THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

DRAFT - APRIL 2026

CITY OF GREATER
GEELONG

We Acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the Land, Waterways and Skies. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We Acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of our Greater Geelong community today.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Greater Geelong is committed to providing high-quality, inclusive, sustainable and diverse public spaces throughout the municipality for current and future communities. These spaces are the heart of our communities, providing social, economic, and health and wellbeing benefits.

The Open Space Strategy (the Strategy) focuses on the open space component of public space, including the City's parks, gardens, sports reserves, linear parkland and waterways. The Open Space Strategy provides a strategic framework to guide the future planning, provision, delivery and management of the City's open spaces over the next 10 years.

The open space network is facing increasing pressure from population growth, changes to use, and financial constraints. A key challenge is addressing inequity of quality and provision of open space across the network. While growth areas benefit from high-quality and well distributed new open spaces, established areas face disparities with many open spaces undersized, fragmented, no longer fit for purpose or functioning below modern standards. This is further compounded by gaps in connectivity, limited opportunities for large new open spaces in established areas due to cost and challenges of land acquisition, increasing maintenance costs, and unfunded plans yet to be delivered.

Analysis of the broader network shows that while the City is meeting public open space quantity targets, in some areas access to open space and average quality of open space are poor.

The aspiration is "***Greater Geelong's open space network is diverse and inclusive, and connects us to nature, community and wellbeing.***" It is underpinned by three key objectives:

- equitable distribution;
- diverse and high-quality experiences; and
- a sustainable, adaptable and resilient network.

The Strategy focuses on protecting, optimising and growing open space by providing a tailored, evidence-based response to decision-making across the network. Protection of open space focusses on appropriate planning zoning of existing open spaces through amendments and prioritising ongoing maintenance to improve visitor experience and safety. Optimising open spaces maximises opportunities through innovative responses to restricted and encumbered open spaces, increasing functions and use of existing open spaces, consolidating land not fit for open space purpose, and renewing open space assets. Growing focusses on strategic expansion of the network to address identified gaps through acquiring land for new open spaces, unlocking land for community use through partnerships, and upgrading existing assets.

The Strategy demonstrates the City's commitment to achieving this aspiration. It begins by addressing inequity and mapping network gaps across 15 Planning Areas. It then sets best-practice standards for open space planning and provision and outlines the enabling actions needed to support delivery. The Strategy also provides guidance on how actions and future projects should be prioritised.

HOW TO READ THIS DOCUMENT

This document contains five main parts.

1 GREATER GEELONG'S PUBLIC SPACES
Pages 7 - 11

Highlights the value and benefits of public space and the role of open space. It shows how the strategy was developed.

2 DEFINING OPEN SPACE AND THE STRATEGIC CONTEXT
Pages 13 - 25

Sets the long-term aspiration for open space, principles to support open space planning, objectives, outcomes and indicators. It introduces three types of open space and the relevant land suitability criteria. It shows where the document sits in relation to state and local policies and provides a snapshot of the strategic context.

3 PROVISION STANDARDS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Pages 26 - 34

Outlines how open space is classified by applying a hierarchy and assigning functions. Sets out the provision and distribution targets, and includes performance measures to assess the network.

4 GREATER GEELONG'S OPEN SPACE NETWORK
Pages 35 - 47

Provides an overview of open space across the City, and a snapshot across the 15 Planning Areas. It assesses performance against the targets and identifies key issues and opportunities.

5 IMPLEMENTATION
Pages 49 - 57

Outlines how the Strategy will be actioned, covering themes to support prioritisation, a summary of the funding landscape, steps to monitor progress, and actions.

PART 1:
GREATER GEELONG'S PUBLIC SPACES

GREATER GEELONG'S PUBLIC SPACES

Public space is the collective term for all publicly accessible outdoor spaces where community life takes place. It is made up of the public realm and open space.

VALUE OF PUBLIC SPACE

They are places where we move, gather, celebrate stories and culture, connect with nature, play, exercise and unwind.

Through resilient planning and distinctive design, the City of Greater Geelong is committed to providing a public space network that is enjoyable, sustainable, equitable, accessible and safe for all residents and visitors to enjoy.

Public space is a key lever for placemaking through creating identity, fostering community connection, supporting well-being, and embedding culture and nature into the fabric of what makes Greater Geelong a special place to live.

Open space forms part of the public space network. The City has prepared the Open Space Strategy to guide how we plan and manage City-owned open space.

KEY DRIVERS

Population growth is a primary driver of demand for public space. Greater Geelong is Victoria's second-largest city and one of the state's fastest-growing urban areas.

Based on current population projections, by 2046 the City is forecast to be home to 442,000 residents, representing a 47% increase from 2025. Greater Geelong plays a regional role, with its public spaces catering not only to residents but also to those who work, study, and visit the city.

As such, it is essential that high-quality public spaces are delivered in the right locations to support new communities, maintain equitable access, and meet a diversity of user needs.

GREATER GEELONG TODAY

Geelong's population is forecast to grow by 47% over the next 20 years

Forecast population 442,000 by 2046 (Forecast.id)

Geelong is the largest economy in regional Victoria, third largest in the state

(2022-25)

Over 50 suburbs and townships across 1,252km² of the Municipality

112 Activity Centres

Geelong experienced 6.4 million visitors to the region.

(2024-25)

Geelong is Australia's only City of Design and a member of the UNESCO Creative City Network.

1,252km² total land area of the Municipality

1,141 Hectares of public open space

17% Suburban tree canopy cover

1,467 Hectares of protected natural habitat

133 Kilometres of coastline

11,639 Hectares of wetlands

BENEFITS

Our public spaces provide a wide range of economic, health and wellbeing, and environmental benefits. The diagram below summarises some of these benefits.

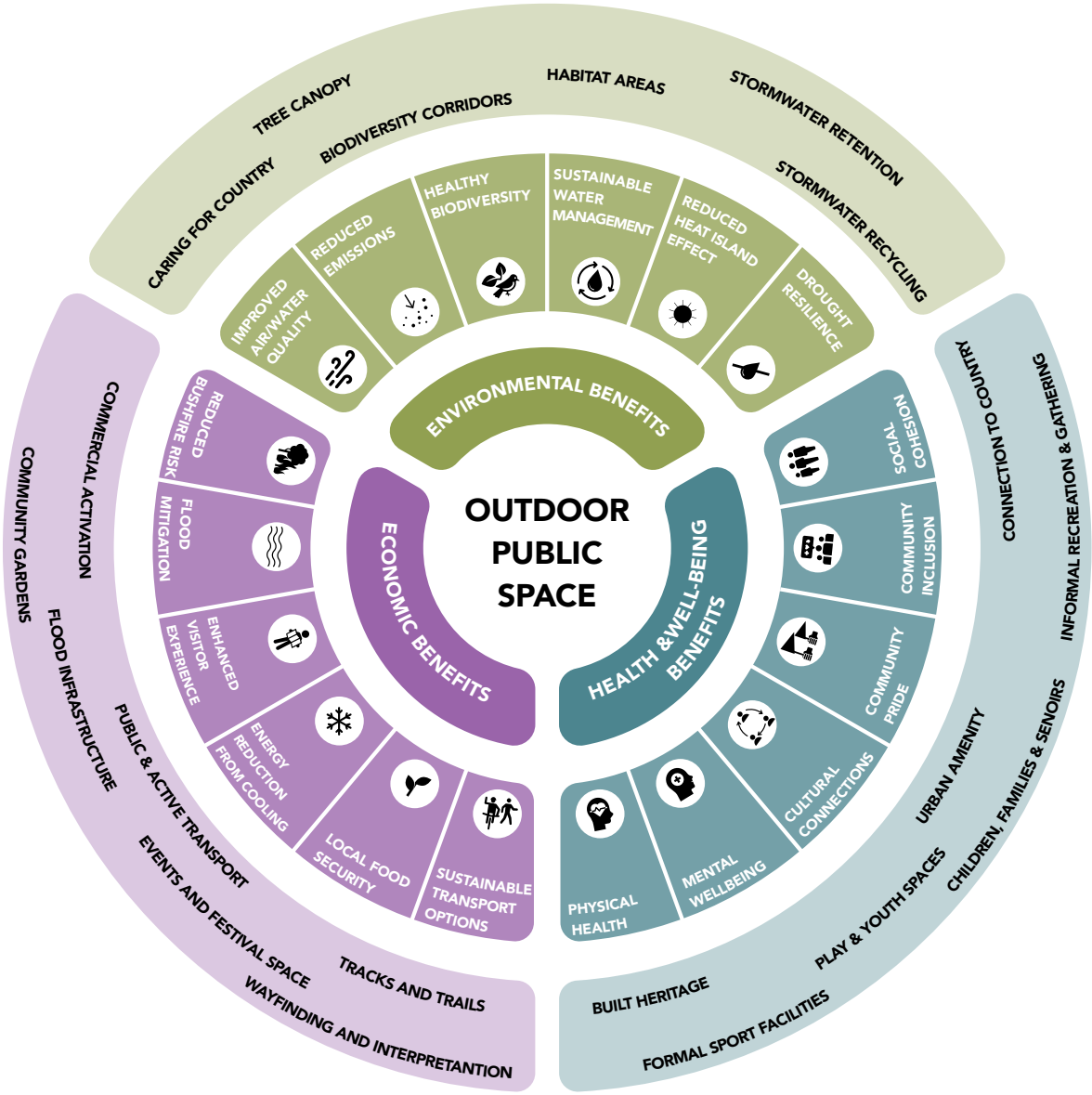


Figure 1. Geelong's Public Space Benefits

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Public spaces are key place activators. They can be inviting locations that support tourism, and encourages people to stay and increase spending, particularly in activity centres and major event spaces. In employment precincts access to high quality outdoor public spaces can increase employee productivity and wellbeing. Well designed public spaces strengthen the city's appeal as a place to live, work and visit.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Public space contributes to climate resilience by providing infrastructure and landscape interventions to help reduce urban heat and manage water flows and inundation. Trees, plants and landscaping increases biodiversity and habitat corridors, support urban cooling and improve air quality. A well-connected network also supports active travel which reduces carbon emissions by replacing car trips with walking or cycling.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BENEFITS

Public space is integral to the social, mental and physical health and wellbeing of the community. They provide spaces for community connections, while also creating opportunities to enjoy healthier and active lifestyles with spaces to walk, play sport, relax and spend time in nature.

THE JOURNEY TO DEVELOPING THE STRATEGY

Figure 2. Project Process Flow Diagram

PART 2:
DEFINING OPEN SPACE AND THE STRATEGIC CONTEXT

OPEN SPACE STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

The Open Space Strategy guides the planning, delivery and management of the City's open space network over the next decade, responding to Greater Geelong's challenges, changing community use, and local aspirations. It is guided by the following principles, aspiration, objectives and outcomes.

PRINCIPLES

The following principles will guide the planning, delivery, and maintenance of open space over the next 10 years.

EQUITY: IN PROVISION, IN ACCESS, IN QUALITY

Open space is fairly distributed across the City, ensuring everyone can access a diversity of high-quality spaces close to where they live and work.

