing the Council's arts and historical collections, a major art exhibition space, facilities for holding seminars and events and meeting rooms for community groups.

The Activity Centre study area spans across some major roads and the railway which are barriers to safe pedestrian access to open space. Box Hill Gardens and Surrey Park are currently well-used areas of open space and the increase in use generated by the increased population will necessitate upgrade to facilities in this reserve, particularly given Box Hill Gardens is a major garden for the City and is currently well used. To the south of Whitehorse Road, it is anticipated that the increased residential and worker populations will use Victoria Glenmore Chain, Surrey Dive and Surrey Park. There is an existing gap area for open space within the Activity Centre immediately south of the railway and east of Elgar Road and opportunities to provide some Local or Small Local open space in this area are to be investigated as part of the Activity Centre implementation.

The central commercial and business precinct will continue to utilise the Box Hill Mall as a major linking and outdoor space and its future design will be guided by the Structure Plan and Urban Design Framework.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
5.3.1.1	Upgrade facilities in Box Hill Gardens to cater to the proposed expansion to the residential population in the Activity Centre, particularly on the northern side of Whitehorse Road.	H2/D C (os, pl)
5.3.1.2	Investigate provision of new Small Local open space that connects to the Victoria/Glenmore Chain to the east of Station Street which will improve the open space connection to Thurston Street and Surrey Park, and provide local facilities within safe walking distance. Refer to Recommendation 4.1.19 for linear open space link context.	H3/D C (pl, os)
5.3.1.3	Investigate provision of new Small Local open space in the area bounded by the railway to the north, Elgar Road to the west, Thurston Street to the east and Kintore Crescent to the south. This would be partially funded by Council and partially by open space contributions as the provision of this space will meet existing and future population open space needs.	H3/D C (pl, os)
5.3.1.4	Continue to upgrade facilities in Kingsley Gardens to accommodate the increased use of the reserve by Box Hill TAFE students as the TAFE college expands. Refer also to Recommendation 22.7.1 regarding implementation of existing Masterplan.	H2 C (os, pl)

5.3.2 Nunawading/Megamile Major Activity Centre & Mitcham Neighbourhood Activity Centre

The combined Activity Centre Structure Plan encompasses the Nunawading and Mitcham commercial centres and the area between along Whitehorse Road. These centres are well serviced by public transport with Nunawading and Mitcham Stations, and contain a diverse mix of commercial, large warehouse retail outlets, industrial use and the Nunawading Civic Centre. The study area boundaries are focussed around Whitehorse Road and extend from just west of Springvale Road, east to Cook Road in Mitcham, north to include the Civic Centre and Harrison Street in Mitcham and south to include the railway and some of the larger industrial landholdings including the Daniel Robertson Brickworks site. Refer to **Drawing No. WOS-03** for more accurate study area boundaries.

The major open space reserves included in the study area are Nunawading Reserve, the Whitehorse Civic Centre and Walker Park. Walker Park and Nunawading Reserve (a reserve which also contains community facilities) primarily cater to sporting use whilst the Whitehorse Civic Centre reserve is predominantly for unstructured recreation. The smaller Esplanade and Brunswick Reserves located at the Mitcham end of the Activity Centre contain stands of indigenous overstorey trees (possibly remnant) and native trees with mown grass but have no paths or other facilities within them. The Pipe Track Reserve is located immediately south of the Activity Centre which includes Dagola Reserve and Charles Rooks Reserve, both of which cater to unstructured recreation use. Blackburn Lake Sanctuary is located within 800 metres of the Nunawading end of the Activity Centre and is the major bushland and unstructured recreational reserve for Whitehorse.

Council anticipates that residential growth in the Nunawading area will be in the order of 300 dwellings over 15 years and encompasses one higher density precinct (refer to HDP11 on **Drawing No. WOS-03**) and one strategic redevelopment site, the Daniel Robertson Brickworks. Residential growth in the Mitcham area is also anticipated to be about 300 dwellings over 15 years and encompasses two higher density precincts (refer to HDP12 and HDP13 on **Drawing No. WOS-03**).

The Activity Centre study area spans across Whitehorse Road and the railway which are barriers to access to open space. The major areas of open space within the Activity Centre area are predominantly sporting and currently serve a broad Municipal-wide community. Connectivity to the other unstructured recreational reserves will be important to consider in the planning of the Activity Centre. There are some existing gaps in open space provision including in the higher density precinct at the Mitcham end of the Centre (north of Whitehorse Road), the area between the railway and Whitehorse Road, and immediately east of Springvale Road and south of the railway. It is anticipated that improvements to connectivity between reserves and some additional Local open space will be required to meet the existing and future residential population needs in the vicinity of the Daniel Robertson Brickworks site and the higher density precinct north of Whitehorse Road and east of Mitcham Road.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
5.3.2.1	Upgrade Nunawading Reserve to improve the unstructured recreational facilities in this reserve.	H2/D C (os, pl)
5.3.2.2	Establish an additional Small Local open space reserve in the area north of Whitehorse Road and east of Mitcham Road to meet existing and future population needs.	H2/D C, (pl, os)

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
5.3.2.3	Establish an open space link between Whitehorse Road and the area south of the railway in the vicinity of Wood Park.	H2/D C (pl, os)
5.3.2.4	As part of any future Daniel Robertson Brickworks site redevelopment, set aside a Local open space reserve incorporating the historic chimney as part of this reserve.	H3/D C, (pl, os)
5.3.2.5 & 24.7.3	Provide open space links to the Pipe Track Reserve to ensure connectivity from the Activity Centre into the surrounding open space network.	H3/D C, (pl, os)
5.3.2.6	Upgrade the Esplanade Reserve to provide some recreational use to meet existing and future population needs. Future design of facilities will need to protect the nature conservation values of the remnant indigenous trees in this reserve.	H3/D C, (os, pl)
5.3.2.7 & 21.7.7	Upgrade the facilities in Halliday Park to accommodate increased population on the north side of Whitehorse Road in Mitcham.	H2/D C, (os, pl)
5.3.2.8	Improve open space links from the Nunawading end of the Activity Centre to Blackburn Lake Sanctuary to meet existing and future population needs. (Refer to Recommendation 4.1.20 for explanation of the proposed link.)	O C, (pl, os)
5.3.2.9	Establish an additional Small Local open space reserve in the area south of the railway and west of Mitcham Road to meet existing and future population needs.	H2 C (pl, os)

5.3.3 Burwood Heights Major Activity Centre

The Activity Centre spans the suburbs of Burwood and Burwood East and is centred around the former Nubrick Quarry which is a strategic redevelopment site on Middleborough Road. The Activity Centre Structure Plan study area includes the Burwood Heights Shopping Centre and one of the higher density precincts to the south-west of Middleborough Road and Burwood Highway. The Activity Centre will increase the mixed-use development in this area with the major extent of change to occur on the former Nubrick Quarry site. This Centre is well serviced with public transport via the tramline along Burwood Highway that goes to the City. The Activity Centre study area is focussed around Middleborough Road and Burwood Highway, extending west Greenwood Street and Lafrank Street, north to Eley Road, east to Oakham Avenue and south to McCubbin Street/Taylor Avenue. Refer to **Drawing No. WOS-03** for more accurate study area boundaries.

Existing open space within the Activity Centre study area includes a range of small reserves and the Melbourne Water owned and fenced Eley Road Retarding Basin. Donaldson Reserve, College Way Reserve and Fulton/Worrall Reserve along with the range of walkways are located to the north of Burwood Highway. To the south of Burwood Highway are two Small Local open space reserves, Redwood Avenue Reserve and Newbiggin Street Reserve. Ballyshannassy Park is a Municipal open space reserve which provides sporting facilities and is located approximately 300 metres to the south-east of the Activity Centre. Eley Park is a Municipal Reserve to the north-east and is predominantly sporting while Holland Gully is a linear reserve with a Neighbourhood classification and both reserves are located approximately 500 metres from the area where the largest concentration of new residents will be located.

It is proposed to increase the mix of uses in the Activity Centre through redevelopment of both the shopping centre and the former Nubrick Quarry site. Activities attracting longer visitor stays such as entertainment, leisure and dining are to be encouraged.

Council's Housing Study (2003) anticipates that residential growth within this Activity Centre is likely to be in the order of 350 - 400 dwellings over 15 years in the Burwood East area of the Centre. In addition to the commercial area, a higher density precinct is included in the Activity Centre study area boundaries (refer to HDP4 on **Drawing No. WOS-03**). Through the structure planning process this higher density precinct has been superseded and redistributed to the corridors of land along Burwood Highway and Middleborough Road spines. The Nubrick site is now expected to accommodate even greater residential development than anticipated by the Housing Study (2003), therefore, an increase is expected in the overall number of Activity Centre dwellings.

The Activity Centre study area extends across Burwood Highway and Middleborough Road which are barriers to safe pedestrian access to open space. It is anticipated however, the major level of change will occur in the former Nubrick Quarry site which is north and east of these major arterials and is a gap area for open space. The Structure Plan identifies the need to provide a new open space reserve within the Quarry site which will focus around the existing lake. It is likely there will be increased use of the nearby open space including Eley Park and Holland Gully. It is appropriate that, given the level of development and increased residential numbers, the new open space be a Local open space as a minimum providing facilities appropriate to that type of reserve or improvement to the neighbourhood facilities provided in Holland Gully. There will also be ancillary public space in the form of an urban square.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
5.3.3.1	Provide additional Local open space including facility provision within the Activity Centre in the former Nubrick Quarry site as per the approved Development Plan.	H2/D C (pl, os), (Developer)
5.3.3.2	Upgrade the existing Small Local open space reserves within the Burwood Heights Major Activity Centre to cater to the associated increased use of these reserves.	H2/D C (os, pl)
5.3.3.3	Liaise with Melbourne Water to investigate the potential opportunities to improve access and use of Eley Road Retarding Basin as part of the open space network and connection to the former Nubrick Quarry Site proposed open space.	LT/D C (os), MW

5.3.4 Burwood East, Tally Ho Major Activity Centre

This Activity Centre is located primarily in Burwood East and extends into Vermont South. The Tally Ho Business Park is recognised as a key business estate developed during the early 1980s in a landscaped setting, providing workers with a natural open space environment to enjoy as part of the workplace environment. There are three strategic redevelopment sites included in this Activity Centre including the Global Television site, Burvale Hotel and the Crossways site. It is anticipated the dominant use in this area will remain commercial, however, there is some residential use incorporated in the western area of the Centre and residential development of part of the Global Television site is proposed. The boundaries of the Activity Centre study area extend north to Hawthorn Road, west to the Pipe Track Reserve, south to Highbury Road and East to Springvale Road including the Burvale Hotel site. Refer to **Drawing No. WOS-03** for more accurate Activity Centre study area boundaries.

The existing open space reserves included in the Activity Centre study area boundaries are Burwood East Reserve which is a major sporting reserve for

Whitehorse, Ansett Court Reserve which is a Local open space in the north west of the centre and Robinson Retarding Basin in the southern area of the site. Tally Ho Business Park has its own corporate open space which is owned and maintained privately. Burwood East Reserve will continue to be a major sporting reserve for the City of Whitehorse and it is important that future changes in the Activity Centre do not impact on this highly valued area of open space.

It is anticipated that residential growth within this Activity Centre is likely to be in the order of 10-20 dwellings per year commencing in 2010 or around 165 over the 15 year life of the Strategy (i.d. Consulting figures).

5.3.5 Forest Hill Major Activity Centre

Council have not commenced any detailed work on this Activity Centre to date. It is centred on the Forest Hill Shopping Centre located on Canterbury Road, Forest Hill. At this stage, it is unlikely there will be an increase in residential numbers in this Activity Centre with the focus on the future commercial viability and access to the Centre.

5.3.6 Specialised Activity Centre - Deakin University

The Activity Centre is focussed on Deakin University which is a major educational institution for regional Melbourne located in Burwood at the western end of the municipality.

The main issues for the Open Space Strategy is the development interface between Deakin University and Gardiners Creek, given that the linear open space is highly valued and used by local residents, and the continued community access to the northern oval at Bennettswood Reserve which is partly owned by Deakin University. (Refer to Recommendations 18.7.1 and 18.7.4 in Part Two of this Strategy).

One of the higher density precincts supporting more substantial residential growth is located in the Bennettswood area east of Deakin University, north of Burwood Highway and close to Gardiners Creek (refer to HDP3 on **Drawing No. WOS-03**). Council estimates that redevelopment in this precinct will add 41 dwellings (by 2011). There is no open space located in the precinct with the closest being Bennettswood Reserve approximately 500 metres from this area. Improvements to the pedestrian connection to Gardiners Creek will need to be made.

In the longer-term, this precinct may require a Small Local open space to be provided within it, given the nearest reserve is located 500 metres from this area and requires access along Burwood Highway which is a major arterial road. Lundgren Chain is located 500 metres to the south of the Activity Centre over Burwood Highway.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
5.3.6.1	Investigate improvements to connectivity between the HDP3 and Gardiners Creek and Bennettswood Reserve to cater to future residents needs.	H3/D C (pl, os)
5.3.6.2	In the longer-term the HDP3 may require a Small Local open space to be provided given the walking distance to open space is 500 metres and along a major arterial road.	LT/D C (pl, os)

5.3.7 Other Neighbourhood Activity Centres

Three Neighbourhood Activity Centres are also identified for residential growth. These are the Activity Centres associated with one or more of the higher density precincts. It is anticipated that population increase will also stimulate business activity within these Centres. The Activity Centres include:

- Blackburn
- Burwood
- Laburnum

Blackburn Neighbourhood Activity Centre

The Blackburn Neighbourhood Activity Centre runs along Whitehorse Road, centred on the intersection with Blackburn Road near the Blackburn Station. It includes one higher density precinct (refer to HDP10 on **Drawing No. WOS-03**). The Council estimates that redevelopment in this precinct will add 51 dwellings (by 2011). There is no open space located within the precinct and one Small Local open space is located approximately 200 metres west of the precinct. Morton Park is located approximately 0.5 km from the precinct and Blackburn Lake Sanctuary within approximately 1.5km.

The north-south streets in this higher density precinct make access to the Small Local open space to the west of the precinct difficult as residents will need to take a longer walking route to reach open space. Investigate provision of Small Local open space for new residents in the vicinity of Blackburn Station to provide accessible local open space for the new and existing population in this area.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
5.3.7.1	Investigate ways to improve walkability and pedestrian amenity of local streets to improve accessibility to Small Local open space to the west of HDP10.	H2/D C (pl, os)
5.3.7.7	Provide Small Local open space in the vicinity of Blackburn Station and near HDP10 to cater to the existing and new population.	H3/D C (pl, os)

Burwood Neighbourhood Activity Centre

The Burwood Neighbourhood Activity Centre is located along Burwood Highway near the City's western boundary. There are two higher density precincts associated with the Activity Centre (refer to HDP1 and HDP2 on **Drawing No. WOS-03**).

Council estimates that residential redevelopment in the higher density precinct just east of Warrigal Road (HDP1) will add 79 dwellings (by 2011). There is no open space located within this precinct which is bounded by major arterial roads and the Cemetery. Burwood Reserve which is a sporting reserve is located in the City of Boroondara on the western side of Warrigal Road.

This area currently lacks existing open space with the nearest open space reserve being Burwood Reserve in Boroondara or Roslyn Street Reserve in Whitehorse. Roslyn Street Reserve is a Small Local open space located on the north side of Burwood Highway approximately 300 metres from this area. New Local open space

will need to be provided in this precinct to cater to both the existing and new population.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
5.3.7.2	<p>Council to establish a new Local open space reserve in this location (HDP1) to provided for both the existing and new population in this precinct with consideration to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> retain the existing east-west laneway to facilitate access to future local park, given this is the only internal east west connections within the precinct; and investigate opportunities to protect mature overstorey tree/s when considering land for open space. 	H2/D C (pl, os)

The second higher density precinct is located on the western side of Gardiners Creek (HDP2). Council estimates that redevelopment in this area will add 90 dwellings (by 2011). This precinct is located adjacent to the Gardiners Creek linear reserve (Local History Park) which primarily provides for shared trail users. There is a need to provide local open space facilities in the Gardiners Creek linear reserve to cater to the new population.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
5.3.7.3	Upgrade Gardiners Creek linear reserve to cater to the local open space needs of the new population.	H4/D C (os, pl)
5.3.7.4	Improve the interface between the existing residential area and Local History Park to increase opportunities for access and surveillance. Additionally, improve the interface between the reserve and the United Energy site.	O C

Laburnum Neighbourhood Activity Centre

The Laburnum Neighbourhood Activity Centre is located at the intersection of Whitehorse Road and Middleborough Road near the Laburnum railway station and a higher density precinct (refer to HDP9 on **Drawing No. WOS-03**). Council estimates that residential redevelopment in the higher density precinct will add 31 dwellings (by 2011). There is no open space within the precinct which is bounded by arterial roads and the railway. Two sporting reserves are located to the west and Local open space is located south of the railway which can be accessed via Laburnum Street.