DIVERSITY: IN SCALE AND EXPERIENCE

The open space network offers a wide range of experiences and settings, from local parks which build community, to large regional destinations which builds the city's identity and attracts tourism.

MULTI-USE: IN ACTIVITY, AUDIENCE, AND INTEGRATION

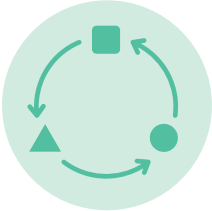
Open spaces are inclusive, safe, and welcoming, always designed to meet community needs. Where possible they are integrated with other community infrastructure and facilities to provide convenient access. They support a mix of activities and invite people of all ages, abilities, cultures, genders, identities and backgrounds to participate and connect.

UNIQUE: IN IDENTITY

Open space tells the stories of place, history, and culture. They express the city's distinct character and provide memorable landmarks, wayfinding, and incorporate the principles of the Wadawurrung Healthy Country Plan.

CONSISTENT: IN DELIVERY

Open space is planned, delivered, and maintained to a consistent, high standard, giving the community continuity and ensuring efficient use of resources.



ADAPTABLE: FOR LONGEVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Open spaces are environmentally, fiscally, socially and culturally responsible. Life cycle costs of materials in constructing and managing the open space are considered and spaces are designed to be flexible to evolve to community needs.

ASPIRATION

The Community's 10 year aspiration for open space in Greater Geelong:

Greater Geelong's open space network is diverse and inclusive, and connects us to nature, community, and wellbeing.

OBJECTIVES

Key areas of focus for the planning and management of open space.

1: To provide an equitable distribution of open space across the city.	2: To deliver a diversity of high quality experiences.	3: To provide a financially sustainable, adaptable and resilient open space network that can support healthy landscapes and community wellbeing

OUTCOMES

What is expected to be delivered as part of achieving the open space objectives.

• Open space is accessible for all • New open space is provided to address access gaps	• Open space is optimised • Existing open space is redeveloped to meet best practice standards	• Open space is protected and used to enhance environmental targets • Responsible and sustainable growth of the open space network

INDICATORS

Defining how we measure success of the Strategy.

• 95% of dwellings in urban areas are within a 400m walkable catchment of open space • Increase in number of dwellings in urban areas within 800m walkable catchment of an open space greater than 1ha • Increase in number of dwellings in urban areas within 1km walkable catchment of an open space greater than 8ha • A minimum of 30sqm per capita of public open space across the LGA	• All open space greater than 1ha has a minimum of 2 identified functions • All open space greater than 8ha has a minimum of 3 identified functions • Increase use and user satisfaction for renewed and upgraded parks • All Planning Areas meet the LGA average Park Performance Score of 60%	• 30% tree canopy cover in open space greater than 1ha • 10% tree canopy cover in sport open spaces • Increase in % of open space investment from the Public Open Space Reserve Fund

OPEN SPACE TYPES

Open spaces are created for different purposes and can be categorised into three types. These are public, encumbered and restricted open space.

Figure 3. Eastern Park in East Geelong

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

Public open space is land that is owned and cared for by the City and is open for everyone to enjoy. These spaces support everyday activities like walking, relaxing, playing, exercising, meeting friends, and enjoying nature.

Public open space includes parks, gardens, sports reserves, shared paths and trails, and natural areas. These spaces are protected for community use through planning controls. In planning terms, public open space is typically zoned Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ), which helps ensure land is set aside and managed for public recreation and enjoyment now and into the future.

Across the city, there is approximately 1,141 ha of public open space. This includes places such as:

- Eastern Park in East Geelong
- South Barwon Reserve in Belmont
- Rippleside Park in Rippleside
- Portarlington Recreation Reserve in Portarlington

KEY CRITERIA FOR PUBLIC OPEN SPACE LAND

To make sure public open spaces are safe, welcoming and usable over time, land considered for open space must meet the following criteria:

Appropriate interface

- The land is located so it is accessible and safe for users and land management needs.
- Co-located with other community amenities and facilities.
- Surrounded on at least three sides with streets buildings and active frontage to overlook the land.

Adequate size and shape

- The land has enough area and is an efficient shape to perform its intended functions.

Usable landform and characteristic

- The topography must be suitable for its intended function.
- The land must be capable of infrastructure development that supports the intended functions.

Solar access and orientation

- The land receives adequate sunlight for comfort, vegetation growth, and year-round usability.
- There must be no additional overshadowing on existing open space

Connected to the network

- The land is connected to a legible network of open space, paths or corridors, rather than functioning in isolation

Capable of sustainable planning and management

- The land's condition, access, and surrounding environment allows it to be planned, maintained and managed effectively and sustainably over time.

Figure 4. Kardinia Park in South Geelong

RESTRICTED OPEN SPACE

Restricted open space is land that is designed to serve an open space use but has limited community access.

Restricted open spaces are not part of the core open space network and should not be accepted as public open space contributions in new subdivisions.

There is approximately 2,413 ha of restricted open space across the city. This includes spaces such as:

Conservation Reserves

Protected areas with high natural values, managed for preservation, protection and rehabilitation of significant ecological, biodiversity or geological values. These spaces may accommodate low impact community open space activities and infrastructure such as paths or trails. These spaces may be managed by the City, Parks Victoria, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) or a coastal committee of management. They include areas such as:

- Lake Connewarre State Game Reserve
- Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve
- Dooliebeal Reserve
- You Yangs Regional Park

Botanic gardens

Horticultural areas that support species conservation, collection and education. They have restricted visitation hours. In Greater Geelong this includes the Geelong Botanic Gardens.

Schools

Reserved for the primary purposes of education including schools and higher education institutions. These facilities include open space, sports fields and playgrounds.

There are opportunities for these facilities to be accessible to the community outside of education operating hours through Joint Use Agreements.

Professional sporting facilities/stadiums and private sporting facilities

Includes spaces for elite or specialised sporting facilities such as GMHBA Stadium, the Geelong Racecourse and areas such as golf courses that are typically member-based organisations. When not in use for competitions or formal bookings, they may provide limited community access.

Cemeteries

Cemeteries typically have opening hours and sometimes have locked premises. They can provide community access to the path networks as key linkages across the city or spaces for access to nature.

Figure 5. Kingston Park in Ocean Grove

ENCUMBERED OPEN SPACE

Encumbered open space is land primarily used for servicing infrastructure, and open space functions have been provided as a secondary use. Encumbered land must always be available for its primary intended use.

Encumbered open spaces are not part of the core open space network and should not be accepted as public open space contributions in new subdivisions.

There is approximately 732 ha of encumbered open space across the city. Encumbered land includes:

- Land affected by a service or servicing easement, including but not limited to, water, drainage, retarding basins, sewer easements, high voltage power lines, or gas easements.
- Land that is subject to flooding (Land Subject to Inundation Overlay).
- Land that is located within a Bushfire Management Overlay or where a defendable area cannot be safely provided.
- Land that has a majority slope greater than 1 in 6 or is subject to land slip.
- Land that may be contaminated and preclude other development types.
- Rooftops, land above a basement, land that does not provide clear sky above, and common areas managed by a private corporation.

KEY CRITERIA FOR OPEN SPACE ON ENCUMBERED LAND

Not all encumbered land has potential for open space functions. To qualify, the land must meet the following criteria:

Safety and access

- It must be publicly accessible, providing safe, connected and attractive public space.

Suitability

- It must be suitable for the intended functions. In most cases it may offer functions such as Linking and Access to Nature.

Co-location

- Arranging and integrating fit-for-purpose public open space with encumbered land (e.g. waterways, drainage basins, conservation, utility easements) to provide a multi-functional experience.

Community experience

- The functionality and community experience must complement the public open space network by enhancing the recreational offering for community benefit.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Open Space Strategy is part of achieving the Community Vision Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future.

The Strategy complements the City's other strategic planning in domains such as infrastructure, community health and wellbeing, environment, heritage and culture and economic development.

The Strategy is in alignment with the intent of Victorian State Government strategic planning and growth projections for the city as well open space guidelines and place specific policies such as the Bellarine Peninsula Statement of Planning Policy 2023 which is embedded in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.

The following diagram provides an overview of the key State and Council documents that are connected to this Strategy.

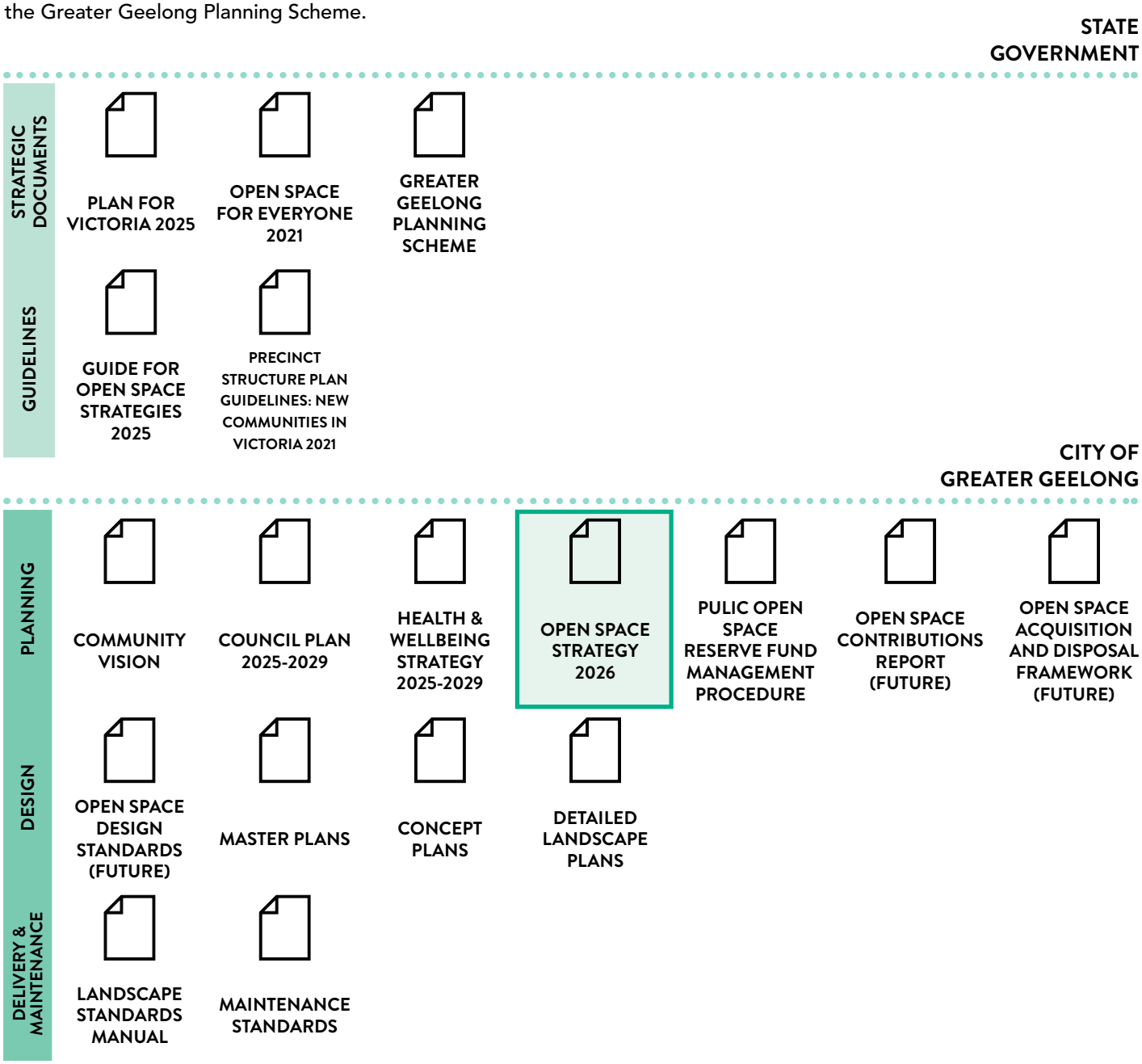


Figure 6. The Strategic Context of the Open Space Strategy

GREATER GEELONG'S CHANGING COMMUNITY

Greater Geelong is the region's key service and employment hub, with open spaces for the community and visitors. As a Major Regional City, it is set for significant population growth and will accommodate a major share of Victoria's future housing supply targets.