This higher density precinct is small and there is potential for residents in this location to access Hillside Crescent Reserve adjacent to Laburnum Station. Improvements to this reserve will need to be undertaken to cater to increased use of the reserve.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
5.3.7.5	Upgrade facilities in Hillside Crescent Reserve to cater to the new population in this precinct.	H3/D C (os, pl)
5.3.7.6	Investigate improvements to Laburnum Street to improve pedestrian access to this reserve for the new population.	H3/D C

5.4 Strategic sites

Strategic redevelopment sites were identified by Whitehorse in its Housing Study (2003) as 'potential large redevelopment sites and Main Road properties'. Some sites on the list have already been approved for development or are no longer available for development and new sites have been identified since 2003. Additional strategic sites were identified by Council at the commencement of the Open Space Strategy's development. These additional sites were those with relevance to future open space provision, either associated with development or those where the open space is informally used as part of the current system but is not secured as open space.

Most of these sites have been incorporated into the Activity Centres which are discussed in **Section 5.3**, however, there are some that fall outside of the Activity Centres and these are listed below by suburb and include sites where future redevelopment is still to be resolved or have only been recently approved.

CONCLUSIONS 5.4

Redevelopment of these strategic sites will place additional demands on open space surrounding these sites. Where there is no existing open space nearby, there will be a need to provide new open space to cater to the new population. Where there is existing open space nearby, there will either be a need to upgrade facilities in these reserves or provide new open space depending on the site.

RECOMMENDATIONS 5.4

5.4.1 Blackburn - Seventh Day Adventist Site

This site is located in Central Road in the vicinity of Blackburn Lake Sanctuary and supports a native and exotic bushland character. Council refused a subdivision permit for 53 lots and VCAT has upheld the Council decision.

The Open Space Strategy has identified the opportunity to establish an off-road linear connection along the tributary to Blackburn Lake Sanctuary adjacent to the southern section of this site. In future negotiations for this site, this connection could be considered.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
5.4.1.1	Seek to further protect the remnant indigenous trees and habitat on the Seventh Day Adventist Site along with the provision of a linear reserve adjacent to the tributary upstream of Blackburn Lake Sanctuary.	H1 C (os, pl)

5.4.2 Blackburn - Victorian Deaf Society

This site is located at the corner of Lake and Central Roads and includes the Regis Lake Park aged care facility. A permit was recently granted to extend the facility, at which time Council committed to purchase 8 lots along Lake Road. The purchase cost would be jointly funded by Federal, State and Local government.

5.4.3 Box Hill - Former Standard Brickworks site

This site is located in Federation Street, Box Hill, adjoining the south-west corner of the Box Hill Activity Centre. It includes a former landfill which has been capped which will limit development on this part of the site for at least 15 years. There are also industrial buildings on the land. Council recently rezoned part of the land to Residential 1 on the northern areas of the site, outside the restricted former landfill area. A development of about 79 dwellings is anticipated on the rezoned land. The balance of this site is unlikely to develop within the lifespan on this Strategy. The environmental issues make this site undesirable for Council to assume as open space in the medium to longer-term. Therefore, the new population from this site will use the existing public open space and will contribute to the upgrade of facilities in these reserves.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
5.4.3.1	Upgrade Surrey Dive to accommodate new residents from this site in accordance with Precinct Recommendation 15.6.8. In the longer-term, investigate options for future open space provision in the vicinity of the historic buildings and connect to Surrey Dive open space reserve, pending resolution of environmental issues.	H4 Refer 15.6.8 LT/O C (pl, os)

5.4.4 Box Hill South - Canaan International Student Centre

This site is located in Hay Street Box Hill South adjoining Wembley Park and Gardiners Creek. Currently the two ovals in the floodplain of Gardiners Creek are owned by the Canaan International Student Centre and used by local sporting clubs via a direct agreement between Canaan and the clubs. Residential redevelopment is unlikely due to flooding along Gardiners Creek and the site's interface with industrial development. Recently Canaan indicated that they were not interested in the partnership with Council.

The existing ovals on this site have the potential to continue to be used for structured recreation use by sporting clubs and Council will continue to seek to develop a suitable partnership agreement with the land-owners in the future to assist and support this continued use. There is also potential to improve the habitat connectivity along Gardiners Creek.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
5.4.4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council to continue to seek partnership opportunities with Canaan to allow continued use of the ovals for structured recreation use by sporting clubs. • Council to encourage land-owner to integrate some indigenous revegetation of the Gardiners Creek corridor through this section to strengthen habitat values as part of the future design and management of the area. 	O C (os, pl), Land-owner, MW

5.4.5 Mont Albert - Ormiston House 'Nyora'

This site is located in St Johns Avenue and contains a heritage protected home as well as mature trees. The site is used as a private school. The school plans to relocate to Camberwell.

This site is positioned in a gap area which requires additional open space for existing and new population. This parcel of land is one of the few large land parcels remaining in the gap area, and where larger land parcels such as this are to be redeveloped, Council is to seek land for open space through negotiation during the development application process. Council to continue to seek provision of a Small Local open space in this precinct.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
5.4.5.1	Council to seek land for open space when larger sites such as Ormiston House are redeveloped. If this is not achievable on the Ormiston site, Council to continue to seek Small Local open space elsewhere within the gap area to the north. This may include consideration of utilising some adjoining Council road reserve land to achieve a viable Small Local open space. Where there are significant trees on the site, inclusion of at least some of these trees on the public land would also be desirable.	H1/D & O C (pl, os)
5.4.5.2	Council to investigate the potential to include some Council owned land e.g. part of the road reserve as an extension of a future open space reserve at Ormiston House to increase its size, or at an alternate site if this is not achieved at Ormiston House.	H1/D C
5.4.5.3	Once Small Local open space at Ormiston House or alternative location is provided, design and provide facilities for community use.	O/D C (os, pl), D

5.4.6 Nunawading – Junction Road Site

This site is located near the corner of the Eastern Freeway and Springvale Road and is land that is surplus to VicRoads requirements as part of the freeway construction. The site was shown as open space on the VicRoads plans for the Eastlink construction and is zoned Public Park and Recreation Zone. VicRoads have requested that Council take over management of this land along with the other excess land parcels along the Eastern Freeway, however, this has a significant cost implication for Council. Council is currently in the process of advocating to the State Government that Parks Victoria take over responsibility for this site and the remaining linear open space along the Eastern Freeway as part of the future Mullum Mullum Park.

The site is discussed further in **Part Two** in the Precinct Recommendations for Nunawading.

5.4.7 Vermont South – Australian Road Research Board site

This site is located at 500 Burwood Highway, between Springvale Road and Dandenong Creek. The land has now been developed for residential use. If subdivision occurs in future, a cash contribution should be collected and spent on upgrading facilities in nearby open space for these residents.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
5.4.7.1	Any open space contribution to be allocated from the Australian Road Research Board to upgrade facilities in nearby open space to cater to the older population including seating	O C (pl, os)

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
	areas, paths and planting.	

5.4.8 Vermont South – Healesville Freeway Reservation

This is a corridor of land oriented east-west at the northern edge of the Vermont South suburb and adjoining open space along Dandenong Creek at its eastern end. Currently the land supports a mix of open space, historic buildings and bushland, some with high conservation values. VicRoads is examining whether the corridor will be used for freeway development in the future. Council will seek involvement in VicRoad's method of land disposal and a masterplanning exercise if it is determined the land is not required for the Healesville Freeway.

The freeway reservation offers opportunities to provide an east-west shared trail link connecting the Dandenong Creek shared trail with the Gardiners Creek shared trail along with Regional and Municipal open space reserves. This includes the Dandenong Creek linear reserves, Bellbird Dell and Old Strathdon Orchard in Vermont. There is potential to protect and improve the existing environmental values associated with the reservation. Refer to the recommendations for Habitat links in **Section 6.2** for further discussion of these along with Section 27.5 in Part Two of this Strategy.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
5.4.8.1	Work with VicRoads to secure an open space link between Bellbird Dell North and South providing both recreation and environmental links.	H1 C (pl, os), VR
5.4.8.2	Work with VicRoads to provide an east-west shared trail link between Dandenong Creek and Old Strathdon Orchard.	H1 C, (pl, os), VR
5.4.8.3	Retain Davey Lane Oval as open space given its close proximity to the school who use it as an oval, its use by community sporting clubs and proximity to Old Strathdon Orchard. Its proximity to the Orchard contributes to the future adaptability of the Orchard as part of the Municipal open space system.	H1 C, VR
5.4.8.4	In reviewing any future development layout, ensure good connectivity between the established and new residential areas and to existing reserves.	H1 C, VR

5.5 Residential growth across other areas

Although there is a strong focus on residential growth in Activity Centres (including the higher density precincts and strategic redevelopment sites associated with these Centres), a significant amount of growth is expected to occur through redevelopment in other areas of Whitehorse. Council estimates about 4,200 dwellings will be added between 2006 and 2021 in residential areas in more dispersed locations. The breakdown by suburb is shown in **Table 5~3**.

Table 5~3 Estimated residential development in dispersed locations 2006-2021

Estimated additional dwellings	Suburb
233	Blackburn
231	Blackburn North
288	Blackburn South
582	Box Hill
236	Box Hill North
166	Box Hill South
126	Burwood
438	Burwood East
241	Forest Hill
371	Mitcham
206	Mont Albert
117	Mont Albert North
318	Nunawading
87	Surrey Hills
97	Vermont
464	Vermont South
4,201	Total additional dispersed dwellings

CONCLUSIONS 5.5

The suburb level analysis of open space takes into account incremental growth outside of the Activity Centres and has informed the Open Space Strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS 5.5

Each of the suburbs is discussed further in **Part Two** in the Precinct Recommendations.

5.6 Open space contributions

5.6.1 How the Strategy informs open space contributions

The detailed analysis in the Strategy identifies the areas of Whitehorse where there is adequate provision of open space to meet existing needs and those areas where there is a lack of open space due to historical patterns of development. In addition, the Strategy uses population and dwelling forecasts and Council plans to determine where change will drive demand for new open space or upgrades of the existing reserves. Overall, the Strategy highlights a number of areas and works for Council to provide additional open space, provide links to existing open space and investigate change to the use of some reserves to make them more appropriate for the local and broader community.

Activity Centres are locations where business and residential use will intensify. Core commercial areas have not traditionally housed residential populations and they may currently lack open space. In these areas, expanded public open space is recommended to meet the need created by new workers and residents. Open space contributions will be necessary to fund part of these projects.

Other locations for residential development are larger redevelopment/strategic sites, higher density residential areas and through natural residential infill. In areas where provision of existing open space is limited, this development will generate some or all of the need for additional open space, and therefore contributions will be needed towards the provision of land and associated facility provision. In other areas with adequate open space, expansion and improvements to open space facilities are recommended to accommodate the requirements of new workers and residents and contributions will be needed to assist funding of these projects.

5.6.2 Review of the contributions schedule

A mandatory financial contribution to open space – land or cash at Council's discretion – is levied at the time land or buildings are subdivided (the contribution is made by the developer but this is reflected in the purchase price). Contributions including cash contributions must be used to deliver the open space needs of the new population on whose behalf the contribution is made. Cash contributions can only be used to acquire land or fund capital works (not maintenance). The open space contribution rate is included in the schedule to Clause 52.01 of the Whitehorse Planning Scheme.

The capital works costed in the Open Space Strategy are approximately \$24.2 million over 15 years (\$1.6 million annual average) and land purchases (or development of equivalent Council land) total about \$20.7 million (almost \$1.4 million annual average). The total for the 15-year period is \$45 million (\$3 million annual average).

A fair allocation of the cost of land and capital works to benefit the new population differs for each project contained in the Strategy but the total costs allocated to new population totals almost \$24.2 million across the Municipality or \$1.6 million average per year. This is more than Council is currently collecting in open space contributions, which average \$0.8 million per annum.

An increase in the annual average contributions collected to \$1.6 million would still see the existing population pay for some proportion of land and capital works, as they would benefit from a strengthened open space network. Over 15 years, the total land and capital works expenditure is split fairly evenly between the existing and new population. All projects have been assessed and allocated a fair split depending on the local conditions and this varies from 50/50% split through to 100/0% split. The majority of projects for the new population have some proportion of cost attributed to the existing population, however, the consultation on the Draft Strategy reinforced that residents are most concerned about over-use of the existing open space reducing the quality of the condition and experience of existing open space. Based on this consultation feedback, the proportion of costs attributed to the new population for upgrade of open space was increased, and some additional open space raised in priority to more fairly distribute the costs to the new population. The disbursed nature of future development amongst existing urban areas increases the likelihood that existing residents will benefit from the additional open space or upgrade works undertaken for the new population. Therefore a proportion of the costs is allocated to

the existing population for the majority of the new works outside of the Activity Centres.

5.6.3 Contributions rate

The recommended general open space contribution rate in the City of Whitehorse is 4%. This is the percentage estimated to raise an average \$1.6 million per annum over 15 years.

Flexibility is recommended for strategic sites where some part of the land is to be converted to open space. (This includes the strategic sites discussed in Section 5.4 as well as those strategic sites that are identified in the future.) Larger open space parcels may lead to better planning outcomes for these sites as a whole. A 4% land contribution should be considered the minimum contribution in these cases.

A planning scheme amendment is necessary in order for Council to implement the new contributions rates. A planning scheme amendment to modify the current schedule to Clause 52.01 of the Whitehorse Planning Scheme is given high priority (Recommendation 5.6.6 and Recommendation 10.3.1.3). Due to the time needed to prepare, exhibit and approve an amendment, including potentially a Panel hearing, the introduction of the new rates may not correlate exactly with adoption of the Strategy and preparation of the first post-adoption open space budget. However, given the 15 year planning horizon of the Strategy and the overall magnitude of costs, this should not present a serious problem. The Council will still use the Strategy to determine whether a land or cash contribution is the most appropriate.

It will be important for Council and developers to liaise before development/subdivision proposals are prepared and submitted to ensure that applications reflect the Council's requirements for open space contributions, whether these are in land or in cash. Where a land contribution will be requested as part of the subdivision approval, Council should communicate this as early in the development application process as possible. Use of Council's GIS system to flag where open space and links are required will assist this process.

5.6.3.1 Developer land contribution

Land contributions will be requested from developers at Council's discretion to enable it to achieve its strategic open space goals. **Table 5~4** lists the areas where additional open space is required as identified in **Parts One and Two** of the Strategy, and this open space is anticipated to be provided on development sites. Throughout the Strategy the minimum open space areas required are listed in the specific recommendations, however, larger land parcels may be negotiated where they meet the criteria in **Table 4~2, p. 36** and the high quality open space can be developed and maintained. Only a few of the many developments in each suburb will be suitable for a land contribution and many of Council's goals can be satisfied on strategic sites. In all cases, the land that Council is acquiring or assembling must be capable of meeting the minimum criteria listed in **Table 4~2, p. 36**. Where Council does not request a land contribution, a cash contribution will apply.

Table 5~4 Suburbs where a developer land contribution may be requested within the 15 year timeframe of the Strategy

Suburb	Strategy reference
Blackburn	4.1.26 (Long-term, beyond 15 years) 5.3.7.7 12.6.3 (Long-term, beyond 15 years)
Blackburn South	14.6.5 (Long-term, beyond 15 years)
Box Hill	4.1.19/5.3.1.2 5.3.1.3 5.4.3.1 (Long-term, beyond 15 years) 15.5.6
Box Hill South	17.6.3 17.6.4 (Long-term, beyond 15 years) 17.6.4 (Long-term, beyond 15 years)
Burwood	5.3.6.2 (Long-term beyond 15 years) 5.3.7.2 18.6.1 (Long-term, beyond 15 years)
Burwood East	5.3.3.1
Mitcham	4.1.15 (Long-term, beyond 15 years) 5.3.2.2 5.3.2.8 21.6.1 (Long-term, beyond 15 years)
Mont Albert	5.4.5.1 22.6.1 22.6.2 22.6.4 (Long term, beyond 15 years)
Nunawading	5.3.2.4 5.4.1.1
Surrey Hills	25.6.1

Table 5~5 Additional Suburbs where a developer land contribution may be requested in advance of the 15 year Strategy timeframe consistent with Long Term projects in the Strategy

Suburb	Strategy reference
Blackburn South	14.6.5 (Long-term, beyond 15 years)
Mont Albert North	23.6.2 (Long term beyond 15 years)

Where Council requests a land contribution and the developer offers an open space parcel or link that does not meet the minimum land area outlined in **Table 4~2, p.36**, then Council can:

- request or negotiate a larger land area as part of the project approval where the minimum contribution rate applies; or
- add to the developer's land to create a viable open space parcel or link. Council can seek to purchase additional land from the developer by using contribution funds already collected, other Council funds or a combination of both. Council may choose to convert adjoining public land where it is available for this purpose.

Use of other Council funds or Council land will represent a contribution on behalf of the existing population.

Note : The land in Vermont South currently used as open space but part of the Healesville Freeway Reservation has not been included in these open space calculations, as Council are advocating for this land to be provided to Council by VicRoads if the Healesville Freeway is determined not to be required. Currently, no decision has been made regarding the future of the Healesville Freeway.

5.6.3.2 Developer cash contribution

A cash contribution toward delivery of open space projects will be required in most cases for the suburbs listed in **Table 5~4, p. 60 and Table 5~5, p. 61**. The exception is those circumstances when Council requests a land contribution as described above.

For the remaining suburbs, only cash will be requested. This includes:

- Blackburn North;
- Box Hill North;
- Forest Hill; and
- Vermont.

5.6.4 Use of contributions

Section 5.6.3 recommends the type of open space contribution that should be collected in each suburb (land or cash). Legislation requires that open space cash contributions collected through subdivision approvals must be used for land acquisition or capital works. The cash contributions should be used to fund the land acquisition and capital works projects contained in the Strategy. In most cases, a cash contribution will provide only part of a particular project's funding with the difference made up with other sources of funds. The fair proportion of contribution funding versus other funding has been allocated for each project contained in the Strategy. These proportions should be generally adhered to in budget estimates.

CONCLUSIONS 5.6

The Open Space Strategy uses the Council's Housing Study (2003), current Eastern Regional Housing Statement and i.d. Consulting population and housing forecasts prepared for the City of Whitehorse to establish where new development or redevelopment is most likely to occur and the population growth that will be associated with that development. Even if these projections change over time, the Strategy provides a robust framework that can accommodate these changes.

RECOMMENDATIONS 5.6

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
5.6.1	<p>Amended open space contributions rates to be adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic sites: minimum 4% subject to negotiation of the development plan. <p>Note: A land contribution will be appropriate for some strategic sites, in line with the specific recommendations in Parts One and Two. The minimum open space areas required are listed in the recommendations. Larger land parcels may be negotiated on these sites where they meet the criteria in Table 4-2, p. 36 and the high quality open space can be developed and maintained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All other sites: 4%. 	H1 C (pl, os)
5.6.2	An open space land contribution to be requested at Council's discretion in Table 5-4, p. 60 and Table 5-5, p. 61 where a land contribution would be consistent with the recommendations for new open space and open space links contained in this Strategy, otherwise a cash contribution to be requested.	O C (pl, os)
5.6.3	Open space land contributions are to meet the criteria contained in Table 4-2, p. 36 . Where the criteria cannot be initially met, Council to supplement a land area shortfall (for land otherwise meeting the criteria) through request, negotiation or purchase, or conversion of additional adjoining public land.	O C (pl, os)
5.6.4	Council to develop a system for early notification of developers that a land contribution will be requested.	H1 C (pl, os)
5.6.5	Council to refuse land offers for open space contributions that do not support implementation of this Strategy and to request a cash contribution instead.	O C (pl, os)
5.6.6	The schedule to Clause 52.01 of the Whitehorse Planning Scheme to be amended as soon as practical to include the new contributions rates and to contain land and cash contribution locations and requirements (Recommendations 5.6.1, 5.6.2, 5.6.3, 5.6.4 and 5.6.5).	H1 C (pl)
5.6.7	Open space contribution funds to be used for land acquisition or capital works depending on the purpose for which the monies were collected. Where open space contributions are to make up a proportion of the funding mix, this proportion is to be generally adhered to in budget estimates. Allocation and expenditure decisions should be in line with identified suburb requirements. See also Recommendation 10.3.2.1.	O C (os, fin)
5.6.8	Open space contribution funds to be used according to the priorities established in this Strategy which take into account suburbs or areas where new development will create significant demand for new or enhanced open space.	O C (os, fin)
5.6.9	Investigate using the GIS system to highlight where land area as open space is needed and where future links are required. See also Recommendation 10.3.1.5.	H1 C (pl)

6. Open space quality and design

6.1 Balancing structured and unstructured use of open space

The Whitehorse Recreation Strategy Plan (2004-2009) guides the delivery of sport and recreation for the future provision and development of recreation facilities and services in Whitehorse. It recognised that Whitehorse provides quality sport and recreation facilities and these are well maintained. The plan recommends that Whitehorse focus on recreation and sport program development rather than on new facilities development. The Plan also identified there are some facility needs that do require further investigation and Council have been progressively undertaking these including:

- undertaking a Regional Soccer Strategy with Cities of Manningham, Boroondara, Maroondah, Monash and Knox, State government and Football Federation of Victoria;
- establishing additional soccer fields across the City;
- undertaking a Tennis Strategy which focuses on the development of the sport and most efficient use of existing resources;
- continuing to monitor the management and utilisation of Lawn Bowls facilities;
- developing a new Council Policy to contribute towards sports facilities on non-Council owned land (e.g. schools);
- increasing participation of school-aged children in club-based sport;
- supporting provision of informal recreation facilities in open space; and
- targeting people with disabilities and the older population in program development and facility design.

The largest proportion of the Whitehorse Municipal reserves are set aside primarily for structured sporting use as illustrated in **Section 3.2, Figure 3~6** and these are adequately distributed across the Municipality. There is potential to further integrate unstructured recreation facilities into the sporting reserves to maximise their appeal and use by the community. The Recreation Strategy recognises the changing demographic profile of Whitehorse and that the ageing population will decrease the demand for traditional types of structured sporting use and increase participation in unstructured recreational activities. Forward planning for this can be achieved through preparation of a consultation process as part of future Landscape Masterplans for these major reserves.

During the community consultation undertaken for the Strategy residents identified they enjoy the peace and quiet and natural character of open space as a contrast to the built character of their neighbourhoods. Future design plans for open space reserves will need to provide facilities, both for structured sporting and unstructured recreation use, whilst retaining areas with a natural character and peaceful qualities.

Refer to **Section B2.2.1 in Part Three** of the Strategy for further discussion.

CONCLUSIONS 6.1

There is a need to increase the diversity of both structured and unstructured recreation facilities and activities in open space in Whitehorse. This will need to be balanced with providing and retaining some areas with natural character and peaceful qualities. This is to recognise the demographic trend to an older population and anticipated needs for this part of the population to recreate informally including walking, cycling and casual use of facilities such as tennis courts and golf. The changing trends in sporting use reinforces the need to design multi-use facilities that can be easily adapted to changing demands over the next 10 years. Additionally, the overall design and quality of the sporting reserves requires improvement to increase their appeal and useability for a broader cross-section of the community.

RECOMMENDATIONS 6.1

In addition to recommendations below, refer to **Part Two** of this Strategy for Precinct Recommendations.

6.1.1 Informal (unstructured) recreation facilities in sporting reserves

Many of the sporting reserves in Whitehorse have well-developed and maintained sporting facilities. There is potential to increase the provision of unstructured recreational facilities in these reserves including trail networks, seating and picnic areas, playgrounds, half courts, exercise equipment, etc. For example, location of picnic and BBQ facilities should consider the broader use of the park by the whole community rather than by one group. In some reserves, these facilities are already provided, however, some improvements may be required including upgrade or review of their location to maximise their use throughout the year.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
6.1.1.1	Review the design of sporting reserves on a prioritised basis as set out Part Two Precinct Recommendations to integrate unstructured recreation facilities into these reserves and improve the overall design quality and standard of them.	Refer Part Two of the Strategy for individual reserve recommendations

Prioritisation for upgrade

There are a large number of sporting reserves across the Municipality and each of these varies in terms of design and use levels. Part Two has assigned priorities to these reviews with the highest priorities being based on the following:

- locations where there are no nearby Municipal or Neighbourhood reserves are set aside for unstructured recreation;
- locations where population growth is anticipated nearby and the future provision of these facilities will be partly or fully funded by the new population; and
- reserves where the quality is rated as being inadequate.

6.1.2 Upgrade and replacement of structured recreation facilities

As part of upgrades and replacement of structured recreation facilities, opportunities to improve their design, appeal, accessibility and multi-use function should be investigated as standard procedure. Proposals for future upgrades and replacements will need to demonstrate they comply with the following guidelines:

Guidelines for upgrade and replacement of structured recreation facilities:

- demonstrate the need for the facility;
- demonstrate the proposed facility is dependent on its location within an open space reserve for its function and viability;
- demonstrate the proposed facility will retain and, where possible, improve access to and use of the open space reserve;
- meets all-ability access principles and standards, and caters to a diverse age range where possible;
- flexible in design to provide for multiple uses or future adaptability for other uses;
- demonstrate that ESD principles have been met in the building and site design; and
- the cost of construction and maintenance is reasonably proportionate to the proposed level of use.

6.1.3 New structured recreation facilities

At the stage when new structured (organised) recreation facilities (including buildings) are being designed, the design is to demonstrate how the new facility will integrate with the overall open space and be accessible for a diverse range of users. Designs for new structured (organised) recreation facilities should address the following guidelines:

Guidelines for new structured recreation facilities:

- ❑ orientation and design minimises impact on other structured and unstructured recreational uses, and where possible, demonstrates integration with them;
- ❑ built form including buildings, fencing and other infrastructure to be designed to complement the environmental, landscape and cultural character and values of the open space;
- ❑ ensure key view lines into the open space are not blocked by the facility location;
- ❑ where possible, minimise permanent installation of structures that can remain portable to improve adaptability and multiple use of the facility and open space;
- ❑ demonstrate how the car parking demands for the proposed facility will be met and not dominate the open space reserve;
- ❑ car park design to meet the criteria listed specifically for car parking in this Strategy in Section 6.3.4; and
- ❑ meets the criteria listed in **Section 6.1.2** with the exception of the first dot point.

6.1.4 Non-open space dependent recreation and leisure facilities located in open space

Existing facilities

These facilities can include Community facilities such as neighbourhood houses, libraries, maternal child and health centres, meeting rooms and scout and guide halls. The groups that use these facilities may utilise the open space as part of their programs, however, this use is not as frequent and critical to their activity as for a Cricket or a Soccer club pavilion. Historically, many of these community facilities were constructed in open space as it is public land and easily available to accommodate buildings. In other instances, as with the Whitehorse Civic Centre, the facilities presence is the reason there is an open space reserve located there. The population of Whitehorse has expanded over time and there are increasing demands on public open space. It is therefore considered appropriate that Council review and assess whether these facilities are to be retained in open space, and if they are, if there are changes that could improve their integration with the open space reserve they are located in.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
6.1.4.1	Undertake a review of existing non-open space dependent buildings and facilities located in open space reserves. The review will assess if they are to be retained or if viable alternatives exist for relocation out of open space. As part of this review, existing buildings will be assessed for their adaptability to open space related use or multi-use or will be removed to expand outdoor use of open space.	H2 C (os)

Proposed facilities

New applications and proposals for non-open space dependent recreation and leisure facilities will need to meet the following guidelines:

Guidelines for existing and new non-open space dependent recreation & leisure facilities:

- the proposed facility is compatible with open space;
- there is a net improvement to access and use of the outdoor open space by installation of the proposed facility;
- that the construction of the proposed facility will not have a detrimental impact on environmental values and allow continued patterns of recreational use (where applicable) of the existing open space;
- any buildings to meet ESD principles including stormwater harvesting, stormwater quality treatment, grey water recycling, solar orientation etc.; and
- meets the criteria included for 6.1.2 (excluding the first dot point)

6.1.5 Natural unstructured open space

Existing character

Many existing open space reserves in Whitehorse have a natural unstructured character in them ranging from the Bushland areas through to smaller areas of open space with some trees. Generally these are the reserves with the following character classification:

- bushland
- nature conservation
- informal
- undefined

Whilst improved access to some of these reserves is proposed, it is important to carefully consider and design the levels of access and design of facilities to complement the natural and peaceful character of some areas of open space.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
6.1.5.1	In future design plans for open space reserves with a bushland, nature conservation, informal and undefined character classification, consider the protection and provision of natural unstructured areas within the open space. Future design of facilities to improve access and use are to complement the natural character.	O C (os, pw)

6.2 Habitat corridor links

The existing nature conservation and bushland reserves are illustrated in **Figure 3~9**. Some of these reserves are supported by an additional framework of either native vegetation or mature overstorey trees on adjoining freehold land which supports and improves the habitat values of the open space. There is no specific habitat corridor study for Whitehorse and therefore the information included in this section has been sourced from site assessments, background reports and recent aerial photographs. The existing areas are illustrated in **Figure 6.1**. The information is intended to provide an overview with the intent that a more detailed habitat corridor, or similar, study will be undertaken in the future. Refer to **Section B1.6 of the Issues Paper in Part Three** of the Strategy for more information.

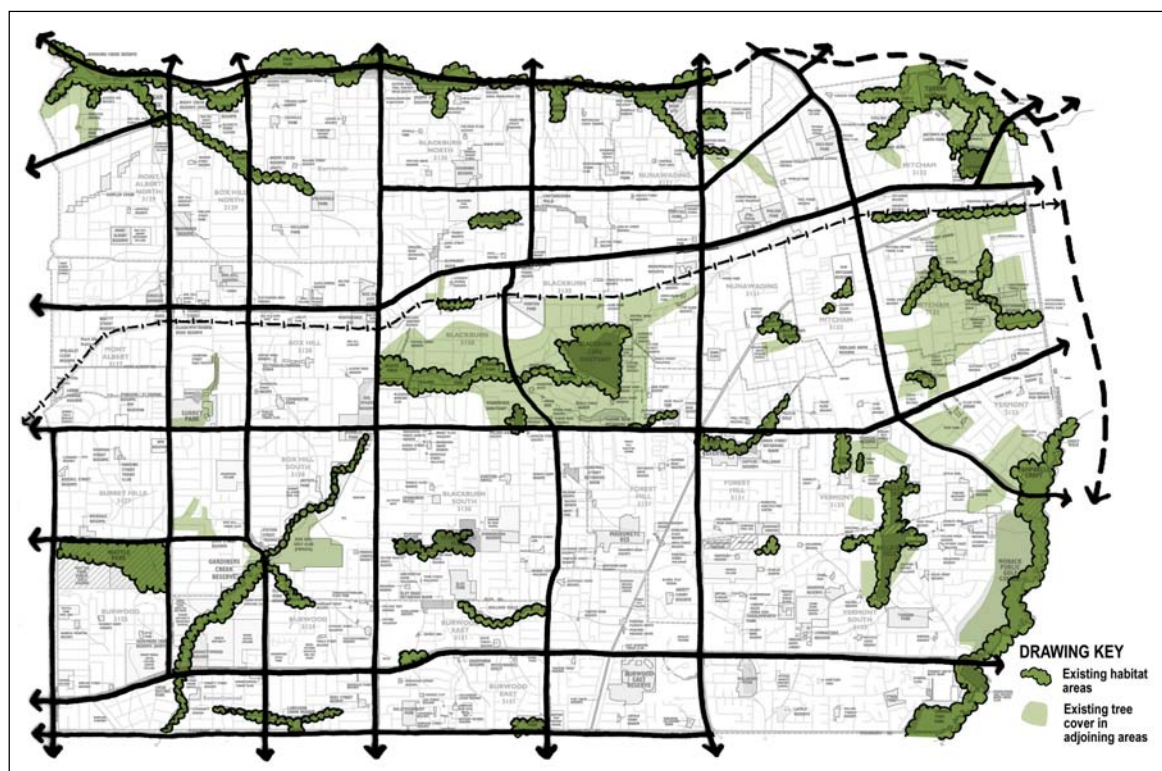


Fig. 6~1 Existing habitat areas

CONCLUSIONS 6.2

There is potential to provide additional habitat corridor links and increase the presence of indigenous vegetation to potentially improve the habitat values in the Municipality. The additional links are illustrated in **Figure 6~1**.

RECOMMENDATIONS 6.2

The Strategy has reviewed the habitat values and makes recommendations for future works and potential links that need to be established to improve the connectivity for

habitat. It is recognised that Council already undertakes extensive work in bushland restoration and management and has pursued opportunities to secure additional open space to complete these links. **Figure 6~2** spatially locates the recommendations and schematically illustrates the existing values on public and private land.



Figure 6~2 Habitat corridor improvements and links

Note the numbers indicated on the diagram relate to the recommendation numbers in the report.

6.2.1 Overall

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
6.2.1.1	Prepare a Biodiversity Strategy for public open space in Whitehorse to establish an overall framework for development of individual Vegetation Management Plans or actions for each bushland area or waterway. This Strategy will consider the adjoining land and corridor values, however, its focus and recommendations will be on public land.	H1 C (os, pw) MW, PV, VR
6.2.1.2	For management of native vegetation in individual open space reserves, submit a Property Vegetation Plan to obtain planning approval under Clause 52.17 Native Vegetation provisions of the planning scheme (<i>Victoria's Native Vegetation Management - A framework for action</i>).	O C (pw)

6.2.2 Gardiners Creek catchment

Gardiners Creek catchment is located within the City of Whitehorse. The system of parklands along the main stem of the Creek along with Blackburn Lake Sanctuary are the most frequently visited reserves in the Municipality. Whilst the creek itself is relatively degraded including being confined in some locations to concrete lined channel, rock lined channel and low flow pipe, there has been substantial efforts by

Council and the community in more recent times to protect and enhance the indigenous vegetation in the reserves along the main stem of the creek. Melbourne Water is the waterway manager and the Gardiners Creek Waterway Plan guides their ongoing management and future works along the Gardiners Creek. The Blackburn Creek Waterway Activity Plan guides works along Blackburn Creek. Melbourne Water have recently undertaken bank regrading and revegetation works in the Blackburn Creek tributary to address erosion and this has been done in consultation with Council and the community. Other major works planned by Melbourne Water in Gardiners Creek includes waterway rehabilitation works between Station Street and Burwood Highway, bank stabilisation works in the Box Hill Golf Course section of Gardiners Creek and a weed control program from Burwood Highway to Warrigal Road.