POPULATION GROWTH

The population of Greater Geelong is forecast to grow from existing 306,000 to reach 442,000 by 2046, representing a population increase over the next 20 years of 47%.

Alongside this population growth, the State Government has set Greater Geelong a State Housing Target of 128,600 dwellings by 2051. The majority of these dwellings will be realised in established areas, with approximately 40% of dwellings to be delivered in growth areas - North and Western Geelong Growth Areas (NWGGA) and Armstrong Creek Urban Growth Area (ACUGA).

The majority of housing in Greater Geelong are separate dwellings (85%). The proportion of medium and high-density dwellings have increased between 2016 and 2021. High-density dwellings are, and will continue to be, located primarily within and around Central Geelong.

As the population grows it will put additional pressure on existing open space as well as increased demands for new high-quality open space, delivered in the right locations. In urban areas with increasing density this will need to consider increasing the capacity and optimising existing open space as well as forward planning opportunities for new open space.

Plan for Victoria: Greater Geelong Housing Targets	
Total	128,600
Established Area Target	77,500
Greenfield Area Target	51,000

Figure 7. Greater Geelong's Housing Targets

CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS

Community members use open space in different ways. A diversity of uses and activities across our open space network will ensure it is used by the widest cross section of our community.

As a key regional area and major growth zone, Greater Geelong will experience demographic diversity and change over the coming decade. Similar to other regional areas the population in Greater Geelong is ageing, with 31.5% of the population aged 55 years and over. As a major growth area, there is a high proportion of young families, with 38% of households with children. This proportion may increase as growth areas continue to be developed.

Greater Geelong scores in the 46th percentile in the Australian SEIFA index, indicating that there is a higher general level of disadvantage across the community compared to other locations across Australia. Disadvantage is higher in some locations with pockets of disadvantage in Corio, Norlane, Whittington, Newcomb, and Breakwater.

Open space is one of the few free spaces available to our community members. Protecting free access and supporting low-cost formal recreation activities is important in ensuring open space equity. In addition, open space should provide a range of diverse functions to cater for changing community needs.

Protecting free access and affordable recreation opportunities help ensure everyone can enjoy open space equitably

CLIMATE CHANGE

Across Australia climate change is leading to an increased frequency and intensity of major weather events that influence the way we can access and use open space. In Greater Geelong several urban areas experience drainage issues either due to extremely flat terrain, outdated and undersized drainage infrastructure, or both. Areas such as Corio, Leopold and Lara have legacy subdivision designs with reserves designed as overland flow paths. This limits their suitability for infrastructure embellishments and use for open space activities.

In Greater Geelong the frequency of droughts, bushfires, heavy rain and heatwaves is expected to increase. These events will impact open space by reducing short-term useability when spaces are unavailable or damaged by a weather event, and long-term access when spaces become unusable due to heat, or flooding, or the City is forced to retreat due to coastal erosion and inundation. Damage to playing surfaces and conditions of extreme heat may require permanent adjustments to playing seasons or locations, putting pressure on alternative spaces such as indoor recreation and community facilities to counteract interruptions to open space access.

Open space will also play an increasingly important role to support climate change mitigation efforts. This includes open space providing urban cooling and offering areas for people to seek refuge during periods of intense heat, creating a buffer to urban development and in some cases serve as fire breaks, and support erosion reduction through increased planting. The design of open space must consider the dual function of community access and climate change mitigation.

Open space helps keep the City cool and climate resilient, while also providing places for people to enjoy nature and learn

TOURISM

Greater Geelong is a key tourist destination attracting visitors to events and festivals as well as the natural landscapes available across the city. In 2024-25, there were 6.4 million visitors to Geelong and the Bellarine. Open spaces such Steampacket Gardens, Bellarine Rail Trail, Kardinia Park, beaches and foreshore areas along the bay are key attractions for tourists.

Managing tourism demand alongside local needs require considerations to protect access, quality, and maintenance of highly used open space. This can be supported by identifying event-capable spaces, appropriate and complementary commercial opportunities, planning for higher service levels during peak periods, and balancing major destination parks with well-distributed local open space for residents.

Balancing tourism with local needs helps protect access and quality by planning for busy periods and ensuring residents still have great parks close to home

USE AND PARTICIPATION TRENDS

Participation trends show that most park users are opting to exercise in public spaces, with 6 in 10 Australian adults heading to the park, streets, or beaches to be active on their own or with friends. In general, there is an increase in:

- Walking and running/jogging are increasingly popular due to its physical, mental, and social benefits, and low barrier to entry for almost everyone.
- Self-organised informal activity participation which bring social or nature-based connections, such as bushwalking and mountain biking with friends.
- Demand for longer-stay play and social gathering spaces.
- Time spent outdoors in nature for mental health and wellbeing benefits

Geelong has one of the largest companion animal populations of any Victorian municipality with significant demand for dog-friendly open spaces.

In 2024-25 there were greater than 33,000 outdoor sport participation in the City. The top 5 outdoor sports, based on total participation, are AFL, cricket, soccer, netball and tennis. These sports account for 92% of all sport participation at our outdoor recreation facilities.

The fastest growing sports between 2022 and 2024 were netball (51% increase), soccer (42% increase), and BMX (26% increase).

The majority of outdoor sport participation in 2024-2025 were male (64%) however since 2022 the City has seen a significant growth in female participation, which is expected to continue.

As the city continues to grow and diversify the demand for informal activity, non-sport related, and sport related activities must be considered.

Multi-functional public open spaces will play an increasingly important role in supporting active healthy lifestyles across the city. Their design will need to consider their ability to support a wide range of activities and navigating the shared use.

Figure 8. Participation trends across City of Greater Geelong

PROTECTING, OPTIMISING, AND GROWING THE OPEN SPACE NETWORK

Integrated planning and financial management of the open space network underpins service delivery, sets performance expectations, and guides investment decisions to ensure the open space network remains functional, financially sustainable, and fit-for-purpose.

Costs to maintain and renew playgrounds, park furniture and other existing assets are increasing, which is resulting in significant financial constraints for the City. With community expectations on open space rising, the City aims to protect, optimise, and grow the open space network. This provides a tailored approach to decision-making at both the network and asset level, while recognising the associated challenges.

PROTECT

Protecting our open spaces for current and future communities, preventing net loss, and safeguarding its environmental, cultural and recreational values and benefits.

Protecting at the network level:

Appropriate zoning of land: Land for public open space should be zoned Public Park and Recreation Zone or in some cases, Public Conservation and Resource Zone. Ensure land that is not intended for public open space is zoned to reflect its primary function and long-term use.

Protecting at the asset level:

Maintenance: Maintenance ensures our open spaces remain safe, functional, and enjoyable, protecting investment and supporting consistent quality for the various hierarchies of open space. Challenges include balancing maintenance needs across many sites, managing limited resources, and responding to changing community expectations.

OPTIMISE

Ensure the open space network delivers maximum community benefit and that it is used and managed effectively.

Optimising at the network level:

Consolidation of land: Repurpose or disposal of land that is no longer considered fit-for-purpose and reinvesting to achieve an equitable network.

To support with this, we will continue to assess existing open space and gaps within the network in alignment with the principles and objectives of this Strategy.

Optimising at the asset level:

Renewal: Renewal of open space refers to replacing an existing asset that returns the asset to its original capability. While this supports asset management outcomes, it can limit opportunities to incorporate enhancements to functionality, accessibility, or quality, particularly in established areas. Renewal of open spaces should assess its role in the network, and whether the assets continue to meet community needs. This ensures resources are used where they are most valued.

GROW

Strategic expansion and upgrade of the network to address identified gaps.

Growing at the network level:

- Unlocking land to improve community access. Utilise restricted or encumbered land for public open space use. Partnerships and Joint Use Agreements with schools and other land managers to improve access to open space.
- Acquiring new land to address gaps or to improve the effectiveness of existing open spaces. This can be provided through developer contributions, land purchases, or compulsory acquisition.

Growing at the asset level:

Upgrade: Upgrading open space to enhancing an existing asset to provide a higher level of service. This will typically support greater or more diverse uses and capacity, while also helping to reduce inequitable open space provision across the municipality. Redevelopment of open spaces often result in higher ongoing maintenance requirements.

PART 3: PROVISION STANDARDS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

OPEN SPACE PROVISION STANDARDS

Provision standards set clear performance measures for our open spaces. This supports the City to plan, deliver, manage and maintain the open space network equitably and sustainably.

This Strategy includes quantity, access, quality and performance standards. A summary of these standards is provided below with further detail on each in the following section.

COMPONENTS	STANDARDS	
QUANTITY AND ACCESS	QUANTITY	AMOUNT OF OPEN SPACE PER PERSON
	ACCESSIBILITY	% OF POPULATION WITHIN A WALKABLE OR DRIVING DISTANCE
QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE	QUALITY	CITY PARK ASSESSMENT % SCORE
	DIVERSITY OF NETWORK	HIERARCHY OF OPEN SPACE
	DIVERSITY OF EXPERIENCES	MULTIPLE FUNCTIONS

Figure 9. Open space provision standards for Greater Geelong

QUANTITY

Quantity refers to the amount of open space available. The benchmark of 30sqm per capita has been broadly adopted by industry in open space planning. This benchmark is applied to the whole Greater Geelong LGA. It recognises that open spaces across the City work together as a network, and people often travel to enjoy a variety of spaces. The benchmark can also be applied at the Planning Area to understand how equitably open space is distributed across the city. The overall quantity for a Planning Area should only be used as a guide rather than a strict measure.

This quantity benchmark differs from that applied in Precinct Structure Plans which notes that the open space network should provide a minimum of 10% of the Net Developable Area (NDA) for local parks and sports fields in residential areas (including activity centres) and 2% of the NDA in employment and/or economic activity areas.