Note - recommendations G1 - G6 are located on **Figure 6~2**.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
6.2.2.1	G1 - Council to liaise with Box Hill Golf Course to encourage increased weed control and planting of indigenous vegetation in the golf course and woody weed removal.	O C (pw) BHGC, MW
6.2.2.2	G2 - Continue to increase indigenous revegetation along the open space corridor adjoining Gardiners Creek and, where appropriate, in adjoining reserves (Refer to Precinct Recommendations in Part Two for further recommendations)	LT C, (MW)
6.2.2.3	G3 - Investigate and implement future planting in RHL Sparks Reserve and adjoining reserves to increase the presence of indigenous vegetation, particularly overstorey trees, compatible with the continued use of this reserve for structured sporting use and the retarding basin function of the reserve. Refer Recommendation 15.6.4 which describes that Sparks/Wembley Masterplan is currently being developed.	H3 C (MW)
6.2.2.4	G4 - Council to continue to investigate opportunities to secure an open space reserve along Blackburn Creek between Blackburn Lake Sanctuary and Furness Park. This will allow improvements to vegetation quality and management along this tributary (Refer to Recommendation 4.1.8, which recommends securing additional open space for recreational access as well in this location).	LT & O C (pl, os) (MW)
6.2.2.5	G5 - Council to continue to investigate opportunities to secure an open space reserve along Blackburn Creek between Blackburn Lake Sanctuary and Springvale Road. This is to protect and expand the indigenous vegetation corridor in this location including strengthening the habitat corridor link adjoining freehold land in this area. (Refer to Recommendation 4.1.21 & 5.3.2.8)	O/LT C (pl, os)
6.2.2.6	G6 - Council to investigate opportunities to improve the habitat values on the tributary that includes Masons Road Retarding Basin, Glen Valley Retarding Basin, Forest Hill Reserve and Lernes Street Retarding Basin. This will require liaison with Melbourne Water and adjoining landholders. In the longer-term, the aim is to secure public land along the tributary to improve habitat and recreational links. (Refer to Recommendation 4.1.9).	LT & O C (pw) MW

6.2.3 Koonung Creek catchment

Located adjacent to the Eastern Freeway, Koonung Creek forms the northern boundary of the City of Whitehorse. Bushy Creek is a major tributary to the Koonung Creek and extensive works have been undertaken in recent times to revegetate the creek corridor and reserve system where the creek has been contained in a low flow pipe. The Strategy supports ongoing maintenance of existing revegetation works and,

progressive increase of indigenous vegetation over time. Melbourne Water is the responsible waterway manager for the Creek and due to extensive modification of the creek by works associated with the Eastern Freeway Melbourne Water will focus on continuing to improve the streamside zone rather than in-stream values.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
6.2.3.1	K1 - Council to increase the presence of indigenous overstorey and some understorey in the Memorial Park to enhance the continuity and connectivity along the Bushy Creek linear reserve. The revegetation will need to be consistent with a future park design recommended in the Precinct Recommendations, refer to Part Two.	LT C
6.2.3.2	K2 - Council to continue to liaise with VicRoads regarding the maintenance of the Eastern Freeway reserve which is located adjacent to the Koonung Creek corridor. There is potential for additional revegetation works to be undertaken in the linear reserves. (Refer to Recommendation 4.1.15)	O C, VR
6.2.3.3	K3 - Junction Road site has a tributary to Koonung Creek and Dunlavin Creek located along the western side of this reserve. This tributary requires a waterway management plan to be prepared and implemented to address lack of indigenous vegetation, water quality and erosion. (Refer to Recommendation 24.7.2)	H2 VR, PV, C (pl, os, pw)
6.2.3.4	K4 - Junction Road site has the potential to improve the habitat and waterway corridor values. Future responsible agency (currently Council are advocating for Parks Victoria to become the manager of this open space) to prepare a Masterplan for this reserve addressing habitat improvement and connectivity to Ronald E Gray Reserve. The plan will need to address other issues including recreational access, use and management. (Refer to Recommendation 24.7.2)	H1 PV, VR, C (os)
6.2.3.5	K5 - Increase the presence and condition of indigenous vegetation in Linvale Walk, compatible with the recreational use of this reserve. (Refer to Recommendation 24.7.12).	LT C (os, pw)
6.2.3.6	K6 - Liaise with City of Manningham and VicRoads to improve habitat corridor values between Koonung Creek and Mullum Mullum Creek.	O C (os, pw, pl) AM, VR, MW
6.2.3.7	K7 - Liaise with City of Manningham to develop suitable long term management arrangements for the creek corridor.	H2 C (os, pw), AM

6.2.4 Mullum Mullum Creek catchment

Mullum Mullum Creek flows along the north-eastern boundary of Whitehorse in Mitcham. Upstream the open space is managed by City of Maroondah and downstream the creek flows through extensive sections of freehold land in the City of Manningham. Hillcrest Reserve is located on the southern side of the creek in Manningham with conservation values of State significance and is the reason the Eastern Freeway is being tunnelled through this section. Hillcrest Reserve the reserves adjacent to Mullum Mullum Creek downstream to Quarry Road are proposed to be included in the future Mullum Mullum Park. In Whitehorse there is some good quality bushland at Yarran Dheran Reserve that directly adjoins the Mullum Mullum Creek Reserve, along with Antonio Park and Antonio New Lands Park located nearby. Indigenous overstorey vegetation is also present in the freehold land adjoining the waterway corridor that contributes to the habitat values. Some of this freehold land is included in Significant Landscape Overlays that aim to protect the bushland and environmental character of this area. Melbourne Water is the waterway manager and

the Mullum Mullum Creek Waterway Management Activity Plan guides their ongoing management and future works along the Creek.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
6.2.4.1	M1 - Council to continue to undertake weed control and revegetation works in Collina Glen to improve the habitat values and connectivity to Mullum Mullum Creek. (Refer Recommendation 21.7. 12)	LT C (pw)
6.2.4.2	M2 - Council to investigate opportunities to secure an open space corridor between Antonio New Lands Park and Mullum Mullum Creek.	LT & O C (pl, os)
6.2.4.3	M3 - Council to seek funding from DSE to prepare and implement an Archaeological Survey and Heritage Landscape Masterplan and Management Plan for the Crown Land which has been to be transferred to Council including consideration of future use, heritage values, environmental value and recreational use. (Refer Recommendation 21.7.1)	H1 & O C (os, pw) DSE

6.2.5 Heatherdale Creek catchment

Heatherdale Creek flows through the Heatherdale Parklands in Mitcham and continues to flow south through City of Maroondah to Dandenong Creek. The creek has been contained in a low flow pipe through some of this reserve system. There is, however, good quality remnant vegetation in the reserve which is to be protected and increased where appropriate.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
6.2.5.1	H1 - Council to continue to implement the Heatherdale Parklands Masterplan to improve the environmental values consistent with the other recreational use and needs in the reserve. (Refer Recommendations 21.7 8 to 21.7.11).	O C (pw) MW

6.2.6 Dandenong Creek catchment

Dandenong Creek flows along the southern and eastern boundaries, and extends upstream through the City of Maroondah to the Dandenongs, and downstream through Knox and Monash Councils. Parks Victoria manage large regional reserves along the Dandenong Creek including extensive wetlands and bushland reserves. Through Whitehorse the Council manage the majority of open space, and the regional trail is located on the eastern (City of Knox) side of the creek for most of the length. There is an extensive system of wetlands adjoining the Creek on Morack Public Golf Course and in Campbells Croft. Melbourne Water is the waterway manager and the Upper Dandenong Creek Waterway Management Activity Plan guides their ongoing management and future works along the waterway. Melbourne Water will focus works on improving the riparian corridor values with a vegetation study that will include the Morack Public Golf Course.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
6.2.6.1	D1 - Council to continue to revegetate Abbey Walk consistent with the recreational use of the reserve. (Refer Recommendation 26.7.1 in Part Two of this Strategy)	O C (pw), MW
6.2.6.2	D2 - Council to continue to protect the cultural heritage and the natural values of Campbells Croft. (Refer to Recommendation 26.7.2).	O C (os)
6.2.6.3	D3 - Council to liaise with Parks Victoria regarding the future management of their land immediately south of Boronia Road. There is potential for Council to investigate providing a major	H2 C, PV (os, pl), MW

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
	regional visitor entry point into the Dandenong Creek trail, Bellbird Dell and Campbells Croft Reserve. This would result in greater focus on environmental and other values at the regional and local level. (Refer to Precinct Recommendations in Section 26)	pl), MW
6.2.6.4	D4 - Council to secure the habitat connectivity between Bellbird Dell and Dandenong Creek through taking measures to protect the vegetation in the Healesville Freeway reservation and establish links between the existing Council reserves. For further information, refer to Precinct recommendations, Section 27.	H1 & O C, VR, PV
6.2.6.5	D5 - Council to continue to protect the natural wetland values through Morack Public Golf Course and identify opportunities to increase the presence of indigenous vegetation, consistent with the continued sporting use of this reserve (Refer Recommendation 27.7.4)	O C (os), MW
6.2.6.6	D6 - Council to increase the indigenous overstorey link between Bellbird Dell and Dandenong Creek via Terrara Park, Barossa Reserve and the streetscapes. Additionally, Council to investigate measures to encourage private landholders to plant indigenous plants on their properties in this area.	LT & O C (pl, os)
6.2.6.7	D7 - Council to improve the environmental condition of the open space reserves adjoining Dandenong Creek south of Burwood Highway to improve and strengthen the habitat values. (Refer to Recommendations in Section 27)	LT C (os, pw), MW

6.2.7 Guidelines for the interface with adjoining land

Adjoining land influences the condition and ongoing management and maintenance of habitat corridors on public land. To minimise the negative impacts on the habitat values, the following guidelines have been prepared and are to be considered when liaising with adjoining land-holders or when there are changes to the use, design and management of land adjoining habitat areas. These guidelines should also be used in conjunction with the general guidelines for adjoining land on open space, refer **Section 8**.

Guidelines for the interface with adjoining land:

- that adjoining land causes no loss or pruning of indigenous trees in the open space reserve with particular attention to ensuring adequate building and paved surfaces setback from mature trees;
- that adjoining land minimises loss or pruning of established indigenous trees in the subject site;
- maximise opportunities to re-establish riparian bushland with consideration to safety of recreational uses;
- minimise impacts on the flooding characteristics of the waterways;
- where relevant, proposed change demonstrates no further degradation to water quality or increased discharge, and where possible an improvement to these conditions;
- new vegetation to be predominantly indigenous, and any new planting that is not indigenous due to consistency with heritage values, to be species that are not known weeds in the habitat area; and
- provision and design of lighting to minimise impacts on native fauna.

6.3 Park infrastructure design

Unstructured recreation infrastructure includes facilities such as paths, playgrounds, skate facilities, seats, picnic shelters, drinking fountains, etc. Not all reserves will have all of these facilities in them, as indicated in the **Table 3-3, p. 17** which highlights appropriate levels of facilities in different types of open space.

CONCLUSIONS 6.3

The level of community use of open space depends on their appeal and accessibility. The design and location of infrastructure influences the function and visual appeal and appearance of the reserve. The community identified that diversity of reserves including their character and facilities they provide was a key value of open space and this is to be maintained and strengthened in future design and implementation of park upgrades throughout the City.

RECOMMENDATIONS 6.3

6.3.1 Shared trails in open space

Shared trails can cause conflicts between different users of them including between cyclists and pedestrians, and between dog walkers, cyclists and pedestrians. In summary, the issues relate to the need for cyclists to travel at higher speeds than pedestrians leading to potential injuries and danger to both the pedestrians and cyclists. The conflicts are exacerbated on the sealed trails where the cyclists can travel at higher speeds and are not easily heard by pedestrians thereby increasing the perceived conflicts. Other safety issues can include surface treatment and gradient of trail, their width, number of road crossings and vegetation management which can lead to inadequate sightlines to accommodate different users. The following guidelines should be referred to in assessing existing shared trails and designing future shared trails in open space:

Guidelines for review and design of shared trails in open space:

- gradients on existing and proposed paths to meet the standards for access and mobility, and Austroad standards for shared trails;
- sightlines to allow clear visibility along paths, particularly near bends without low overhanging vegetation;
- to be a minimum of 2.5 metres wide;
- surface of trail to be appropriate to the character, location and usage levels of the path;
- signage on shared trails to clearly highlight that they are shared and users need to accommodate each other;

- ❑ where dog walkers are permitted, advise that dogs need to be on-lead or under effective control on shared paths including in dog off-lead areas;
- ❑ have control measures for cyclists at critical points along the trail;
- ❑ education (via signage) for all shared trail users of appropriate behaviour on shared trails including cyclists, pedestrians, dog walkers, pram pushers, inline skaters and skateboarders; and
- ❑ adhere to current best management practice guidelines for trails including in relation to flood management.

6.3.2 Paths in open space

The site assessment work has revealed that some of the reserves in Whitehorse do not have any pedestrian paths with some of the larger Municipal Reserves catering to vehicle access only. As walking is one of the most popular recreation activities in Whitehorse, it is proposed that additional paths be provided into and around reserves to encourage a diversity of use. The following guidelines should be referred to in assessing existing and designing future paths in open space:

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
6.3.2.1	Provide additional walking paths in open space reserves to improve accessibility of open space to a diversity of users. Implementation of this action is to be undertaken as part of the open space Masterplan and Concept Plan development which is described in Part Two of the Strategy.	O C (os, pw)

Guidelines for review and design of paths in open space:

- ❑ alignment and surface design to complement and be appropriate to the parks location, usage levels and character;
- ❑ to be a width suitable to the intended use, and where appropriate, meet any relevant path standards;
- ❑ meet the standards for access and mobility;
- ❑ minimise points where the paths cross vehicle entries;
- ❑ adequate pram crossings and connections to the existing footpath network to improve access from adjoining streets into the open space;
- ❑ suitable safe crossing points and junctions with adjoining streets; and
- ❑ adhere to current best management practice guidelines for paths including in relation to flood management.

6.3.3 Seats

Seats were the most frequently requested facility to be provided in open space from the household survey undertaken for the Strategy. The site assessment work has confirmed there are issues with the current provision of seats in open space which includes:

- lack of seats other than adjacent to playgrounds;
- the condition and design of seats varies but in many locations only bench seats are provided; and
- where seats are provided, their location is sometimes inappropriate including away from paths, without views and without consideration for people to meet or interact.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
6.3.3.1	Provide additional seats in open space with consideration given to their location, design, accessibility and maintenance. Specific recommendations are included in the Precinct Recommendations in Part Two of the Strategy, Section s 12 to 27.	O C (os, pw)

Guidelines for review and design of seats in open space:

- positioned to face activity and paths, take advantage of views or features within the reserve and a variety of settings including some in groups and some alone;
- variety of locations with some in the shade and others in the sun to provide for a diversity of needs;
- variety of seat types including bench seats, seats with backs and some including armrests to improve all-ability access;
- located in open space and along shared trails and streets which are major pedestrian links between open space reserves; and
- located adjacent to paths or paved areas to allow for access to them.

6.3.4 Picnic/BBQ facilities

There were requests for additional facilities, particularly BBQs, picnic tables and shelters. These facilities are generally only appropriate in larger reserves including Regional, Municipal and Neighbourhood parks.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
6.3.4.1	Provide additional picnic and BBQ facilities where appropriate in Regional and Municipal open space. These facilities are to be located as part of future Landscape Masterplans or Landscape Concept Plans which are identified in the Precinct Recommendations in Part Two of this Strategy.	O C (os, pw)

Guidelines for review and design of picnic/BBQ facilities in open space:

- positioned to be near car parking and access into the reserve;
- co-located with other facilities including playgrounds and community facilities where they will be well used;
- shelters to be designed to respond to the open space character and sized to meet the anticipated regular use;
- incorporate sustainability principles into future designs including material use, water collection/runoff;
- BBQ design to minimise fire risk or public nuisance; and
- designed to allow all-ability access and use of the facility.

6.3.5 Public toilets

The consultation outcomes requested additional public toilets in a range of reserves throughout the Municipality. There were also requests to open the existing toilets more often and to improve maintenance and security at them. Public toilets are appropriate in Regional, Municipal or Neighbourhood open space reserves where they provide for the anticipated longer stays and use in these reserves. Recently Council have changed the design criteria for new toilets and this has been effective in reducing inappropriate use of them.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
6.3.5.1	Council to undertake a further review of the existing public toilet facilities, their distribution and condition in accordance with the guidelines included in the Strategy. Recommendations from this review will include a prioritised program of upgrade or change to maintenance levels/opening hours along with locations for new facilities if required.	H2 C (os, ud, pw)

In future siting and design of toilet facilities in open space, the following guidelines are to be considered:

Guidelines for review and design of public toilets in open space:

- required in selected Regional, Municipal and Neighbourhood reserves only, based on assessment of other facilities present and need;
- where possible integrate with other buildings in the reserve, however, this is applicable only where it meets the other guidelines for supervision and proximity to car parks;
- utilise best practice environmentally sustainable principles in siting and design, particularly in relation to water re-use;
- location should not block prominent public views to the reserve and not create hidden or unusable areas around them;
- located with as much natural supervision as possible, preferably on a road verge and not adjacent to a car park;
- designed such that cubicles open directly to the outside and include wash facilities rather than an ante room with basins;
- adequate lighting;
- appropriately sized to meet demands and size of the open space;
- complement the character of the park; and
- provide disability access in accordance with current Australian Standards.

6.3.6 Car parking

Car parking is provided in many of the Regional, Municipal and some Neighbourhood open space. As demands for use of each reserve increase over time, there is a tendency for car parks to enlarge to meet the growing demands. Whilst there may be adequate space to accommodate this in some reserves, it is acknowledged that as a general rule it will be necessary to look at alternatives to ensure adequate green open

space in the reserves are retained. In reviewing the need for existing and future car parking designs and requirements for open space, assess them in accordance with the following guidelines:

Guidelines for car parking in open space:

- ❑ identify the quantity of parking required to meet the existing or proposed change to the open space;
- ❑ demonstrate how the parking will be accommodated in the area without undue impact on adjoining land use or undue loss of existing open space area;
- ❑ proposed design to adhere to Ecologically Sustainable Design (ESD) principles and best management practice regarding safety of car park design;
- ❑ proposed size, material use and design does not compromise the desired landscape character of the reserve;
- ❑ lighting car parks in open space is generally not required, except where the open space facilities are in use outside daylight hours by a large number of park users or where there is insufficient ambient light;
- ❑ encourage, where appropriate, multiple use of the car park (i.e. surface that is available for other uses when not being used as a car park or shared parking with other nearby with facilities); and
- ❑ include areas for bicycle parking within car parks in accordance with the Whitehorse Bicycle Strategy.

6.3.7 Playgrounds

Council are currently preparing a Strategy that examines the issue of playground needs, design and management called the State of Play in Whitehorse. This will guide the future provision and design of playgrounds.

6.3.8 Skate and BMX facilities

The Whitehorse Skate Strategy identifies future locations for Skate facilities and the future design of these in Whitehorse. The Strategy also identifies potential locations for future BMX facilities in Whitehorse, however, the refinement of final locations and design of future BMX facilities will be guided by Landscape Masterplans and Landscape Concept Plans prepared for individual open space reserves.

The Whitehorse Skate Strategy acknowledges and is consistent with the current best practice design standards for Skate facilities which is *The Skate Facility Guide*, published by Sport and Recreation Victoria.

6.3.9 Minor park infrastructure

This includes facilities such as vehicle control barriers, bollards, fencing, drinking fountains, bicycle parking, lighting, picnic shelters, BBQs, rubbish bins, half courts, cricket nets, exercise equipment, tennis walls, dog waste bins, etc. Where these facilities are required, their future design needs to be consistent with the following guidelines:

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
6.3.9.1	Council to prepare a minor parks infrastructure style guide based on the guidelines included in the Open Space Strategy. This will coordinate the type of open space infrastructure installed in open space in Whitehorse. In larger reserves, particularly Regional, Municipal and Neighbourhood open space it may be applicable to have some custom designed infrastructure to respond to the specific character and use of these reserves.	H1 C (os, ud, pw)

Guidelines for minor open space infrastructure:

- ❑ designs to reflect diversity in open space landscape, environmental and cultural character;
- ❑ designs to meet best practice guidelines for safety and quality; and
- ❑ adhere to sustainability principles in the selection of materials, design and placement in the reserve.

In addition to the guidelines above, there are additional guidelines for the following infrastructure items where it has been determined they are required:

Guidelines for lighting

- ❑ lighting is generally only applicable in high use open space and larger reserves including Regional, Municipal and Neighbourhood open space, and in these locations, for specific use or facilities, e.g. sporting ovals and major pedestrian links;
- ❑ lighting is generally not provided in reserves which have bushland or nature conservation values;
- ❑ utilise existing lighting where possible, for example, sports field lighting; and
- ❑ where new lighting is required select lighting that: minimises upward glare (to reduce impact on native fauna and adjoining residential amenity), is energy efficient or has a viable alternative energy source, that it is scaled to meet the specific need identified, is easily maintained and the design complements the character of the reserve.

Guidelines for rubbish bins

- ❑ Local and Small Local reserves to have no bins with residents encouraged to take rubbish home with them;
- ❑ bins to be located in positions that are accessible for maintenance purposes e.g. near the entry and exits and near BBQ and picnic facilities;
- ❑ bins near BBQ/picnic areas and playgrounds to be labelled to advise that no dog waste is to be placed in these bins; and
- ❑ dog waste bins are to be located near dog off-lead areas, preferably at entry/exit to these reserves and not near any BBQ/picnic areas, playgrounds or seats.

6.4 Environmentally sustainable design of open space

Whitehorse has an EcoVision Strategy which includes environmentally sustainable initiatives for the Municipality. Some of these initiatives are relevant to the future design of open space including integrating the reduction in water use, material use in open space, protection of habitat values and water quality improvement and water re-use. **Refer to Section 7.3 for Environmentally sustainable management of open space.**

CONCLUSIONS 6.4

Whitehorse has already implemented a number of initiatives to improve environmentally sustainable design practices for open space and the Strategy supports continuation and expansion of this program.

RECOMMENDATIONS 6.4

6.4.1 Waterway corridors

An overall objective in the Strategy is to improve the environmental values of the open space system adjoining waterways in the Municipality. Recommendations to improve the habitat values are included in **Section 6.2**

6.4.2 Stormwater quality, flows and re-use

Investigate measures to improve opportunities for stormwater quality treatment, flow attenuation and stormwater re-use in future open space design in accordance with the following guidelines:

- in future Masterplans and Concept Plans for reserves, incorporate the principles from CSIRO publications *Urban Stormwater Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines* and *WSUD Engineering Procedures Stormwater* and, the *City of Whitehorse Stormwater Management Plan*. This may include consideration of treating stormwater run-off from open space reserves and part of the surrounding local catchment;
- investigate opportunities for stormwater storage, harvesting and re-use in open space;
- in future Masterplans and open space designs maximise permeable surface treatments to minimise urban runoff;
- select materials and designs that minimise transport of sediments to the stormwater system; and
- investigate soft engineering solutions in open space design to accommodate stormwater runoff from buildings and hard surfaces in preference to pits and pipes.

6.4.3 Reduce water use in open space

In future open space design adhere to the following guidelines to reduce water use in open space:

- continue to use dry-season grasses to reduce irrigation needs in open space;
- continue to encourage clubs to progressively convert en-tou-cas tennis courts to 'classic clay' or like alternatives which reduces the ongoing water use for court maintenance;
- in open space design utilise indigenous and native species, where appropriate, to reduce water use; and
- in open space with heritage planting and cultural heritage values, use of drought tolerant exotic vegetation will be encouraged (where the species are not known weeds in waterway corridors and bushland reserves).

6.4.4 Infrastructure material use and design

In selecting materials for use in future open space construction adhere where appropriate to the following guidelines to minimise material use:

- timbers including review of sustainable harvesting and supply and potential to use alternatives e.g. radial sawn timber or recycled timbers;
- recycled materials including recycled plastics and rubber;
- integrate stormwater runoff from roofs of shelters or buildings into the open space design where practical;
- use permeable surfaces where possible to minimise urban runoff; and
- investigate use of recycled materials.

6.4.5 Vegetation selection

In selecting plants for use in public open space reserves, consider the following guidelines:

- plants that minimise the need for excessive watering and are drought tolerant;
- in reserves with an environmental character classification, use plants that are locally indigenous and of local provenance and, where appropriate, strengthen the Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC);
- increase presence of trees for shade and character where it is demonstrated this can complement existing and planned future use; and
- where the use of native or indigenous species will conflict with its existing established landscape character, particularly heritage reserves, use of non-indigenous or native species will be encouraged consistent with the heritage character. In these locations, investigate use of drought tolerant species and confirm

they are not known environmental or noxious weeds in waterway environments prior to use.

6.5 Cultural heritage in open space

6.5.1 Overview

There is very little information available on the indigenous cultural heritage values of open space in Whitehorse. The Wurundjeri Tribe Land Cooperation and Cultural Heritage Council Inc wrote to Council in 2005 identifying areas likely to be sensitive to archaeological values. These included:

- land that has not been extensively modified since white settlement
- land within 500 metres of watercourses or other sensitive land farms
- land within 500 metres of any registered Aboriginal archaeological sites

Council have recently completed the Whitehorse Reconciliation Policy and Action Plan 2007 to 2020 which provides a framework for ongoing consultation with local Indigenous people. It is anticipated that this consultation will assist with increasing the understanding of Indigenous cultural heritage values of open space in Whitehorse.

Large areas of Whitehorse were used for agricultural purposes with some areas remaining in agricultural use until the 1970's in the east of the City. West of Box Hill, the urban areas were largely developed prior to WWII and east of Box Hill post WWII. In Box Hill, Mont Albert and Surrey Hills, the open space reserves were established in earlier times. One of the earliest formed landscaped spaces in the area was The Ovals in Box Hill on the site of the present Whitehorse Road median strip. In 1883, Whitehorse Road comprised of a three-chain wide road reserve with two narrow strips of roadway. By 1889, the central roadway had been moved to the south boundary and the median fenced. Improvements included tree planting, the erection of the Boer War memorial drinking fountain and the bowling green (1900), a rotunda (1911), the war memorial (1922) and the White Horse statue (1934).

The larger open space reserves in the western end of the Municipality includes Box Hill Gardens which was purchased by the Council in 1920 and developed soon after this time. Kingsley Gardens was established on the site of a former abattoir. Wattle Park officially opened in 1917 and was established on land that had been acquired by the Hawthorn Tramways and developed as a recreation facility in conjunction with the opening of the electric tram route along Riversdale Road.

In the early 1900's, Council's sports facilities expanded including Surrey Park in Box Hill, Morton Park in Blackburn and ten acre sites in Mitcham and East Burwood. Box Hill Cricket Club was formed in 1902 and a bowling green was established in Whitehorse Road in the 1920's. Surrey Dive was a major recreational focus in the local area and the site of many swimming carnivals after being purchased in 1905 by Council which was the site of a former claypit. The site was closed in 1968 for safety reasons, leaving the nearby Swimming pool as the only swimming facility in the area.

Pockets of bushland in the Municipality have long been used to attract suburban development to the area. Blackburn Lake was created as the centrepiece of the 1888

Blackburn Model Town estate. Originally owned by the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society since 1909, it was re-zoned as a public park by the MMBW in 1954 and gradually taken into Council ownership from 1975. Other bushland areas include Yarran Dheran (originally a quarry) and the Schwerkolt Cottage which includes the cottage, house garden, outbuildings and orchard. These have recently been included on the Heritage Victoria Inventory in recognition of its archaeological value along with its remnant landscape features. Campbells Croft is also included on the Heritage Inventory and is recognised for its early settlement history and remnant mature exotic tree plantings in a parkland setting adjoining the Dandenong Creek.

6.5.2 Heritage protection

Indigenous cultural heritage values of open space in Whitehorse are currently not well documented. Future cultural heritage reviews of the City should include documentation of these values.

Wattle Park is the only open space in Whitehorse that is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register as the only example in Australia of a comprehensively developed pleasure park established, owned and operated by a transport authority with dual aim of promoting its transport services and providing a recreational facility for the public.

Two other open space reserves are listed on the Victorian Heritage Inventory including:

- Campbells Croft which is listed on the Heritage Inventory Site (H7922-0191); and
- Schwerkolt Cottage and Orchard Inventory Site (H7922-0362).

The Whitehorse Planning Scheme includes Heritage Overlays over the following open space:

- Wattle Park, Surrey Hills
- Combarton Park, Box Hill
- Part of Strathdon Orchard, Vermont South
- Schwerkolt Cottage, Mitcham

Recommendations 6.5.2

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
6.5.2.1	<p>During the next Heritage Review for the City of Whitehorse, consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous cultural heritage values of open space in Whitehorse; and • whether additional heritage protection is required on the existing open space reserves including Campbells Croft given it is listed by Heritage Victoria as an Inventory Site. 	<p>O C (pl, os)</p>
6.5.2.2.	<p>Future development of open space identified to be sensitive to Aboriginal archaeological values should be assessed by an appropriately qualified archaeologist and written report supplied to the Wurundjeri and Council.</p>	<p>O C (os)</p>
6.5.2.3	<p>Liaise with the local indigenous groups during design and implementation projects in open space, as outlined in the Whitehorse Reconciliation Policy and Action Plan 2007 - 2020.</p>	<p>O C (pl, pw)</p>

6.6 Design of open space reserves

CONCLUSIONS 6.6

The design process for open space reserves is scaled to match the size and function of the reserve. Preparing design plans for reserves allows Council to plan and budget for upgrades to reserves in a fair manner.

RECOMMENDATIONS 6.6

6.6.1 Overall design criteria

Refer to the guidelines included in Section 6 of the Strategy.

6.6.2 Preparation of design plans

The Regional, Municipal, Neighbourhood and some Local open space will generally have a design plan prepared to guide future works which are described below. In addition to design plans, some of these reserves will have Management Plans prepared for them as well. Refer to **Section 7.5** for a description of consultation framework for preparation of these plans.

Landscape Masterplans

These will guide the future design of Regional, Municipal and Neighbourhood open space across the Municipality and twenty one reserves already have Masterplans in place. Refer to Section B2.2.7 of the Issues Paper in Part 3 of the Strategy for a list of these reserves. The following framework guides the future preparation of these plans:

- ❑ Masterplans provide an overall direction for the future design and function of the reserve for approximately 10 years with a major review or preparation of a new plan after 10 years.
- ❑ Consultation is to include clubs and organisations which use the reserve, visitors to the reserve and the local community. Consultation is to be undertaken in at least two stages:
 - at the research phase; and
 - at the draft design phase.
- ❑ Outputs of a Landscape Masterplan include:
 - scaled drawing or drawings of the reserve illustrating the proposed changes to the reserve once the recommendations are implemented and explanatory design notes;
 - a preliminary opinion of probable cost for the works; and
 - a summary report describing the project process, key issues, recommendations, preliminary opinion of probable cost and implementation priorities.

Landscape Concept Plans

These plans will guide the future design of Neighbourhood, Local and Small Local open space across the Municipality and are smaller in scope and outputs than a Landscape Masterplan. The following framework guides the future preparation of these plans:

- ❑ Concept Plans provide an overall direction for the future design and function of the reserve for up to 10 years with a review of the plan at this time.
- ❑ Consultation is to include local residents and any clubs if they are based in the reserve.
- ❑ Outputs of a Concept Plan include:
 - scaled drawing of the reserve illustrating proposed changes, incorporating the key actions and priorities onto the plan; and
 - a prioritised preliminary opinion of probable cost.

Landscape Management Plans

These may be prepared for selected sites where vegetation management requires a higher level of resolution. This may be required for sites with environmental values. Management Plans would be prepared during or following the preparation of a Landscape Masterplan, taking into account the recommendations in the Masterplan.

7. Open space management

7.1 Events and functions in open space

Community events and festivals held in open space assist with building community spirit and encouraging the community to be outdoors and visit open space. Large community events and festivals are generally organised by Council. There is also a range of events held in open space that are organised by private organisations and clubs. The frequency with which events take place, the scale of the event and the degree to which they involve the local community influence their acceptance of them.

CONCLUSIONS 7.1

There is a need to provide some direction for where and how events and functions occur in open space. A distinction is made between community based festivals, events and functions, and private events and functions.

RECOMMENDATIONS 7.1

7.1.1 Community festivals and events in open space

Council promotes community events and festivals in open space reserves in the Municipality as it encourages a sense of place and community use of open space reserves. Over-use of open space for this purpose can potentially conflict with regular use of these reserves by the local community or the environmental values of the reserve.

Selecting the most appropriate reserves for community festivals and events (i.e. 20 people or more) will minimise conflicts along with consideration of the following guidelines:

Guidelines for assessing appropriateness of community festivals and events in open space:

- Major festivals and events to be held in either Regional or Municipal open space reserves as these generally have the appropriate level of facilities, public transport access, parking and usage levels appropriate to this use.
- Smaller community events to be held in Neighbourhood open space reserves and events with less than 20 people can be held in any open space.
- In selecting festivals and events to be held in open space encourage those that promote the following:
 - the event enhances sense of community and neighbourhood spirit;
 - increases residents' appreciation of the cultural or natural character and values of Whitehorse;
 - has relevance to the Whitehorse community and encourages their attendance and participation;
 - event is compatible with community expectations regarding appropriate use of public open space; and
 - minimises the area and length of time that general community access will be restricted to open space.
- Event Management Plan appropriate to the scale of the event.
- Minimise impacts on documented environmental values.

7.1.2 Commercial or private events and functions in open space

Private functions and events in open space should be held in either Regional reserves, Municipal reserves or commercial streetscapes. Applications for holding a private function or event should be assessed to address the following guidelines:

Guidelines for assessing appropriateness of private events and functions in open space

- ❑ there are alternative areas of open space for the community to use in the vicinity of where the event is proposed or they are able to access at least part of the reserve during the event;
- ❑ whether the applicant is based in Whitehorse;
- ❑ if the event will have a positive contribution to sense of community in the reserve e.g. encourage the local community to visit the reserve, etc;
- ❑ the event and associated infrastructure will not unduly restrict or impact on the use and enjoyment of the open space by nearby/adjoining residents including issues such as traffic and parking;
- ❑ the event and associated infrastructure will not damage the park grounds, plants or features;
- ❑ demonstrates the impact of noise generated from the event is acceptable and meets with Council's requirements in relation to amplified noise;
- ❑ demonstrates all waste will be adequately dealt with; and
- ❑ complies with Council's liquor consumption guidelines.