Quantity Target
Equal to or greater than **30sqm** per capita across the LGA

Figure 10. Quantity targets for open space

ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility standards aim to ensure everyone can easily and equitably reach open space. Outlined in the table below, accessibility standards are distance or time-based measures from dwellings to open space. Distance measures are based on walkable routes (other than 5km for rural areas which is based on roads) and account for obstructions such water ways, arterial roads and rail lines. Time-based measures are based on driving times using the road network and assuming non-peak hour travel.

Accessibility standards differ between urban and rural areas. In urban areas there is higher population and dwelling density, as well as less private open space when compared to rural areas. In this context walkable access to local open space is important. The diversity of sizes of open space in urban areas also ensures that there will be a range of open space functions available.

In rural areas, while local open space is still important, it is servicing a larger catchment of dispersed dwellings. Given this, in rural areas it is important that open space is of an adequate size to service multiple functions across a few number of sites.

Most residents, regardless of where they live, also need to access to regional level open space. As noted under Hierarchy, these are destination spaces. Across the city, most dwellings should be within reasonable driving time to these spaces.

In areas where there is an accessibility gap, restricted open space and encumbered land can be factored in to address catchment gaps. However, this land needs to meet the criteria as outlined in Types of Open Space (page 16).

Urban Areas Accessibility Targets
95% of dwellings in urban areas are within **400m** of open space
95% of dwellings in urban areas are within **800m** of open space greater than **1 ha**
95% of dwellings in urban areas are within **1km** of open space greater than **8 ha**
Rural Areas Accessibility Targets
95% of dwellings in rural areas are within **5km** of open space greater than **8 ha**
City-Wide Accessibility Targets
95% of dwellings are within a **20-minute drive** of open space greater than 20 ha

Figure 11. Accessibility target for open space

QUALITY

Quality considers two key factors; quality of land to support open space and the quality of infrastructure in open space.

Quality of land describes how suitable a site is for open space, in line with the Principles for Open Space Planning (page 14) and Key Criteria for public open space land (page 14-15) outlined in this Strategy. Understanding this will require an assessment of each open space which is a recommended action in the implementation phase.

Quality of infrastructure in open space refers to the average based on the City's Park Assessment data (2022) which provides a general fit-for-purpose assessment of each open space. The LGA average score is 55.7%. This Strategy sets a target to improve the LGA average Park Assessment to 60%. Planning Areas are assessed in terms of being above or below the LGA target.

Quality Target
All Planning Areas meet the LGA average Park Performance Score of 60%

Figure 12. Quality target for open space

HIERARCHY

Open space is categorised into 5 hierarchies. These are pocket, local, neighbourhood, district and regional levels of open space. The hierarchy is determined by the size of the open space land only, and does not reflect the level of play, recreation or sporting infrastructure. It informs the role, experience, and duration of stay that users can expect. The open space network should include a variety of hierarchies to support different uses and experiences.

Generally, larger sized open space can better accommodate longer stay and multiple experiences. In most cases the duration of stay informs the level of embellishment (i.e. the extent of development, features, unique characteristics, and amenity provided) - the longer the stay, the higher the level of embellishment. This approach supports appropriate use, equitable resource allocation, and ongoing maintenance standards across the open space network.

While the design of open space is considered on a case-by-case basis and depends on the functions and surrounding context, examples of embellishments which reflect duration may include:

Short pause:
Seating, trees, landscaping, path.

Short stay:
Single age playground, shade (preferably vegetated rather than a structure), lawn 'kick and throw' area and seating, preferably arranged to encourage social interaction.

Long stay:
A multi-age playground, informal sport courts/equipment, public toilets, BBQ's drink fountains, picnic facilities and large lawn area. An effective pedestrian and cycle network, as well as parking (on street and/or on site) is particularly important for long stay visitation to not negatively impact surrounding residents by a large number of people driving to utilise the space.

A breakdown of each of the hierarchy types is provided in the following table.

POCKET

<0.5 HA

Short pause

Improve amenity by providing 'pockets' of green relief, or short pauses during active transport and/or informal recreation (i.e. walking, running). Due to size, they are not supported as new open space unless in activity centres or urban infill areas. Very minimal infrastructure, often integrated into urban areas to increase greening.

LOCAL

0.5 - 1 HA, broadly square or rectangular with sides no greater than 2:1

Short stay

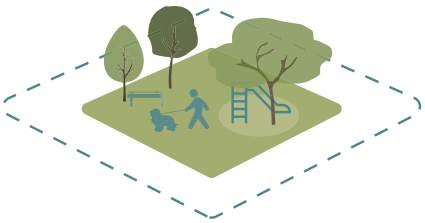
They serve nearby homes and workplaces with everyday recreation opportunities like play, relaxation and casual activity within comfortable walking distance. Minimal infrastructure which targets the local demographic. New locals must be 1ha in size.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

1 - 5 HA, broadly square or rectangular with sides no greater than 2:1

Short (1-3 ha) or Long stay (4 – 5 ha). Dependent on size and need

Destination for surrounding neighbourhood able to provide a wider diversity of uses. They have a social and recreational focus for community, offering a variety of facilities and places to meet and be active. May support sport uses in rural areas if minimum 5 ha. May include minor embellishments to otherwise standard facilities.

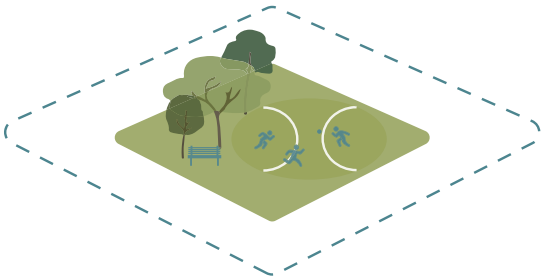


DISTRICT

5 - 20 HA, broadly square or rectangular with sides no greater than 3:1

Long stay

Destination for surrounding suburbs. They offer a broad range of recreation, sport, and social activities and are able to accommodate larger and many user groups at the same time. Must be min. 8ha for formalised sporting infrastructure.



REGIONAL

20+ HA, broadly square or rectangular with sides no greater than 3:1

Long stay

Destination for Greater Geelong, the wider region and beyond. Often with major cultural, environmental or recreational experiences. Must have access to public transport and include facilities to support all abilities access and facilities.

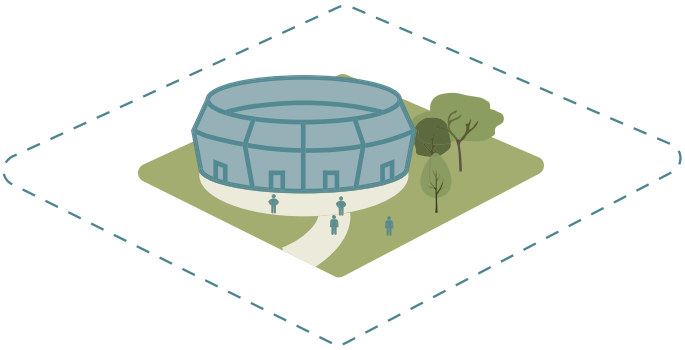


Figure 13. Hierarchy of open spaces within the City of Greater Geelong

FUNCTIONS OF OPEN SPACE

The functions of an open space refers to the purposes and activities for which the site is developed and managed. The demands on open space often require a multifunctional approach to provision and design. Each open space should have multiple functions to maximise use and encourage a mix of users.

Encumbered land which meets the qualifying standards noted in Types of Open Spaces can include open space functions as secondary uses. Generally, these include functions with low impact infrastructure such as Linking and Access to Nature.

DIVERSITY

Diversity refers both to the mix of existing functions across the open space network and the diversity of the open space hierarchy. The more diverse the hierarchy the more opportunity for a wider range of open space functions and experiences.

All open spaces greater than 1 ha should accomodate at minimum 2 open space functions, and those greater than 8 ha should accomodate a minimum of 3 open space functions. These functions should respond to community needs as well as align with the role of the specific hierarchy.

Diversity
Open space greater than **1ha should accomodate a minimum 2 open space functions**
Open space greater than **8ha should accomodate a minimum 3 open space functions**

Figure 14. Diversity target for open space

KEY FUNCTIONS OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

SPORT

Function: Spaces managed and maintained as quality playing surfaces for organised sport and structured recreation. This includes playing fields, pitches or hard courts for competitive sports, physical skill development and training.

The space is typically available for informal and public use when organised sporting events or training are not programmed.

Delivery Principles:

- Land must be flat, with consideration of field dimensions and sun orientation informing design.
- Where possible sporting infrastructure should be multi-use e.g. football and cricket in one field or multi-sport markings.
- Designed to accommodate long stays with elements such as shade, toilets, change facilities, water and lighting to maximise utilisation across the day.
- Sport open spaces should also provide a high level of embellishment of other functions (i.e. playgrounds, picnic areas) along the periphery to encourage multi-functional utilisation of the space.

Associated strategies: Preferred sporting facility guidelines (developed by peak sporting bodies), the City's relevant sport planning documents (master plans and facility development plans).

RECREATION

Function: Spaces for a range of recreational activities and experiences including picnicking, play, walking, informal physical activity, relaxation, gathering and socialising, and dog parks.

Delivery Principles:

- The level of infrastructure should correspond with the expected duration of stay. Can be designed for short or long stays dependent on the size of the open space and appropriate level of embellishment.
- Fenced dog parks should only be provided in space with a minimum of 3,000sqm and on land that is not prone to flooding or on slopes greater than 1:6.

Associated strategies: Fenced Dog Parks Siting, Design and Management Guidelines (2019), Geelong's Play Strategy 2012 – 2021 (update required)

ACCESS TO NATURE

Function: Spaces characterised by semi-natural and natural vegetation or bushland, lakes and coastal areas. They support nature-based recreation, access to water-based recreation, biodiversity protection, ecosystem services, and buffers between land use zones.

Dependent on the sensitivity of the landscape, it can provide low impact recreation infrastructure such as trails, tracks, piers and jetties.

Delivery Principles:

- Contributes to improving and supporting biodiversity and tree canopy. Can be on encumbered open space areas subject to flooding/ inundation but infrastructure should be adaptable to these conditions.
- Can be designed for short and long stays dependent on the size of the open space and appropriate level of embellishment.
- These areas allow public access to recreate in nature. It differs from Public Conservation Resource Zone (PCRZ) land where the primary function is to protect and conserve the natural environment, and in most cases would be classified as restricted open space.

Associated strategies: Plan for Nature (under development), Urban Forest Strategy (under review), Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2025

CIVIC

Function: Civic spaces and plazas catering for recreation, social gatherings, meeting up, and relaxation within typically built-up areas, transport hubs or shopping precincts. May be used for community assembly and events with a mix of areas for seating, event space and pedestrian circulation to cater for high intensity use and extended day and night use.

Delivery Principles:

- Typically, mostly hard-surfaced areas such as public squares and plazas but inclusion of greenery and tree canopy for comfort, cooling and shade is strongly encouraged.
- May include supporting infrastructure to enable events and public gathering, such as lighting and power.
- Typically designed for short stays to provide areas for rest and respite.
- Fenced dog parks should only be provided in space with a minimum of 3,000sqm and on land that is not prone to flooding or on slopes greater than 1:6.

Associated strategies: Public Realm Strategy and Public Realm Design Guidelines (under development)

EVENTS AND TOURISM

Function: Spaces designated to cater formal events and community gatherings, attracting intra, interstate, national and/or international visitation. Likely to include visitor expenditure on commercial goods and services. Sites typically include significant environmental, cultural and/or outdoor social values. In some cases, it may require public and commercial bookings.

Delivery Principles:

- Land should generally be flat to support the erection of temporary structures such as stages and market stalls and include lighting, power, carparking and appropriate entry and egress. Associated parking and staging facilities may support specific bus and tour operators.
- Some sites may not require a high level of infrastructure, but instead higher quality embellishments and maintenance.
- Designed to enable long stays and a variety of event types. Consider whether this function relates to all year or seasonal use and management.

Associated strategies: Major Events Strategy 2024-29

LINKING

Function: Provides off-road connections, linkages or movement corridors for pedestrians, riders and sometimes wildlife.

Delivery Principles:

- Where linking is a primary function, the open space must be a minimum width of 25m, with safe and accessible exit/entry points and rest stops depending on the journey length.
- As they are generally designed for movement with rest stops, limited visitor facilities may include paths, seating, and signage.

Associated strategies: Integrated Transport Strategy (under development), Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2029

PART 4:
GREATER GEELONG'S OPEN SPACE NETWORK

GREATER GEELONG'S OPEN SPACE NETWORK

The City of Greater Geelong comprises of 15 Planning Areas. Planning Areas are designed to be reflective of the natural community catchments throughout the municipality to support better planning and decision-making.

This section is a snapshot of the provision standards of quantity, diversity, quality and accessibility have been assessed at the LGA level, followed by an analysis across each of the 15 Planning Areas.

Figure 15. City of Greater Geelong Social Infrastructure Plan, Our Community Places, Spaces and Services, 2020

ASSESSING THE CITY'S OPEN SPACE

Community profile and growth

The City of Greater Geelong is Victoria's largest regional municipality. The Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA Index of Disadvantage) for Greater Geelong in 2021 was 1007, which is similar to the Victorian average (1010), and significantly above the regional Victorian average (985).

Suburbs such as Norlane, Corio and Whittington have some of the lowest SEIFA scores in Victoria, reflecting higher levels of socio-economic disadvantage. This highlights the importance of providing free or low-cost recreation opportunities in open space, which support physical and mental wellbeing and help reduce inequities experienced by disadvantaged communities.

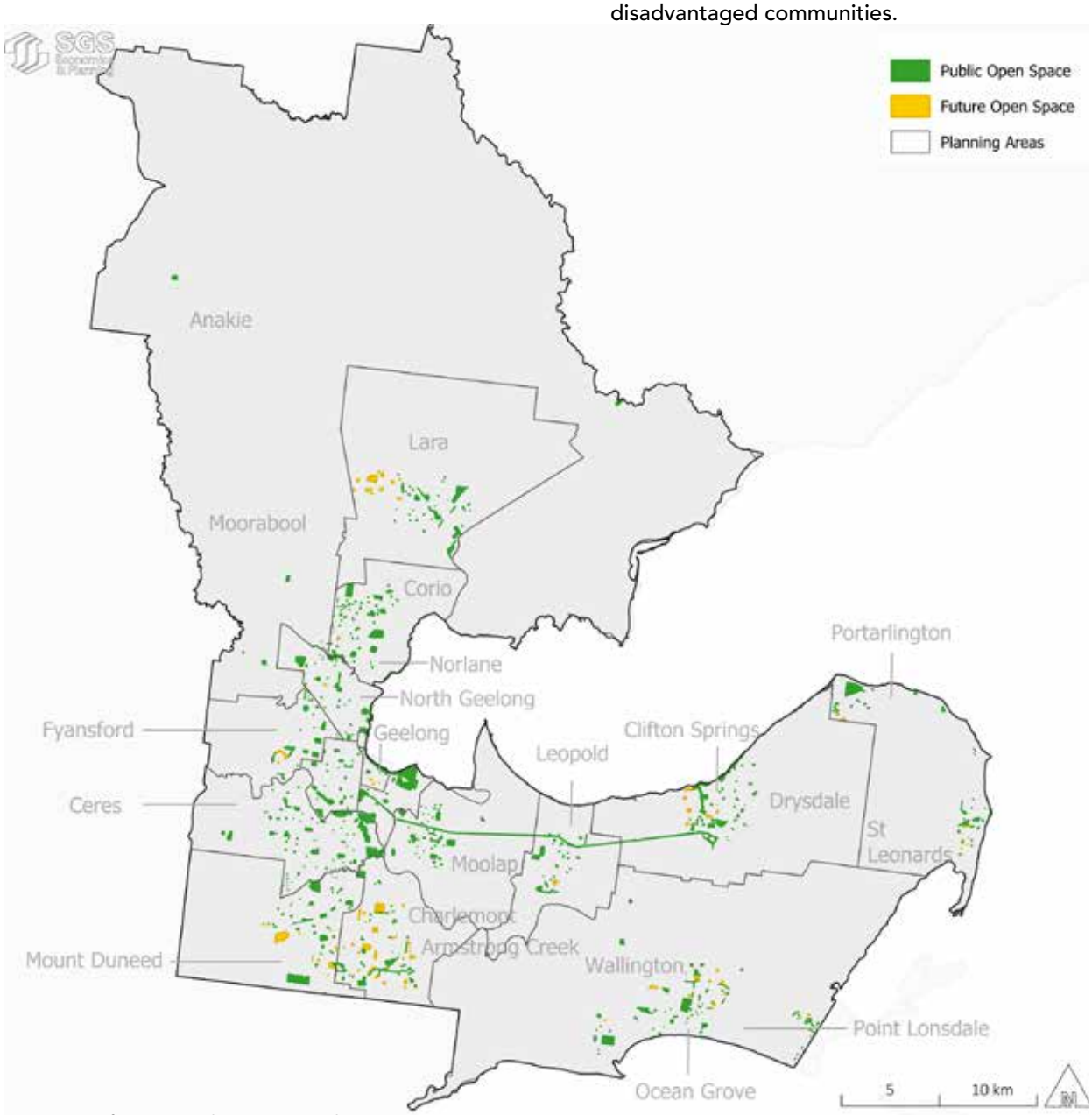


Figure 16. City of Greater Geelong existing and proposed open spaces

OPEN SPACE DIVERSITY

There are 670 parcels of open space across the city. More than half of those are pocket open spaces (smaller than 0.5 ha) that have limited open space functions due to size constraints.

SEIFA Index for LGA	
764	Norlane - North Shore
1,096	Barwon Heads - Connewarre - Breamlea

Hierarchy	Number
Regional	7
District	56
Neighbourhood	103
Local	73
Pocket	431
Total	**670**

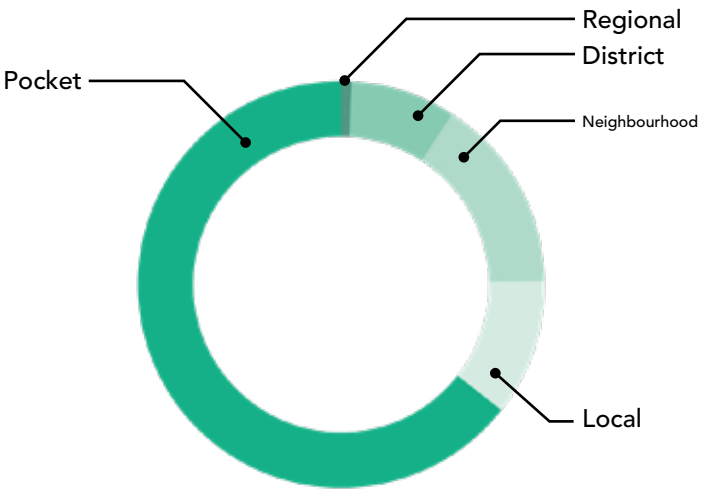


Figure 17. Open space hierarchy diversity across City of Greater Geelong

QUANTITY OF OPEN SPACE

Greater Geelong will continue to have enough open space per capita, exceeding the target with 39sqm per capita to 2046. 589 hectares has been identified as future public open space to be delivered over that time, approximately 470 hectares of which will be delivered as part of the NWGGA.

QUANTITY TARGET

30SQM

OVERALL LGA TARGET: 30 SQUARE METERS OF OPEN SPACE PER CAPITA

2021

270,800
Population

1,141 HA
Quantity of public open space

42sqm
per capita

2046

442,000
Population

1,730 HA
Quantity of public open space

39sqm
per capita

↑ **63% Increase** *(2021 - 2046)*

↑ **51% Increase** *(2021 - 2046)*

↓ **7% Decrease** *(2021 - 2046)*

Figure 18. Existing and projected population-based open space requirements

ACCESSIBILITY OF OPEN SPACE

There is an inconsistent distribution of open space across Planning Areas, with very limited relationships to population distribution or density. There will be ongoing accessibility issues across the city, with large urban areas that have no access to any open space within 400m, and many that only have access to small pocket or local open spaces that can provide only limited functions. While the city is meeting the target for access to regional open spaces these are largely clustered in the centre and south-east parts of Greater Geelong, with highly variable levels of infrastructure between them. In some parts of the city there are significant barriers such as ring roads, train lines, waterways and heavy industry that limit accessibility to open spaces between neighbourhoods.