If the proposed event meets the guidelines, an Event Management Plan appropriate to the scale of the event will need to be submitted and approved prior to confirmation to proceed.

7.1.3 Commercial or private use of buildings or facilities in open space

Applications need to demonstrate the proposed use meets the following guidelines:

Guidelines for assessing appropriateness of commercial or private use of buildings or facilities in open space

- ❑ that proposed use or development complements and enhances the community use of the reserve;
- ❑ that visual and physical access to the reserve will not be reduced; and
- ❑ there is a demonstrated community need for the proposal.

7.2 Dogs, other domestic pets and pest animals

The Strategy recognises that walking dogs is a popular activity and is often the main reason that some residents use open space and is keeping people fit. The consultation has identified a range of issues associated with dog access to and use of open space and this is supported by other recent consultation by Council. They can be categorised into two areas of those whose enjoyment and use of open space is reduced by dogs and those who feel that dog walking facilities are inadequate. To a lesser extent, the community have identified cats have a negative impact on native

wildlife in open space and Council officers have identified that foxes continue to have an impact on native wildlife in open space and are difficult to effectively control.

CONCLUSIONS 7.2

Domestic pet management is a broader management issue that extends beyond their impacts and use of open space. Therefore, the issues require a whole of Municipality approach to management. The Strategy has included some guidelines in the interim for management of dogs and domestic pets in open space, however, the broader animal management issue needs to be addressed at a Municipality-wide level. Council is required to develop a Domestic Animal Management Plan and undertake regular and tri-annual review of this document.

Council will continue the current fox control and management practices.

RECOMMENDATIONS 7.2

7.2.1 Dog owners and open space

Council may consider the following issues associated with ongoing domestic animal management in open space when it undertakes the development of its Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP):

- reasonable access for all residents to dog off-lead and on-lead areas in open space to ensure fair access for all including those with dogs and those concerned about dogs-off-lead;
- protect areas with recognised native wildlife habitat values; and
- promote dog controls in all open space reserves including consideration of signage where this assists.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
7.2.1.1	Council to develop a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) and undertake regular reviews as required.	O C (local laws)

7.2.2 Cat owners and open space

Council to address the issues associated with domestic animal management at a Municipality-wide level through the DAMP. Residents have raised the issue that domestic cats impact on native wildlife. Council to consider the following options in the future when preparing the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP):

- in areas with recognised native wildlife habitat values, investigate measures to minimise the impact of domestic cats on native wildlife.
- education program to advise the community of the impacts of domestic cats on native wildlife and some of the preventative measures that cat owners can take.

7.2.3 Pest animals

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
7.2.3.1	Continue to monitor and, where appropriate, undertake control of pest animals on public land including foxes and rabbits. Control methods to be in accordance with current best management practice on public land in urban areas.	O C (pw)

7.3 Environmentally sustainable management of open space

Whitehorse has an EcoVision Strategy which includes environmentally sustainability initiatives for the Municipality. Those relevant to open space management include reduction in water use, material use in open space, protection of habitat values, water quality improvement and water re-use.

CONCLUSIONS 7.3

Whitehorse has already implemented a number of initiatives to improve environmentally sustainable management practices in open space and the Strategy supports continuation and expansion of this program.

RECOMMENDATIONS 7.3

7.3.1 Waterway corridors

An overall objective in the Strategy is to improve the environmental values of the open space system adjoining waterways in the Municipality. Recommendations to improve the habitat values are included in **Section 6.2**

7.3.2 Stormwater quality, flows and re-use

The City of Whitehorse will experience increases in residential housing over the next 15 years which will result in an increase in impervious surfaces in the City. The impacts of stormwater runoff both in water quality and flow can be seen across the Municipality, particularly in some of the most popular open space corridors including Gardiners Creek and Koonung Creek. The major issues are in-stream erosion caused by increased flow volumes and velocities, and degradation of in-stream habitat from poor water quality. Council and Melbourne water can work in partnership to address these issues, particularly proactively addressing this in future open space management

Management guidelines for stormwater quality, flows and reuse to investigate and implement in open space including:

- ❑ refer design guidelines in **Section 6.4.2**;
- ❑ stormwater quality treatment wetlands;
- ❑ water sensitive urban design features including bioretention basins, bioretention swales, sediment basins, sand filters, constructed wetlands, rainwater tanks etc.;
- ❑ flow retardation; and
- ❑ investigate appropriate measures to harvest, store and re-use stormwater in the open space reserve to reduce flows into receiving waterways.

7.3.3. Reduce water use in open space

In future open space management adhere to the following guidelines to reduce water use in open space:

- ❑ continue to use dry-season grasses to reduce irrigation needs in open space;
- ❑ continue to encourage clubs to convert clay tennis courts to 'classic clay' or like alternatives which reduces the ongoing water use for court maintenance;
- ❑ in open space design, utilise indigenous and native species, where appropriate, to reduce water use (Refer **Section 6.6**); and
- ❑ prepare guidelines to encourage use of water-wise species, indigenous and native species on private land.

7.3.4 Vegetation maintenance and management

Weed control

Council is committed to integrated weed control measures in the management of open space. A range of techniques are used to control weeds including hand weeding, cultivation, mulch, competition and herbicides. Herbicides are currently one of the most common and cost effective methods to control weeds in open space. Other methods of weed control are also being trialled by Council including use of steam on trial sites. A longer-term objective is to reduce the need for herbicide use in the open space management as it is recognised there are potential risks associated with their use.

Council to continue to develop an integrated pest plant management plan with consideration for the following guidelines:

- ❑ continue to investigate alternative methods of weed removal including potential for steam to be trialled at appropriate locations;
- ❑ implement best practice management weed control techniques to minimise environmental impacts; and
- ❑ regularly review weed control methods, their success and investigate alternative techniques.

Native grassland areas

There are remnant areas of native grasses in open space reserves. Council is to continue to investigate improved methods for managing these and potentially expanding them where appropriate.

7.3.5 Reduce reliance on vehicle use to access open space

Recommendations in this Open Space Strategy are focussed on encouraging people to walk or cycle to open space. This is specifically encouraged through improved linkages and implementation of Council's Bicycle Strategy. Overall, this direction will reduce reliance on vehicles and encourage fitness through walking and cycling.

7.4 Community involvement in open space management

The community are involved in open space management through a number of different organisations including being part of the Parkland Advisory Committees and other community groups including Blackburn & District Tree Preservation Society Inc. There are two community not-for-profit nurseries Greenlink Nursery and Bungalook Nursery who work co-operatively with ParksWide on seed collection and propagation of indigenous species for use in Whitehorse open space. Council have established formal terms of reference with the Parkland Advisory Committees. Further information is provided in the Section B2.1.4 in the Background Issues Paper and Part Three of this Strategy.

There are four Community Gardens in Whitehorse and these are located in Slater Reserve, Combarton Street Reserve, Jolimont Road Nunawading and Sinnott Street adjacent to Gardiners Creek in Bennettswood. Whilst there are no formal agreements in place, liaison occurs between Council and Community Gardens as required.

CONCLUSION 7.4

The Parkland Advisory Committees are functioning well and providing advice and practical input to Council for the reserves. Similarly, the community nurseries promote the use of indigenous plants, have a large knowledge base and supply plants to a range of community organisations, the general public and Council for use in reserves. There is a need for Council to formalise the arrangements for the Community Gardens in open space.

RECOMMENDATIONS 7.4

7.4.1 Parkland Advisory Committees

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
7.4.1.1	Continue to support the Parkland Advisory Committees under the existing agreements and support arrangements.	O C (os)
7.4.1.2	Continue to encourage and assist the Parkland Advisory Committees to apply for external funding with the State and Federal Government agencies for improvement works in the reserves. These agencies have specific funding programs that are available to Community Committees.	O C (os) PAC
7.4.1.3	Utilise existing Council networks to promote and seek additional membership of the Parkland Advisory Committees.	H2 & O C (os) PAC

7.4.2 Community Nurseries

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
7.4.2.1	Continue to support and develop the co-operative relationship between ParksWide and the Community Nurseries under existing support arrangements.	O C (os, pw)

7.4.3 Community Gardens

Community Gardens have positive attributes for those who have access to them including the social contact and the opportunity to grow flowers and vegetables, however, they are only accessible to part of the community. Council needs, as with all other community use of open space, to balance access and use of open space. There are also broad public land management responsibilities that Council need to regulate including the use of herbicides, pesticides, fertilisers and other soil additives to ensure public safety and that there is no longer-term environmental damage to the land. For these reasons, it is necessary for Council to develop formal agreements and conditions of use for Community Gardens. These guidelines will be applied to existing and future proposals for Community Gardens.

- demonstrate the use of land as a Community Garden is benefiting local residents;
- there is adequate public open space available in addition to land being used or sought for Community Gardens;
- the Community Gardens are run by an incorporated organisation who meet regularly;
- the land should not be required for an alternative public open space use that benefits the broader community;
- the assessment criteria for allocation of plots to give priority to applicants who do not have access to freehold land (e.g. do not have their own gardens);
- should adhere to agreed land management practices and access arrangements as stipulated by Council;

- ❑ maintain an agreed edge treatment between the Community Garden and the public open space reserve;
- ❑ all infrastructure and plants established as part of the Community Garden be removed prior the land being returned to Council; and
- ❑ if the land is identified to be required for an alternative public open space use, Council have the right to reclaim the land for that purpose.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
7.4.3.1	Develop formal agreements and conditions of use with any new and existing Community Gardens and regular review of the management and need for them.	H2 C (os)
7.4.3.2	Investigate the need for existing and any additional Community Garden sites based on demand and supply of appropriate sites within the existing open space network.	H1 C (os)
7.4.3.3	Future applications for establishing community gardens on public land will need to adhere to the guidelines included in this Strategy and any further refinement of these as part of the agreement and conditions use process undertaken for the existing gardens.	O C (os)

7.5 Community consultation

The broader community have provided input to the Strategy via the household surveys, community workshops and submissions. Their input has informed the direction of this Strategy. Refer to **B2.1.5** and **Part Three** of Strategy for further information on the Community consultation.

CONCLUSIONS 7.5

The continued involvement in the implementation of this Strategy will be an important part of the Strategy's success. Community input will be sought through the development of Masterplans, Concept Plans and Management Plans for open space reserves.

RECOMMENDATIONS 7.5

7.5.1 Consultation framework for Masterplans, Concept Plans and Management Plans

The following guidelines are to be considered when developing and reviewing Masterplans, Management Plans and Concept Plans.

Masterplans Regional open space

- *Project Working Group* formed which includes Council and other Agencies which meets regularly during the project.
- *Stakeholder Working Group* formed which includes Councillors and representatives from community-based clubs and organisations involved in the reserve. This group meets on at least two occasions during the project.
- *Inform the local community of the project using a range of media (which may include letters, signs, surveys, ads)* as appropriate.
- *Community meetings/workshops* may be held if required at the research and draft exhibition phase
- *Public exhibition period of the Draft Plan* with appropriate notification
- *Council approval* of plans is required

Masterplans for Municipal open space

- *Project Working Group* formed which includes Council and other Agencies which meets regularly during the project.
- *Inform the local community of the project using a range of media (which may include letters, signs, surveys, ads)* as appropriate.
- *Councillor briefing/memo* required
- *Community meetings/workshops* may be held if required at the research and draft exhibition phase
- *Public exhibition period of the Draft Plan* with appropriate notification
- *Council approval* of plans is required

Landscape Concept Plans for Neighbourhood & Local open space

- *Project Working Group and/or Council Project Officer to coordinate where appropriate* (optional)
- *Councillor briefing/memo* required
- *Inform the local community of the project using a range of media (which may include letters, signs, surveys, ads)* as appropriate.
- *Community meetings/workshops* may be held if required at the research and draft exhibition phase
- *Public exhibition period of the Draft Plan* with appropriate notification

Landscape Concept Plans for Small Local open space

- *Council Project Officer to coordinate project*
- *Inform the local community of the project using a range of media (which may include letters, signs, surveys, ads)* as appropriate.
- *Community meetings/workshops* may be held if required at the research and draft exhibition phase
- *Public exhibition period of the Draft Plan* with appropriate notification

7.6 Information about open space

Council currently has information about open space facilities available on their website. Some open space reserves are named but not all are named and the entries to some reserves are not easily found. The household survey revealed that many residents use local open space reserves but do not know the names of these parks. ParksWide has an assets and education coordinator who undertakes nature walks and educational programs with local groups regarding the environmental values of open space.

CONCLUSIONS 7.6

The consultation process revealed that there is a need to improve information available to residents about open space including what facilities are available and the names of local open space. It is noted that all signs on open space are subject to Clause 22.02 (Visual amenity and advertising signs) and 52.05 (Advertising signs) within the Whitehorse Planning Scheme and other signage policy.

The consultation also revealed there are conflicts between different recreational uses in open space particularly on shared trails, including conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians and cyclists and dog walking. An important way of solving some of these conflicts will be installation of signage to advise of the appropriate behaviour and shared trail etiquette.

RECOMMENDATIONS 7.6

7.6.1 Information

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
7.6.1.1	Continue to provide information about open space on the website and investigate regular updates to advise the community of the latest works and upgrades to facilities as they occur.	H2 & O C (os)
7.6.1.2	Develop printed information about facilities in open space and circulate to all residents via the Whitehorse News as required. This will target all residents irrespective of whether they have access to the website.	H1 C (os)
7.6.1.3	Continue to provide environmental educational programs established by the ParksWide officer with local community groups in the short-term and review the need for this in the longer-term.	O C (pw)

7.6.2 Signage

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
7.6.2.1	Prepare an integrated signage strategy for open space consistent with existing Council policies, Whitehorse Planning Scheme and guidelines on signage with consideration for the following:	H1 C (os, ud, pl)

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scaling the size of the sign in accordance with the open space hierarchy and size of the reserve; • integrate the naming of the reserve with other key regulatory or directional signage; • reflect the character of the reserves with the signage style e.g. sporting reserves, bushland reserves, etc. • include interpretive information on the natural and cultural values in open space; and • develop clear graphics to clearly communicate regulatory information, particularly dog regulations and shared trail etiquette. 	

7.7 Risk management

Council has a risk management framework in place to minimise risk to the general public including staff training programs, regular inspections and maintenance of assets, and hazard reporting by the community. Risk management affects all areas of Council's works and operations, therefore, management and maintenance programs for these are part of the Municipality-wide approach to dealing with risk.

CONCLUSIONS 7.7

Council to continue to minimise risk to the public in open space management and continue to review and update procedures for this which are consistent with the broader Municipality-wide direction.

RECOMMENDATIONS 7.7

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
7.7.1	Continue to regularly review risk management procedures and preventative measures for open space, consistent with the broader Municipality-wide direction.	O C (pw, os)
7.7.2	Continue to conduct regular inspections of open space to record and report hazards. These inspections are to include review of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation condition and clearances around paths with priority given to shared trails in accordance with the Austroad Standards 	O C (pw)
7.7.3	Ensure all staff responsible for using herbicides are fully trained and undertaking works in accordance with best management practices. Periodic inspections of on-ground works may be required to confirm herbicides are being applied correctly.	O C (pw)
7.7.4	Prior to scheduled community planting days in open space, Council to collect and dispose of rubbish from garden beds areas that are to be planted to minimise danger to volunteers working on the site (particularly from broken glass, syringes, etc).	O C (pw)

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
7.7.5	Increased shade and/or sun-protection advice for children and parents in playgrounds to be addressed in Council's future Play Strategy. Shade may be provided by locating playgrounds near existing shade trees, planting new trees and shade structures where appropriate.	O C (ud)

7.8 Fire management

Council has existing Bushland Reserves Fire Management Strategies. The purpose of these fire management strategies is to identify and implement the requirements for bushfire safety on and adjacent to Bushland Reserves within the City of Whitehorse. These fire management strategies fully recognise both the community and environmental value of the remnant vegetation in these reserves.

During the development of the Open Space Strategy, the issue has been raised that the bushfire risk may be greater if there is an increase in residential density and development adjacent to bushland reserves, particularly if there are decreased set backs from the reserves.

CONCLUSIONS 7.8

Council to continue to manage fire risks in Bushland Reserves in accordance with the Bushland Reserves Fire Management Strategy. Identify potential improvements to be achieved by requiring minimum setbacks of future development adjoining bushland reserves.

RECOMMENDATIONS 7.8

7.8.1 Bushland Reserves Fire Management Strategy

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
7.8.1	Council to continue to implement the existing Bushland Reserves Fire Management Strategy (updated 2002).	O C (pw)

Refer to **Section 8.1** for recommendations on impacts of fire management on adjoining freehold land.

7.9 Service infrastructure from other authorities in open space

Council have identified that a range of service agencies install services on open space without referral to the Arts and Recreation Development area regarding the need, position and maintenance access requirements for these services.

CONCLUSIONS 7.9

There is a need to improve the internal referral system and to develop guidelines for the preferred outcome for installation of services in open space.