ACCESSIBILITY TARGETS

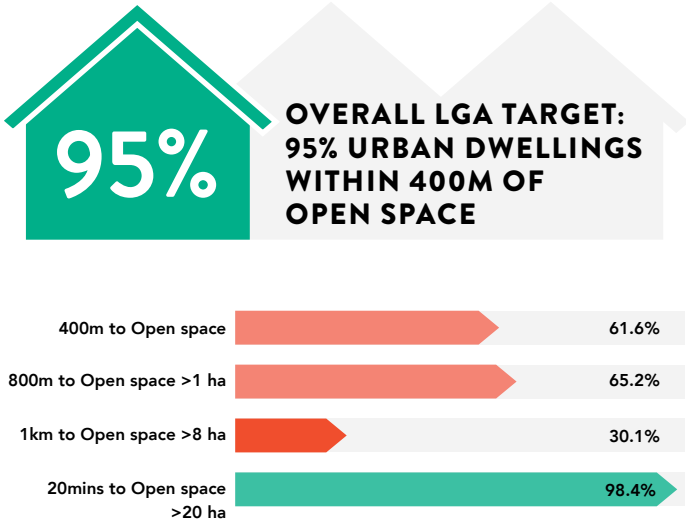


Figure 19. Current accessibility to public open space

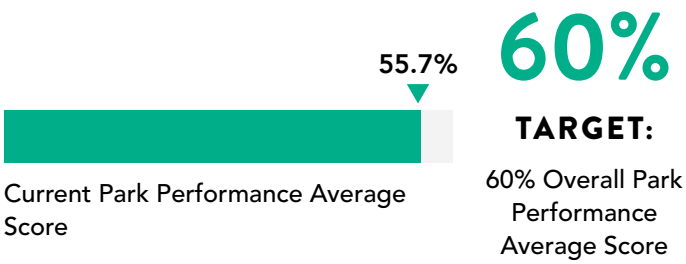


Figure 20. Quality of Open space performance current vs target

QUALITY

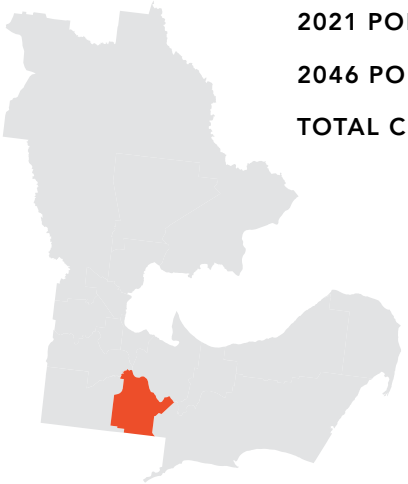
The City has very variable quality across its open spaces ranging from park performance scores of 33% through to 94%. Higher quality spaces with more diversity of functions tend to be new developments in growth areas, with established suburbs scoring much lower.

The Greater Geelong Park Performance average score is 55.7%, with a high variation of open space scores ranging from 33% up to 94%. The higher scores are more typical in newer developments. The average score is below the target of 60%. Given the diversity of performances across parks, this provides the City with an opportunity to address poor quality in older more established areas.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- The main opportunity for the City is to improve access to the open space network, prioritising gap areas and ensuring any new open space is well located to support existing and new communities.
- Improving the quality and carrying capacity of destination (long stay) open spaces will improve access to a greater diversity of functions.
- Importantly, addressing poor quality in established suburbs will significantly improve the equity of open space across the city.
- The restructuring of pocket and local open space across the City will ensure the open space network is better meeting the needs of the community, with opportunities to reviewing potential acquisition of open space in areas identified to have gaps in provision or where it would improve the effectiveness of the existing network.
- Enhancing the use of restricted and encumbered land to improve connectivity between neighbourhoods and between open spaces will enhance accessibility across the city.
- Unlocking land (such as schools) in gap areas which may alleviate poor access to open space

PLANNING AREA 1:



2021 POPULATION 16,143

2046 POPULATION 48,058

TOTAL CHANGE - 198%

Armstrong Creek - Marshall - Charlemont

Planning Area 1 contains one of regional Victoria's largest greenfield growth areas known collectively known as Armstrong Creek. It will see the second highest population change in the City increasing by approximately 32,000 people by 2046.

KEY FINDINGS

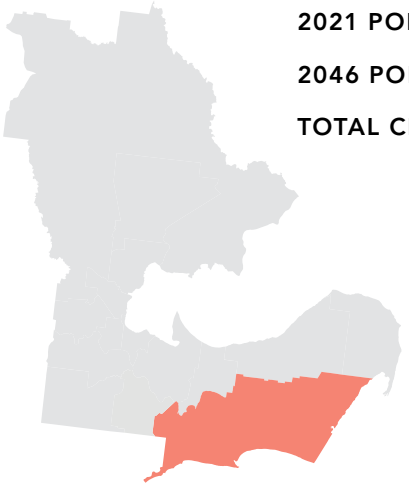
- ACUGA will provide significant diversity in function and sizes to the area. There are also large conservation land and encumbered open space links.
- Quality and access to open space in Marshall is poor, largely due to Brearley Reserve (district level) offering no functions beyond dog off-leash.
- Open space quantity will be sufficient for future population growth, with generally high-quality provision from growth areas.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Improve connectivity and functionality of restricted open spaces Sparrovale Wetlands Reserve and Waurn Ponds Creek.
- Improve function of encumbered land in Marshall, focussing on large drainage reserves in gap areas.
- Improve the quality and provide new functions to neighbourhood and district level open space in Marshall to increase the overall performance score and redress the quality gap between older existing spaces and new development areas.

SEIFA Index for LGA:	SEIFA Index range for Planning Area
1,007	1,029 - 1,067

PLANNING AREA 2:



2021 POPULATION 26,863

2046 POPULATION 33,291

TOTAL CHANGE - 24%

Barwon Heads - Connewarre - Rural Bellarine Peninsula - (Mannerim, Marcus Hill, Ocean Grove, Point Lonsdale, Swan Bay, Wallington)

Planning Area 2 is divided east west by the Barwon River mouth. It is a key tourism destination experiencing significant seasonal population increases in coastal towns.

KEY FINDINGS

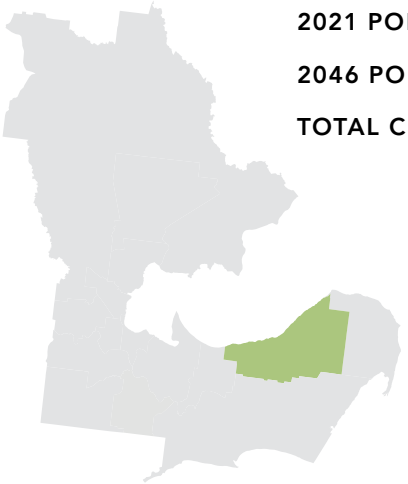
- Barwon Heads has one regional open space, all district parks are in Ocean Grove, and there are some below-standard pocket parks. Residents have access to coastal beaches and Barwon River.
- Most suburbs meet the quality target, except Wallington which has the lowest score. Two neighbourhood parks in Wallington service a dispersed rural catchment.
- Recently developed areas of Ocean Grove and Point Lonsdale include well-designed encumbered open space networks.
- Overall open space quantity will be sufficient for future growth by 2046, but there is a gap in the south-west of Ocean Grove.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Improve the quality and functions of neighbourhood and district open spaces in established parts of Ocean Grove to increase carrying capacity and access to higher order recreation and sport functions.
- Improve the quality of neighbourhood open spaces in Wallington by providing additional functions and embellishments, prioritising Edsall Reserve.
- Investigate partnership with school in the south-west of Ocean Grove where there is limited accessibility to open space within 400m.
- Identify and embellish restricted open space, encumbered land, and key street linkages to provide connectivity across the Planning Area and to the Barwon River and coastal areas.
- Review quality and function of existing small-house blocked sized pocket open space. Dispose of undersize, inefficient, and not fit-for-purpose pocket open space and reinvest into the open space network.

SEIFA Index for LGA:	SEIFA Index range for Planning Area
1,007	1,073 - 1,096

PLANNING AREA 3:



2021 POPULATION 16,910

2046 POPULATION 20,065

TOTAL CHANGE - 19%

Clifton Springs - Curlewis - Drysdale - Bellarine

Planning Area 3 includes a significant amount of agricultural land along with the main townships of Drysdale and Clifton Springs. The area experiences high seasonal visitor populations, particularly along the coastline. The proximity of Drysdale to Ocean Grove (in Planning Area 2) means that the two communities share access to some facilities.

KEY FINDINGS

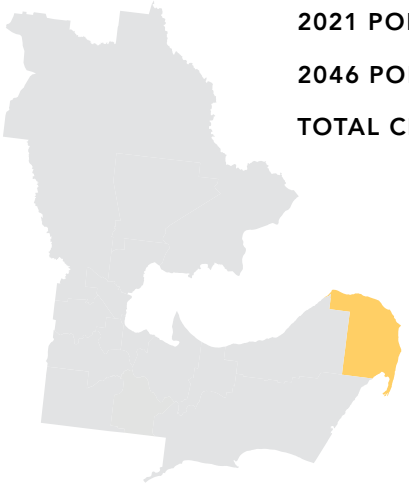
- There is an access gap where Drysdale and Clifton Springs meet. Around this area there are few open spaces, and those which are there are local or pocket.
- Average quality of open space is below the target, with Clifton Springs scoring the lowest. New open spaces delivered will increase overall quality.
- There are large parcels of restricted open space (golf course, conservation, cemetery), and significant lengths of encumbered drainage land connecting between main roads and the coast.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Provide new open space or find opportunities to expand on existing small parcels in the centre of the Planning Area at the intersection of Drysdale and Clifton Springs to address accessibility gaps.
- Improve the quality of existing fit-for-purpose open spaces, prioritising Clifton Springs in this Planning Area.
- Improve the quality and functions of all neighbourhood and district open spaces to increase carrying capacity.
- Maximise opportunities to provide linking functions of encumbered land to provide connectivity across the Planning Area, particularly to larger open spaces such as Drysdale Recreation Reserve, Clifton Springs coastal land.

SEIFA Index for LGA:	SEIFA Index range for Planning Area
1,007	1,004 - 1,026

PLANNING AREA 4:



2021 POPULATION 9,260

2046 POPULATION 12,421

TOTAL CHANGE - 34%

Portarlington - St Leonards - Indented Head

Planning Area 4 consists of three small seaside villages - Portarlington, St Leonards, and Indented Head. It is characterised by a small permanent population, many of which are retirees. The area experiences a high tourism population during peak periods. It will have the smallest population in 2046.

KEY FINDINGS

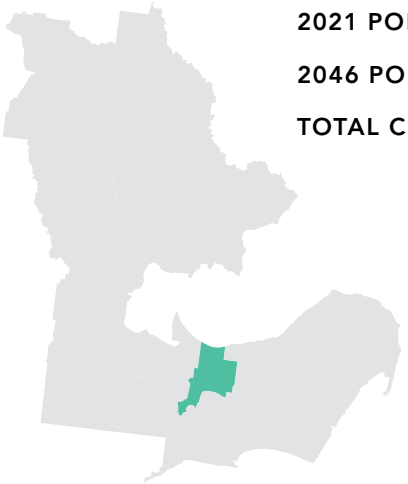
- Includes one of the City's regional level open spaces located next to a conservation area, providing a range of functions. The Indented Head community relies on Portarlington and St Leonards for sport needs.
- There are some below standard pocket and local parks.
- There is a gap in the southern part of Indented Head with poor access to open space within 400m, however there are accessible encumbered and restricted open spaces and access beaches.
- Overall open space quantity will be sufficient for future growth by 2046, however the average quality across the area is below target with Portarlington and St Leonards scoring the lowest.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Improve quality and function of the regional and district open space in St Leonards to increase carrying capacity.
- Improve the quality of existing open spaces, prioritising Portarlington and St Leonards.
- Provide open space function of encumbered drainage land in the east of Portarlington.
- Review quality and function of existing pocket open space. Dispose of undersize, inefficient, and not fit-for-purpose open space and reinvest into the open space network.

SEIFA Index for LGA:	SEIFA Index range for Planning Area
1,007	1,073 - 1,096

PLANNING AREA 5:



2021 POPULATION 13,029

2046 POPULATION 16,367

TOTAL CHANGE - 24%

Leopold

Planning Area 5 is the township of Leopold. It is regarded as the gateway to the Bellarine, and a distinct urban community that acts as a sub-regional centre. There is agricultural land and rural living zones, and it sits to the north of Lake Connewarre. The area is expected to increase by roughly 3,160 people to 2046.

KEY FINDINGS

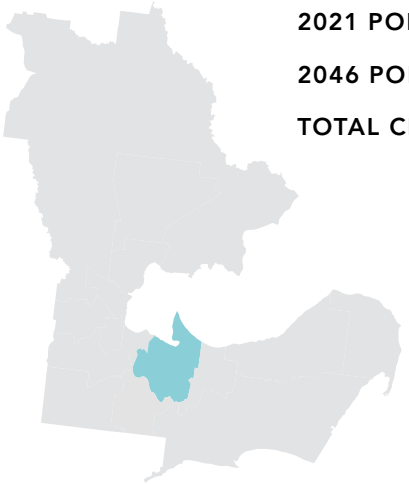
- Includes a section of the regional Bellarine Rail Trail. District open spaces are towards the west of the area, with smaller-medium open spaces (pocket, local and neighbourhood) forming the rest of the network.
- Two key areas with poor access to open space within 400m. They are south of the Bellarine Highway in the central-west and south-east. The central-west area should be prioritised as the south-east will allow for future subdivision and new open space.
- Overall open space quantity will not be sufficient for future growth by 2046.
- Open space quality is poor and below target.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Provide at least two open space functions within the existing drainage open space to address the central-west gap (south of the Bellarine Highway). Explore land expansion if opportunities are limited.
- Review quality and function of existing pocket open space. Ensure no further reduction of per capita provision for the area.
- Improve quality of existing fit-for-purpose open spaces.
- Improve quality and functions of neighbourhood and district open spaces to increase carrying capacity.
- Acquire land to improve the function and efficient management of Leopold Memorial Recreation Reserve.
- Review open spaces adjoining the Bellarine Rail Trail to provide complementary functions and uses for both trail and everyday park users.
- Investigate partnership with school where there is limited accessibility to open space within 400m.
- Ensure new open space from future subdivisions contributes to the 30 sqm target for the planning area.

SEIFA Index for LGA:	SEIFA Index range for Planning Area
1,007	1,025

PLANNING AREA 6:



2021 POPULATION 18,098

2046 POPULATION 18,298

TOTAL CHANGE - 1%

Newcomb - Moolap - St Albans Park - Thomson - Breakwater - Whittington

Planning Area 6 includes a mix of residential, agricultural and industrial land uses. The area will have the smallest population increase across the city to 2046, increasing by approximately 200 people. The area experiences some of the highest rates of socio-economic disadvantage.

KEY FINDINGS

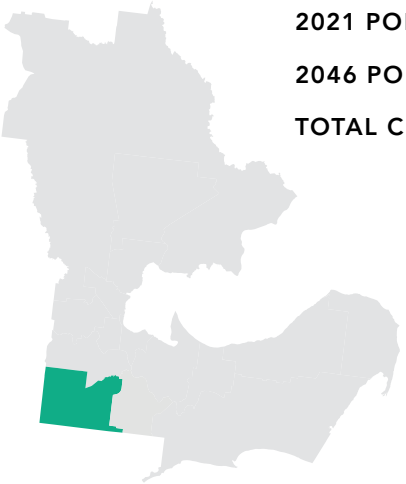
- Includes a section of the regional Bellarine Rail Trail. High number of district open spaces compared to other planning areas, with many pocket open spaces (70%), some of which are below standard.
- There is a gap in the southern part of St Albans Park with poor access to open space within 400m.
- Overall open space quantity will be sufficient for future growth by 2046, however the average quality across the area is below target with St Albans Park, Newcomb and Whittington scoring the lowest.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Review quality and function of existing pocket open space. Dispose of undersize, inefficient, and not fit-for-purpose pocket open space and reinvest into the open space network. Ensure no further reduction of per capita provision for the area.
- Review open spaces adjoining the Bellarine Rail Trail to provide complementary functions and uses for both trail and everyday park users.
- Provide local open space in the southern gap in St Albans Park. Improve quality of existing fit-for-purpose open spaces, prioritising St Albans Park, Newcomb and Whittington.
- Improve quality and functions of neighbourhood and district open spaces to increase carrying capacity.

SEIFA Index for LGA:	SEIFA Index range for Planning Area
1,007	817 - 963

PLANNING AREA 7:



2021 POPULATION 25,419

2046 POPULATION 34,402

TOTAL CHANGE - 35%

Grovedale - Mount Duneed - Waurn Ponds

Planning Area 7 includes the largest Geelong campus of Deakin University and the Epworth Hospital. The area acts as a sub-regional centre, which also provides access to services for residents in Planning Area 1 due to its proximity to ACUGA. Growth will occur primarily within Mount Duneed, as part of the Armstrong Creek West PSP.

KEY FINDINGS

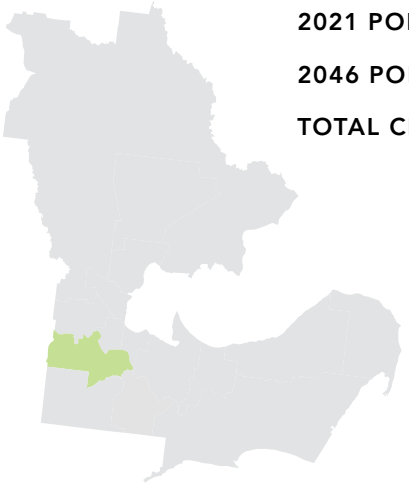
- A regional open space in the south (Mount Duneed Recreation Reserve), and a future regional open space to be delivered through ACUGA.
- Significant gaps within central Grovedale with poor access to open space within 400m. There are a number of pocket and neighbourhood open space, with little local open space.
- Overall open space quantity will be sufficient for future growth by 2046 however the rail line and major road impedes walkable access for the Grovedale community to new open spaces.
- Waurn Ponds and Grovedale have the lowest quality scores.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Ensure connections from west Grovedale to the future regional Armstrong Creek West Regional Park to alleviate accessibility gaps.
- Review quality and function of existing pocket open space.
- Improve quality of existing fit-for-purpose open spaces, prioritising Waurn Ponds and Grovedale.
- Protect and enhance open spaces adjoining Waurn Ponds Creek.
- Explore land acquisition opportunities to provide local parks to fill significant gaps in east and central Grovedale.
- Improve quality and functions of neighbourhood and district open spaces in Grovedale to increase carrying capacity.
- Investigate partnership with school in south Grovedale where there is limited accessibility to open space within 400m.

SEIFA Index for LGA:	SEIFA Index range for Planning Area
1,007	1,003 - 1,067

PLANNING AREA 8:



2021 POPULATION 38,467

2046 POPULATION 44,919

TOTAL CHANGE - 17%

Belmont - Highton - Wandana Heights - Ceres

Planning Area 8 has a significant amount of conservation land along the Barwon River to the north and east, and Waurn Ponds Creek to the south. The Geelong Ring Road cuts through the Planning Area separating Ceres to the west. Belmont is Geelong's oldest and largest suburb.

KEY FINDINGS

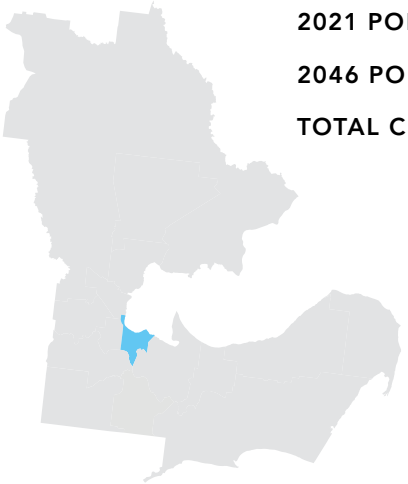
- Area has a regional open space (South Barwon Reserve). District open spaces are mostly in Belmont while neighbourhood open spaces are mostly in the north-west of Highton. High number of scattered pocket open space, some of which are below standard. There is little amount of local open space.
- Areas with poor access to open space within 400m include locations around Belmont, Highton and Wandana Heights.
- There are high number of large sized encumbered land through the west of the area that may improve links to other open space.
- Overall open space quantity meets target for future growth by 2046 with no surplus. Ceres and Highton have the lowest quality scores.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Review quality and function of existing pocket open space. Dispose of undersize, inefficient, and not fit-for-purpose pocket open space and reinvest into the open space network. Ensure no further reduction of per capita provision for the area.
- Improve quality and functions of neighbourhood, district and regional open spaces to increase carrying capacity.
- Investigate partnership with schools in south Highton and Belmont where there is limited accessibility to open space within 400m.
- Provide open space functions on large, encumbered land in the north-west to alleviate gaps and better connect existing open spaces.
- Improve quality of existing fit-for-purpose open spaces, prioritising Ceres and Highton.

SEIFA Index for LGA:	SEIFA Index range for Planning Area
1,007	1,014 - 1,077

PLANNING AREA 9:



2021 POPULATION 11,350

2046 POPULATION 19,143

TOTAL CHANGE - 69%

Central Geelong (CBD) - East Geelong - Geelong - South Geelong - Drumcondra

Planning Area 9 includes the CBD (Planning Area 9A) and is the region's primary centre of commercial, retail, arts, culture, entertainment, education, and health services. It is a key centre for tourism and visitor attraction including major events along the waterfront. Open space in this Planning Area is often catering to a much higher population of visitors, workers and daily commuters. The area is forecast to experience high growth, through mixed use and infill development, increasing by approximately 7,800 people by 2046.

KEY FINDINGS

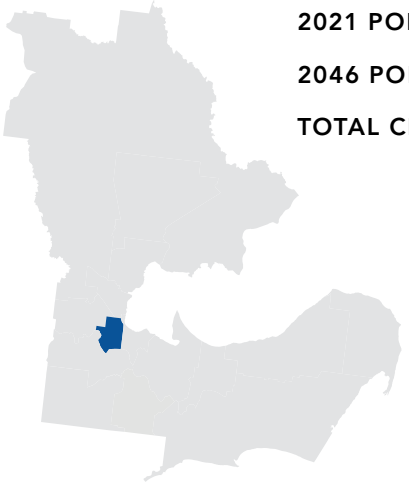
- Includes some of the City's most visited destination open spaces – Regional (Eastern Park, Geelong Waterfront), District (Kardinia Park) and neighbourhood (Johnston Park).
- While the overall open space quantity remains above the target for future growth, the amount of open space per person will be nearly halved. This is the largest change for any planning area.
- There is a large pocket with no access to open space within 400m in East Geelong.
- Quality of open space exceeds the target, and should be maintained as population and visitation grows.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Protect existing open space to retain per capita proportion for the area.
- Maintain high quality of open spaces.
- Provide new high-quality open space in the CBD as per open space actions in the Central Geelong Framework Plan.
- Protect access to sunlight as buildings begin to grow in height and scale.
- Investigate land acquisition to provide a local park to address the gap in East Geelong.