RECOMMENDATIONS 7.9

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
7.9.1	Council to improve the internal referral system so that applications from service authorities to locate new infrastructure in open space reserves is referred to the Arts and Recreation Development area as well.	H1 C
7.9.2	Arts and Recreation Development to assess future service authority applications in accordance with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrates the need to locate the facility in open space and that alternative locations have been adequately investigated; • located in a position that is not visually prominent at the entry to the reserve, does not present a hazard and minimises impact on the existing or planned future use of the reserve; • clearly identifies maintenance access requirements, frequency of access, and where practical, integrates this with existing maintenance access to the reserve for other purposes so that an additional vehicle access point is not established; and • requires the service authority to submit an accurate plan of the facility location and measures to protect all existing infrastructure and vegetation in the reserve, and requires that they repair any park infrastructure damaged during works. 	O C

8. Interface between development & open space

8.1 Residential

The interface treatment between adjoining land use and open space has an influence on the overall enjoyment, character and management of the open space reserve. Ideally, some passive surveillance of open space from adjoining residents contributes to a sense of security for park users and minimises vandalism and inappropriate use. In some instances, adjoining residential development is perceived as dominating or affecting the character and useability of the open space reserve. This can include locations where the adjoining built form overwhelms the size of the open space reserve or where poor land management practices and noise on private land impacts on the public reserve. In other locations, there can be confusion as to whether an open space reserve is the public or private domain.

CONCLUSIONS 8.1

Guidelines are required to improve the treatment of the interface between residential land and open space to ensure future development is compatible with open space values and use. The adoption of guidelines will also provide greater confidence to the community and community groups about how the interface will be managed.

To effectively administer these guidelines, planning applications on residential land adjoining open space should be referred internally to Council's Arts and Recreation Development Department (Recommendation 10.3.1.5).

RECOMMENDATIONS 8.1

8.1.1 Guidelines for residential development adjoining open space

The following guidelines are to be used to assess future development applications for residential properties adjoining open space reserves:

Development is encouraged that demonstrates the following:

- causes no loss of, or potential future conflicts with existing trees in the open space reserve;
- where ever possible, subdivision layout achieves some passive surveillance from adjoining properties in preference to rear lot boundaries adjoining open space;
- the site layout and building design recognises that noise and light can spill from open space and that there may be recreational or other night uses e.g. through sensitive orientation or design of bedrooms;
- vehicle and pedestrian access and circulation into the proposed development will not require access to the property from or through open space;
- the development will not cause a change to the existing or planned patterns of use of the reserve;
- the scale, height, building mass, building design and fencing will not overwhelm and significantly impact on the existing open space reserve including existing use and public enjoyment of the reserve. Potential issues to consider will include extent of overshadowing, effect on weather patterns including wind and overlooking from the proposed development;
- minimise impact on views into the reserve from public access points;
- in site redevelopment, there is no loss of existing public access to the reserve where the access is located on public land, and in medium to higher density residential development an improvement to public access and use of the adjoining public open space is encouraged; and
- the design does not appropriate public open space as private open space.

NO..	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
8.1.1	Council to assess future residential development on land adjoining public open space in accordance with these guidelines.	H1 & O C (pl, os)

8.1.2 Guidelines for residential development adjoining bushland and nature conservation reserves and the waterway corridors

The following additional guidelines (in addition to the policies listed in **Section 8.1.1**) are to be used to assess future development applications for residential properties adjoining bushland and nature conservation reserves and the waterway corridors:

Development is encouraged that demonstrates the following:

- causes no loss of or potential future conflicts with existing indigenous vegetation in the bushland or nature conservation reserve or the waterway corridor;
- where appropriate, achieves the required building set back for fire management purposes with the required buffer zones provided on the freehold land;
- landscaping and planting preferably uses locally indigenous species, and as a minimum, no known weed species in the adjoining bushland, nature conservation or waterway environment are to be used; and
- the development minimises indigenous and native tree loss on private property adjoining the bushland, nature conservation or waterway environment.

These guidelines should be reinforced and supplemented with education for landowners and incentives provided for appropriate planting.

NO..	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
8.1.2.1	Council to assess future residential development on land adjoining bushland/nature conservation reserves and waterway corridors in accordance with these guidelines.	H1 & O C (pl, os)
8.1.2.2	Council to expand its environmental education programs to include landowners adjoining bushland/nature conservation reserves and waterway corridors. Consider incentives for appropriate planting on private land.	H4 C (Landowners)

8.1.3 Overlays for residential areas adjoining bushland and nature conservation reserves and waterway corridors

Some of the bushland and nature conservation reserves and the waterway corridors have existing Significant Landscape Overlays on adjoining land which protect the landscape character. Some of the overlays include protection of the environmental character and values as well as landscape character including protection of the indigenous tree canopy. There are other residential areas in the Municipality where protection and improvement to the environmental values on adjoining private land will strengthen the habitat values on the public land. Application of an overlay would also ensure a planning permit is required for development in these areas. This would allow Council to apply its guidelines for development adjoining open space and particularly the policies for land adjoining bushland and nature conservation reserves and the waterway corridors. There are other overlays available that may be more appropriate

than the Significant Landscape Overlay to protect native and indigenous vegetation and habitat. These include the Vegetation Protection Overlay and the Environmental Significance Overlay.

NO..	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
8.1.3.1	Council to investigate providing future overlay controls on adjoining residential land along the waterway corridors and bushland/nature conservation reserves to improve the environmental values and strengthen provisions related to indigenous vegetation as needed.	H4 C (pl, os)

8.2 Non-residential

The interface treatment between adjoining non-residential land uses (including industrial/business/commercial and education land use) and open space has an influence on the overall enjoyment, character and management of the open space reserve. In some instances, adjoining development dominates or significantly influences the character and useability of the open space reserve. This can include impacts of noise, pollution, dust, traffic movement, storage of materials and adjoining built form. In some locations, there can be confusion as to whether an open space reserve is the public or private domain, particularly regarding the interface with Deakin University.

CONCLUSIONS 8.2

Guidelines are required to improve the treatment of the interface between non-residential land and open space to ensure future development is compatible with open space values and use.

To effectively administer these guidelines, planning applications on non-residential land adjoining open space should be referred internally to Council's Arts and Recreation Development Department (**Recommendation 10.3.1.5**).

RECOMMENDATIONS 8.2

8.2.1 Guidelines for non-residential development adjoining open space

The following guidelines are to be used to assess future development applications for non-residential properties adjoining open space reserves:

Development is encouraged that demonstrates the following:

- causes no loss of or potential future conflicts with existing trees in the open space reserve;
- where ever possible, the layout achieves passive surveillance from adjoining properties in preference to rear lot boundaries adjoining open space;

- ❑ the site layout, building design and any operations plan minimises noise spill into the open space reserve from common non-residential activities (in addition to EPA statutory noise limits) and controls nuisance odours and dust;
- ❑ night lighting is baffled;
- ❑ provision of suitable buffers, if appropriate, on the development site;
- ❑ vehicle and pedestrian access and circulation into the proposed development will not require access to the property from or through open space;
- ❑ in site redevelopment, there is no loss of existing public access to the reserve where the access is located on public land, and in larger redevelopment of business, commercial and education use sites, improvement to public access and use of adjoining reserve is encouraged, which may include public access through the redevelopment site;
- ❑ the development will not cause a detrimental change to the existing or planned patterns of use of the reserve;
- ❑ the scale, height, building mass and building design and fencing will not overwhelm and significantly impact on the existing open space reserve including existing use and public enjoyment of the reserve. Potential issues to consider will include extent of overshadowing, effect on weather patterns including wind and overlooking from the proposed development;
- ❑ minimise impact on views into the reserve from public access points
- ❑ where development adjoins a bushland reserve, nature conservation reserve or waterway corridor the guidelines for residential development in 8.1.2 will apply; and
- ❑ that the design does not appropriate public open space as private open space.

NO..	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
8.2.1	Council to assess future non-residential development on land adjoining public open space in accordance with these guidelines..	H1 & O C (pl, os)

8.2.2 Overlays for non-residential areas adjoining bushland and nature conservation reserves and waterway corridors

Some of the bushland and nature conservation reserves and the waterway corridors are adjoined by non-residential uses. Non-residential zones are not currently governed by any Significant Landscape, Environmental Significance or Vegetation Protection Overlay controls. Protection and improvement to the environmental values on adjoining non-residential, private land will strengthen the habitat values on the public land. Some of these sites have extensive hard-stand and unsealed surfaces without any vegetation.

NO..	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
8.2.2.1	Council to investigate providing future overlay controls on adjoining non-residential land along the waterway corridors and bushland/nature conservation reserves to improve the environmental values and strengthen provisions related to indigenous vegetation as needed.	H3 C (pl, os)
8.2.2.2	Council to investigate developing an incentive program to encourage large industrial/business/education landholders to increase the presence of indigenous vegetation and investigate on-site treatment of stormwater runoff from the extensive hard stand areas.	H3 C (Landholders)

8.3 Access through open space during development

Development on land near open space gives rise to conflicts between construction activities and park access and use, despite there being an access policy in place. Access during construction is on a frequent basis and interferes with access to the open space for the local community. Access is not properly or clearly designated and gradually takes over more of the reserve during construction. Once construction is completed, the landscape is not always reinstated to the condition it was in prior to construction.

CONCLUSION 8.3

Access through open space during development impacts on the open space access and use, along with public safety and is therefore not preferred by Council.

RECOMMENDATION 8.3

Council should maintain its policy of restricting use of open space during construction of developments on nearby land. Access to open space must also be kept open and safe for vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians. A local law regulating protection of Council assets could also be considered as an appropriate mechanism for controlling construction impacts on open space.

NO..	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
8.3.1	Council to ensure it maintains an effective local system to protect and manage access to and use of open space infrastructure during development on nearby land.	O C (ll, os)

9. Other open space owners and managers

9.1 Melbourne Water

Melbourne Water own and manage a number of areas within the Municipality and these are illustrated on **Drawing No. WOS-01**. Some of these sites are accessed by the public as part of the existing public open space network whilst others are fenced to prevent public access. Melbourne Water has a range of management responsibilities including drainage, flood management, water supply, asset protection and environmental protection their land. They are not responsible for providing for recreational use and access, therefore, their maintenance levels and facility provision is for maintenance purposes only rather than satisfying community use and needs. Council currently manages some of the Melbourne Water land which is used for recreational access including Billabong Park, RHL Sparks Reserve, Masons Road Retarding Basin and sections of the Pipe Track Reserve. Melbourne Water is also responsible for the bed and banks of all the major waterways through Whitehorse and has a key role in their ongoing upgrade, maintenance and management.

CONCLUSIONS 9.1

Melbourne Water own a number of key open space reserves in the City of Whitehorse in addition to managing the major waterways that are of value to the community. There is a good working relationship, liaison and management arrangements between Council and Melbourne Water.

RECOMMENDATIONS 9.1

9.1.1 Waterways

The community identified issues of weed, litter and poor water quality in the waterways. Melbourne Water has Waterway Management Activity Plans in place for Mullum Mullum Creek, Dandenong Creek and Gardiners Creek (currently in preparation).

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
9.1.1.1	Review the recommendations in the Waterway Activity Management Plans and continue to seek funding where applicable from Melbourne Water to implement works, particularly in relation to water quality improvement and vegetation management. Funding programs include the Corridors of Green program.	H1 & O C MW
9.1.1.2	Liaise with Melbourne Water to identify water quality treatment projects which are consistent with planned works along the waterway corridors. Apply for external funding to implement works that will improve water quality consistent with the Waterway Management Activity Plans.	H2 & O C (os) MW
9.1.1.3	Establish a regular (at least annual) liaison with Melbourne Water regarding waterway management issues and review current and future status of works for both agencies along the waterway.	H1 & O C (os) MW

9.1.2 Pipe Track Reserve

The Pipe Track Reserve has an unsealed path constructed for part of its length along with other local park facilities including playgrounds, seating and planting. The Pipe Track Reserve contains the main potable water supply for this area of Melbourne and these are important assets for Melbourne Water to protect and maintain. Whilst the reserve is available for informal recreational use, there are constraints on the extent of this use, facility design and ongoing maintenance and management agreements. Any future proposals for installation of recreational infrastructure or planting in the Pipe Track Reserve by Council will require Melbourne Water approval.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
9.1.2.1	Council to continue to liaise with Melbourne Water to confirm a suitable maintenance agreement to meet the recreation use levels of the Pipe Track Reserve, and Melbourne Waters asset management and protection criteria. Refer also Recommendation 4.1.10.	H1 C (os) MW

9.1.3 Fenced retarding basins

Some of the Melbourne Water retarding basins are fenced to prevent public access to them. There may be safety issues regarding access to these during high flow events hence the need for fencing. In some instances, it may be possible to adjust the fencing alignment or style to allow some public access, particularly where the retarding basins form part of a linear link. Refer to **Section 4.1** for these links.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
9.1.3.1	Council to liaise with Melbourne Water to determine whether access to parts of the fenced retarding basins highlighted in Section 4.1 is possible having considered risks and ongoing financial implications.	LT C (os) MW
9.1.3.2	If access to part of the fenced retarding basins is possible, develop management and maintenance agreements between Council and Melbourne Water for this to occur.	LT C (os) MW

9.1.4 Unfenced retarding basins

There are a number of retarding basins in the Municipality which are not fenced and currently used for recreation purposes. It is anticipated that recreational use of the retarding basins will be required over the next 15 years and beyond. Any future works proposed by Council in these Melbourne Water owned and managed areas will require approval from Melbourne Water.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
9.1.4.1	Council to continue the existing agreements regarding recreational use and access to the unfenced retarding basins.	O C (os) MW
9.1.4.2	Liaise with Melbourne Water to investigate potential for stormwater reuse in the retarding basin sites.	LT C (os, pl) MW

9.2 Parks Victoria

Parks Victoria own and manage two key areas of open space within the Municipality and these are illustrated on **Drawing No. WOS-01**. These reserves include Wattle Park and an area of land adjoining the Dandenong Creek downstream of Boronia Road. Wattle Park is a Regional open space reserve and attracts Melbourne wide visitors. Parks Victoria are responsible for Melbourne-wide open space planning and have identified improvements to future regional trail links in their *Linking People & Places (2002)*. Further information on the trail links refer to **Section 4.1**.

CONCLUSIONS 9.2

Wattle Park is the largest open space reserve in the western area of the Municipality and has an important local open space role for residents in Burwood, Surrey Hills, Box Hill South and Mont Albert. Additionally, Parks Victoria will continue to have a planning and funding role for future regional trail provision within the City.

RECOMMENDATIONS 9.2

9.2.1 Wattle Park

The community have identified this is one of the most frequently visited reserves in the City of Whitehorse, particularly for residents in the western area of the City.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
9.2.1.1	Council to continue to liaise with Parks Victoria regarding ongoing local open space needs and access to and through Wattle Park.	O C (os) PV

9.2.2 Land along Dandenong Creek

The Parks Victoria owned land on Dandenong Creek immediately downstream of Boronia Road is currently leased for grazing. There is an opportunity, if the Healesville Freeway is not constructed, for this land to become an important component of the Regional open space network linked to a series of key Municipal reserves including Bellbird Dell, Campbells Croft and Abbey Walk. Refer to **Part Two** of the Strategy for further information.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
9.2.2.1	Council to liaise with Parks Victoria regarding the future development and design of the land adjoining Dandenong Creek downstream of Boronia Road.	H1 C (os) PV

9.2.3 Regional trail links

Parks Victoria has identified a range of future regional trail links in their Linking People & Places report. Refer to Section 4.1 for further information.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
9.2.3.1	Council to liaise with Parks Victoria regarding future design and funding for the regional trail links referred to in Section 4.2	Refer 4.2 C (os) PV

9.2.4 Mullum Mullum Park, Junction Road site and the Eastern Freeway linear reserve

Council are currently advocating for Parks Victoria to manage the State Government owned land along the Eastern Freeway including Junction Road and Eastlink as part of the proposed Mullum Mullum Park. There has been no formal consultation between Council and Parks Victoria, however, Council have put this position forward to the State Government for consideration.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
9.2.3.1	Council to liaise with Parks Victoria regarding future design and funding for the regional trail links referred to in Section 4.2	Refer 4.2 C (os) PV
9.2.3.2	Council is currently advocating for Parks Victoria to manage the State Government owned land along the Eastern Freeway	H1

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
	including Junction Road and Eastlink as part of the future Mullum Mullum Park.	C, PV

9.3 VicRoads

VicRoads owns and manage parcels of open space in Whitehorse along the Eastern Freeway and at the corner of Springvale Road and the Eastern Freeway and these are illustrated on **Drawing No. WOS-01**. These reserves have recreation and potential habitat values in the Municipality as described in **Section 4.1**. VicRoads also owns areas of land which are currently used as open space and are managed by Council. This includes the land connecting Bellbird Dell North and Bellbird Dell South, the oval known as Davy Lane adjacent to Old Strathdon Orchard and central medians along major arterial roads through the Municipality.

CONCLUSIONS 9.3

The VicRoads land forms an important component of the Whitehorse open space network and future management and maintenance of these requires resolution.

RECOMMENDATIONS 9.3

9.3.1 Eastern Freeway shared trail and Junction Road Site

The community have identified that these are well used areas of open space, and the consultation has identified the community are seeking confirmation on the future use of Junction Road Site. These areas of land are currently zoned for Public Park and Recreation Zone in the Whitehorse Planning Scheme.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
9.3.1.1	Council is currently advocating for Parks Victoria to manage all VicRoads owned land along the Eastern Freeway shared trail, including the Junction Road site and Eastlink as part of the future Mullum Mullum Park.	H1 C, PV, VR

9.3.2 Land between Bellbird Dell North and South

This area of land is currently managed by Council and contains remnant indigenous bushland and linear trail links. The land is currently owned by VicRoads as part of the Healesville Freeway Road Reservation.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
9.3.2.1	If VicRoads no longer require the land between Bellbird Dell North and South for road construction purposes, Council to continue to advocate that VicRoads provide the land as open space at no cost to Council, and Council will rezone this area as open space.	H1 C (pl, os) VR

9.3.3 Davy Lane oval

This area of land is currently owned by VicRoads and managed by Council and used by the adjoining school as an oval and by community sporting clubs. It directly adjoins the council owned Strathdon Orchard.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
9.3.3.1	If VicRoads no longer require Davy Lane for road construction purposes, Council to advocate that VicRoads provide the oval and area of land between Strathdon Orchard and the Oval as open space, at no cost to Council. Council to seek support from DE&T who also utilise the oval.	H1 C (pl, os) VR, DE&T

9.3.4 Remainder of the Healesville Freeway Reserve

This land is predominantly owned by VicRoads and reserved for the construction of the Healesville Freeway. Currently there are indications that VicRoads no longer require the land for this purpose. Future open space opportunities have been identified in **Section 4.1** and **Section 6.2** of this Strategy.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
9.3.4.1	Council to advocate that VicRoads provide part of the Freeway Reservation, as highlighted in Section 4.1 and Section 6.2 of the Strategy, as open space at no cost to Council. This will be for the protection and improvement of habitat values and recreational links and access.	H1 C VR

9.3.5 Medians on major arterial roads

Council currently manage the medians along major arterial roads in the Municipality under an agreement with VicRoads.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
9.3.5.1	Council to continue to maintain the medians in the major arterials in Whitehorse recognising their visual prominence and role in the overall image of Whitehorse.	O C (pw) VR

9.4 Adjoining municipalities

Whitehorse has five adjoining municipalities, including the Cities of Boroondara, Maroondah, Manningham, Knox and Monash. The main open space connections are via the linear open space reserves along the five main waterways. Other individual open space reserves in Boroondara are used by residents in the west of the Municipality.

CONCLUSIONS 9.4

Whitehorse residents value and use the linear open space reserves along the waterways and will continue to expand use of these networks as further regional trail connections are made and habitat corridor values improved. For more information on habitat corridor links refer to Section 6.2 of this Strategy. Given the lack of open space in the west of the Municipality, it is assumed residents will continue to cross local streets to use open space in Boroondara as well as within Whitehorse.

RECOMMENDATIONS 9.4

For specific project recommendations, refer to **Sections 4.2 and 6.2** along with **Part Two** of the Strategy.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
9.4.1	Council to continue to liaise with Council Officers regarding the recreation and open space areas in the adjoining municipalities on an as needs basis regarding open space links and regional facility provision and improvement to habitat corridor values along waterways.	O C (os) AM

10. Implementation

10.1 Responsibilities

The Open Space Strategy will be primarily implemented by the Arts and Recreation Development area in Council which sits within the Human Services Division. The Open Space Planner at Council will be responsible for overseeing the Strategy. The Strategy does take a whole of Council approach and there are responsibilities for other divisions in Council, and the responsibilities of these divisions are noted for each recommendation. In summary these include:

Arts and Recreation Development:

- oversee the Open Space Strategy;
- determine and implement the open space planning capital works program;
- prepare Design and Management Plans for open space reserves in consultation with the community and relevant stakeholders;
- continue to oversee existing Design and Management Plans for open space reserves in partnership with ParksWide; and
- review open space component of development applications.

Strategic and Statutory Planning:

- amend the planning scheme in accordance with recommendations in the Strategy;
- administer, negotiate and collect open space contributions;
- liaise with Developers in the initial development application stage to achieve desired outcomes for open space as set out in the Strategy;
- require new open space to be included in new Structure Plans and Development applications in accordance with the Open Space Strategy; and
- plan ancillary open space as part of Urban Design Frameworks and future Structure Plans.

ParksWide:

- implement capital works program in open space;
- ongoing maintenance and management of open space;
- Bushfire Management in open space reserves; and
- annual budget for operational and maintenance expenditure in open space.

Engineering and Environmental Services

- provide engineering and infrastructure design investigation and advice, particularly for improving on-road pedestrian and cycle links and road crossings;
- provide technical advice regarding future proposals for change of use on existing Council owned land, for example conversion of part of a road to open space;
- provide technical advice on wetlands and other water re-use proposals in open space reserves; and
- project manage and implement projects with an engineering component (e.g. wetlands and bridges).

Urban Design

- prepare the 'The State of Play in Whitehorse' study that will address the future design and location of play facilities in open space;
- design of ancillary open space including civic plazas and malls; and
- provide input to the design of park infrastructure in consultation with Arts and Recreation Development.

Finance

- maintain an appropriate recording system for open space contributions to assist appropriate recording and spending of these funds; and
- assist Arts and Recreation Development and ParksWide with annual open space budget allocation.

Local laws

- development and enforcement of regulations in and adjoining open space; and
- domestic animal management.

10.2 Funding

10.2.1 Existing budgets and funding for open space

Council funds an open space capital works program which varies from year to year and if averaged over the past 5 years equates to approximately \$2.34 million per annum. The maintenance budget has increased annually and in the past financial year was in the order of \$5.8 million. This results in a combined total in the order of \$8.6 million spent annually on open space maintenance and improvement works. Funding for purchase of new open space is not included in these figures.

Currently the works are funded by a combination of rates, open space contributions and external grants.

10.2.2 Proposed indicative cost and funding for open space

The total cost of indicative capital works for the recommendations included in this Strategy is in the order of \$1.6 million p.a. over the 15 year period of the Strategy. Additionally, there is in the order of \$1.4 million p.a. allocated to land purchase giving a total in the order of \$3 million p.a. This is approximately \$0.6 million per annum more than the current average capital works spending p.a. over the past 5 years of \$2.34 million. Projects will be funded with a combination of open space contributions (an average of \$1.6 million p.a.) and rate/external grant funds (an average of \$1.4 million p.a.). The capital works costs in this Strategy do not include the streetscape upgrade works (\$1.9 million in 2006/2007) or tree planting (\$0.3 million p.a.) as these are funded through the roads/infrastructure area of Council. Similarly the costs associated with provision of new club-based sports facilities are not included as these are planned and funded as part of Council's capital works program listed under Leisure Buildings and Parks Active budget areas.

In addition to open space budget there are recommendations in the Strategy that will be implemented as part of other budgets in Council including street tree planting and maintenance, and footpath and pedestrian crossing upgrades. These improvements are not a direct cost to open space, but will improve the overall accessibility and environmental value of the open space network.

The recommendations in this Open Space Strategy may be funded by a combination of rates, open space contributions, external grants and in specific locations, open space exchange if applicable.

The ongoing maintenance costs for open space have not been estimated in this project, however, there is an existing maintenance budget allocated for this purpose, and it is assumed that this maintenance budget will progressively increase with CPI and where additional open space is provided. Council are currently advocating for other State government agencies to manage areas of open space which would minimise any future increase in the maintenance costs.

Rates funding

This will continue to be the main funding source for the maintenance budget as open space contributions cannot be used, and there are no external grants for open space maintenance. Ongoing maintenance costs are not directly informed by this Strategy with other documents guiding this including the Asset Management Plan. Rates funding will also continue to be the main funding source for the Capital Works Program, however, this will be supported, where appropriate, with open space contributions and external grants.

Open space contributions

Refer to Section 10.3.2 for information.

Grants

There is a range of external grants available to Council and community groups as a current and future funding source for open space works. These external funding grants are available through a range of State and Federal Government Agencies. Some of the Agencies and types of work they fund include:

- Parks Victoria fund the creation of regional open space and trail connections.

- Melbourne Water fund environmental improvement works on their land, and on Council land where there is a demonstrated improvement to the health and condition of the Melbourne Water waterways.
- Department of Sustainability and Environment including Creating better places - Urban Improvement grants.
- Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority has a range of grants available to local government and community groups for pest plant and animal management and revegetation works.
- Smart Water Fund which is jointly funded by the water companies and Melbourne Water have funding available for water re-use projects.
- Commonwealth grants including for Community groups to apply for National Heritage Trust Funding to protect biodiversity values and Community Water grants for recycling and improving water.

Open space exchange

In locations where new open space is being investigated, there may be existing open space which can be used towards achieving the new area of open space. This could include:

- expanding or adding to an existing area of open space; and
- locating a new area of open space within the catchment of an existing space, which meets the criteria included in Section 4.2 of this Strategy, thereby replacing the need for an existing open space. The existing open space could therefore be used as an exchange to assist with funding the new open space.

Any proposed open space exchange must clearly demonstrate a net improvement to the open space system for Whitehorse residents, based on the Criteria included in **Table 4~2**. All funds from any disposal of open space as a result of this exchange must be fully utilised in the replacement area of open space within the walkability catchment of the open space being disposed of.

Refer to Section 10.3.2 and Recommendation numbers 10.3.2.1, 10.3.2.2, 10.3.2.3 for open space contributions funding.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
10.2.2.1	Continue to apply for external grants and funding for proposed capital works, particularly for works in Regional and Municipal open space and proposed trail links.	O C (os), PV, VR, DSE
10.2.2.2	Maximise the use of road funding and upgrade to achieve the open space improvements included in this Strategy.	O C (os, inf), VR
10.2.2.3	Arts and Recreation Development and ParksWide to continue to regularly review overall design and management of open space to identify opportunities to continue to integrate works and minimise increased costs to implementation and maintenance.	O C (os, pw)
10.2.2.4	Arts and Recreation Development and ParksWide to work closely with Finance to program the annual capital works and maintenance funding for open space, consistent with Recommendation 10.3.2.3 regarding open space component of this funding.	O C (os, fin, pw)

10.3 Planning

10.3.1 Whitehorse Planning Scheme

The Whitehorse Planning Scheme provides strategic direction for land use and development. Although this Strategy is focused on Council owned or managed open space, many of its recommendations will affect private land developers. Key elements should be contained in the planning scheme to guide relevant proposals. This will enable Council to more confidently negotiate open space outcomes with developers and support Council during any planning appeals at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

NO..	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
10.3.1.1	<p>As part of the next review of the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS), amend the planning scheme to align with the Strategy, eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the importance and role of public open space and standard of open space (quantity/quality as relevant) that Council wants to achieve; • the relationship of municipal open space to open space managed by other authorities; • principles guiding provision of public open space; • the strategic framework and framework plan for providing open space to 2021; • gaps in the open space network and how they will be filled, especially as relevant to private land; • linkages between different parts of the open space network, highlighting missing links especially as relevant to private land; • other priority projects; • development of ancillary open space so it can be improved and better utilised for open space and recreation purposes; • use of open space for other purposes; • treatment of interfaces between open space and development; • protection of bushland and overstorey on private land to complement conservation in open space; • how the urban form, land use and demographics of Whitehorse will change and the effect this will have on open space needs in different parts of the municipality; • the increasing urban density that will occur as a result of household and housing market trends, and intensification of Activity Centres and other key sites or areas; • open space requirements for new development, providing a strategic link to the open space contributions schedule in Clause 52.01; • that the open space strategy will be used to determine Council's open space program including expenditure of open space contribution funds, ie. land acquisition and open space development, or upgrade of existing open space only; and • the Whitehorse Open Space Strategy as a reference document. 	O C (pl)
10.3.1.2	Review local planning policies to ensure they align with the Strategy (or at minimum do not contradict the Strategy) and amend with the MSS review.	O C (pl)
10.3.1.3	<p>Amend the schedule to Clause 52.01 and include the following elements: (refer to Section 5.6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the contribution rates; 	H1 C (pl)

NO..	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identification of suburbs (eg. map) where land contributions will be requested/accepted at Council's discretion subject to furthering Council's strategic open space goals and its guideline criteria; • guidelines criteria for land contributions (refer to Table 4-2); and • that the open space strategy will be used to determine Council's open space program including expenditure of open space contribution funds, ie. land acquisition and open space development, or upgrade of existing open space only (if amended ahead of the MSS). 	
10.3.1.4	Use guidelines for development on land adjoining open space in planning assessments and consider the further use of overlays (refer to Section 8).	H1 & O C (pl, os)
10.3.1.5	Internally refer to Council's Arts and Recreation Development (or successor unit responsible for lead implementation of this Strategy) all development applications for: major redevelopment proposals; schools; on land adjoining open space reserves and the waterways; and on land highlighted for potential open space use and open space links in Council's GIS system	O C (pl, os)

10.3.2 Open space contributions

Use of open space contributions confers particular responsibilities on Council. To meet these obligations, funds will continue to be separately accounted for and allocated to appropriate projects. With an updated Open Space Strategy in place, future allocation of funds should be more closely aligned to the open space priorities established for new population on whose behalf the contributions are collected. As Council's Arts and Recreation Development Department will be primarily responsible for delivering this Strategy, it should continue to play an active role in the budget process. The Strategy will provide a firmer basis for annual budget decisions on open space expenditure.

Council will continue to report on the development of open space projects through the Annual Report. Council's regular capital works reporting provides significant detail on open space projects and can be expanded to encompass any land acquisitions for new open space. Opportunity exists to report on open space contributions as part of other financial reporting systems that Council has in place. The development of integrated reporting will enhance current information about the use of open space contributions. These reporting systems assist Council to maintain the transparency and accountability of its contributions program in an environment where developer and rate payer expectations of government are constantly rising.

NO..	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
10.3.2.1	Allocate contributions as a proportion of project funding commensurate with the use by new population on whose behalf the contributions are collected. The budget should maintain the percentages allocated to open space contributions, especially over the 15 year life of the Strategy. See also Recommendations 5.6.6 and 5.6.7.	O C (os, fin)
10.3.2.2	When cash is contributed toward land acquisition and open space development, the funds should be held until a suitable site is located and sufficient funds are available to assist Council with purchase or resulting capital works. Over the life of the Strategy, the funds should be spent on the open space land acquisition and capital works projects identified in the	O C (os, fin)

NO..	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY & AGENCY
	Strategy.	
10.3.2.3	Council's Arts and Recreation Development Department to continue to actively participate in the budget process, to set priorities for new population based on this Strategy and monitor the open space contributions component.	O C (os, fin)
10.3.2.4	Use Council's Annual Report (with new residents' kit or similar) to showcase to new residents and workers those projects planned and undertaken with their needs in mind. The Annual Report should also include information about, eg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contributions collected during the current financial year with some comment on the distribution of collections; • contributions spent during the current financial year with some comment on the distribution or allocation of expenditure; • the proportion of the total open space budget attributed to contributions; • contributions in reserve; and • anticipated expenditure for the following financial year. 	O C (os, fin)

10.4 Priorities

The priorities identified in the Strategy have been determined in response to the following:

- where existing Masterplans and Management Plans exist;
- popular reserves identified in the consultation outcomes;
- open space near Activity Centres which are anticipated to receive higher levels of use over time;
- protection and improvement to environmental values of open space in Whitehorse;
- distribution of projects across the Municipality so that all suburbs receive some improvement to open space;
- provide additional infrastructure and features requested by the community, eg. seats, shade, paths etc; and
- where additional open space is required, priority is given to proposals located at nearby Activity Centres or Higher Density Precincts, or areas where residents need to travel more than 500 metres to reach any open space.

The Strategy is planned to be implemented in accordance with the broad priority categories to meet the existing and future population open space needs. The timeframe for these broad categories are:

Priority table for Recommendations in the Strategy

Priority	Timeframe
H1	Years 1 to 3
H2	Years 4 to 7
H3	Years 8 to 11
H4	Years 12 to 15
O	Ongoing
LT	Longer-term, beyond 15 year planning horizon
D	Linked to development occurring

Completion of projects within these broad timeframes relies on additional financial and human resources being allocated to complete them.

Arts and Recreation Development will prepare more detailed implementation plans within each of the broad priority categories recommended in the Strategy, and the successful implementation will be subject to budget allocations and adequate funds to implement the works. It is anticipated some priorities associated with future change and development will require amendment to reflect the ongoing changing market trends and directions. Works will then be subject to the budget allocation and approvals process in accordance with all priorities within Council.

10.5 Monitoring

The Arts and Recreation Development area of Council will:

- establish an appropriate system of planning, documenting and recording the works completed from the Strategy
- regularly monitor the implementation of the Strategy to assess the progress and success of the recommendations
- regularly report on the Strategy progress including the open space contributions program (annually);
- meet as required with relevant areas of Council to review implementation of the Strategy; and
- review the Strategy at a time that is deemed appropriate based on the annual reporting (e.g. between the 10th and 15th year of plan's operation).

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DRAWING WOS-01

Existing Open Space

Refer overleaf

DRAWING WOS-02

Open Space Distribution Analysis

Refer overleaf

DRAWING WOS-03

Planning for Future Change

Refer overleaf