SEIFA Index for LGA:	SEIFA Index range for Planning Area
1,007	1,020 - 1,045

PLANNING AREA 10:



2021 POPULATION 20,451

2046 POPULATION 30,304

TOTAL CHANGE - 48%

Geelong West - Manifold Heights - Newtown

Planning Area 10 includes residential zones and key industrial zone in the south, and the major activity centres of Pakington Street in the north. It has the lowest per capita ratio of open space across the city.

KEY FINDINGS

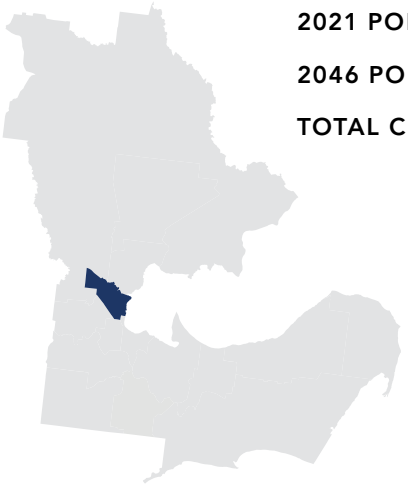
- Has the lowest per capita ratio of open space across the City. Currently does not meet provision target, and this will be further reduced with future growth by 2046.
- Large number of scattered pocket open space, with a low number of local open space. Three district open spaces are just within the size requirement, and clustered in the south. Neighbourhood open spaces generally in the periphery.
- Key areas with no access to open space within 400m are pockets of Newtown and Geelong West. These areas are not close to the Barwon River or other restricted/encumbered open spaces.
- The average quality of open space slightly exceeds the target and should be maintained as population grows.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Investigate open space opportunities for new open spaces as per Pakington North Urban Design Framework.
- Improve access to the open space along the Barwon River, focussing on infill development areas.
- Maintain high quality of open spaces.
- Strengthen connections and integrated planning between Rotary Centennial Park, Leach Wood Gardens and The Hill Mountain Bike Park to create a connected regional open space with diverse functions.
- Investigate partnerships with schools in areas with no accessibility to open space within 400m, especially through the centre of the Planning Area.
- Identify open spaces that could be expanded through land acquisition or enhanced to increase capacity and provide a diverse range of local functions.
- Ensure no further reduction of per capita provision for the area.
- Review pocket open spaces for improvement through land acquisition, ensuring per capita provision is maintained.

SEIFA Index for LGA:	SEIFA Index range for Planning Area
1,007	1,040 - 1,072

PLANNING AREA 11:



2021 POPULATION 14,811

2046 POPULATION 23,015

TOTAL CHANGE - 55%

Bell Park - Bell Post Hill - North Geelong - Rippleside

Planning Area 11 contains a mix of residential land, significant employment land and industrial precincts. The area is bisected by the train line and Geelong Ring Road to the west separating the established urban area and the growth area as part of the Western Geelong Growth Area (WGGA).

KEY FINDINGS

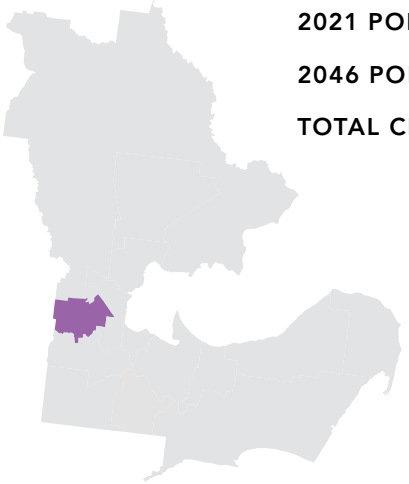
- Large number of pocket open space, with limited local or neighbourhood scale. District open spaces are generally in the periphery. New open spaces will be provided through NWGGA.
- Key areas with no access to open space within 400m are pockets of Bell Park, Bell Post Hill and North Geelong.
- Linear links of encumbered land compliment the network (e.g. Ted Wilson Trail)
- The average quality of open space is poor, with Bell Post Hill, North Geelong and Bell Park scoring the lowest.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Improve encumbered land linkages to retain connectivity across the Planning Area.
- Investigate connections to improve open space access across rail, road and industrial precincts.
- Provide open space within industrial precincts to provide improved linking and relief from the urban environment.
- Investigate partnerships with schools to with no accessibility to open space within 400m, especially through the centre of the Planning Area.
- Review quality and function of existing pocket open space and identify those which could functionally be improved through land acquisition. Ensure no further reduction of per capita provision for the area.
- Improve the quality of open spaces in established suburbs, prioritising Bell Post Hill and North Geelong.

SEIFA Index for LGA:	SEIFA Index range for Planning Area
1,007	942 - 982

PLANNING AREA 12:



2021 POPULATION 11,196

2046 POPULATION 29,876

TOTAL CHANGE - 167%

Hamlyn Heights - Herne Hill - Fyansford

Planning Area 12 contains the established suburbs of Hamlyn Heights and Herne Hill and will include major new urban areas on the west of the Geelong Ring Road as part of the WGGA. The Planning Area is bordered by the Barwon River to the south and the Moorabool River through the centre. It is forecast to increase by roughly 18,700 people to 2046.

KEY FINDINGS

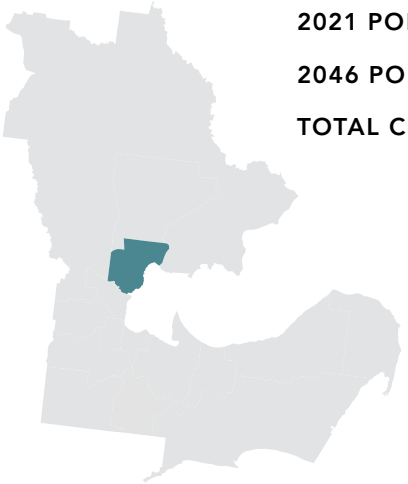
- Three district open spaces are just within the size requirements, and clustered south. There is no open space greater than 8 ha, meaning further travel is required for quality long-stay open space.
- New open spaces will be provided through NWGGA, but access from established suburbs will be restricted by the ring road.
- Key areas with no access to open space within 400m are pockets of Hamlyn Heights and Herne Hill.
- The average quality of open space is slightly below the target, with Hamlyn Heights and Herne Hill scoring the lowest.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Improve restricted and encumbered land linkages to retain connectivity across the Planning Area.
- Provide new connections to open space being delivered in the NWGGA for urban areas in Hamlyn Heights and Herne Hill.
- Provide regional or large district open space in the NWGGA to support the Planning Area's access to higher order open space infrastructure, including competition sports space, to reduce reliance on travel.
- Improve quality of existing fit-for-purpose open spaces, prioritising Hamlyn Heights and Herne Hill.
- Improve quality and functions of neighbourhood and district open spaces to increase carrying capacity.
- Review quality and function of existing pocket open space. Ensure no further reduction of per capita provision for the area.

SEIFA Index for LGA:	SEIFA Index range for Planning Area
1,007	1,019 - 1,033

PLANNING AREA 13:



2021 POPULATION 24,590

2046 POPULATION 27,076

TOTAL CHANGE - 10%

Corio - Norlane - North Shore

Planning Area 13 has significant portions of employment land, including major industrial uses fronting Corio Bay.The area is forecast to have low population growth to 2046, increasing by approximately 2,500 people to 2046. The population experiences some of the highest rates of socio-economic disadvantage.

KEY FINDINGS

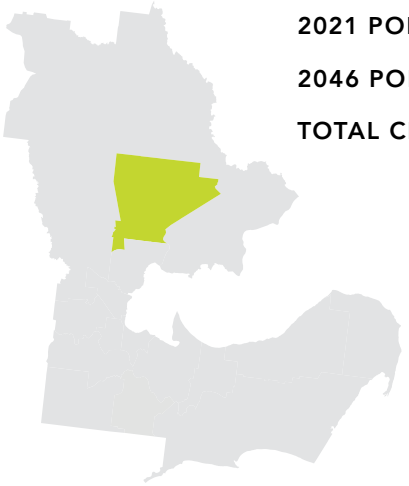
- There is a regional level open space (Stead Park), and a comparable number of district, neighbourhood and local. Over 73% are pocket sized.
- There are few gaps of areas within 400m, but accessible areas are to poor quality and poorly located pocket open space with limited functions.
- Significant linkages provided through utility easements, creek corridors and shared trails.
- The average quality of open space is poor, with Corio and Norlane scoring the lowest. Sutcliffe Reserve in Corio is a district open space with significantly low performance score for its size and potential.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Review quality and function of existing open space in Corio and Norlane. Dispose of undersize, inefficient, and not fit-for-purpose pocket open space and reinvest into the open space network. Ensure no further reduction of per capita provision for the area.
- Explore opportunities to expand existing open spaces by acquiring adjoining land so they can function more efficiently and effectively.
- Improve quality and functions of neighbourhood and district open spaces to increase carrying capacity.
- Improve the quality of existing fit-for-purpose open spaces to redress quality gaps between established areas and new development, prioritising Corio and Norlane.
- Improve encumbered land linkages to retain connectivity across the Planning Area.

SEIFA Index for LGA:	SEIFA Index range for Planning Area
1,007	764 - 822

PLANNING AREA 14:



2021 POPULATION 38,467

2046 POPULATION 44,919

TOTAL CHANGE - 55%

Lara

Planning Area 14 includes Lara, the major township in the north of Greater Geelong. The area is the gateway to significant conservation areas such as the You Yangs Regional Park and Serendip Sanctuary. There are industrial areas to the south, towards Corio. It is expected to experience moderate population growth as part of the Northern Geelong Growth Area

KEY FINDINGS

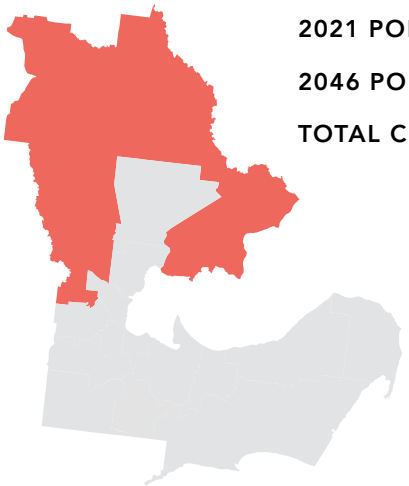
- Includes similar amounts of district, neighbourhood and local open space. More than half are pocket sized. Future open space will be provided through NWGGA which will lift open space quantity and average quality.
- Parts have no access to open space within 400m, but the network is supported by extensive encumbered drainage land or conservation land (e.g. Hovells Creek) which provide open space functions.
- The average quality of existing open space is poor.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Review quality and function of existing pocket open space. Dispose of undersize, inefficient, and not fit-for-purpose pocket open space and reinvest into the open space network. Ensure no further reduction of per capita provision for the area.
- Explore opportunities to expand existing open spaces by acquiring adjoining land so they can function more efficiently and effectively.
- Improve the quality of existing fit-for-purpose open spaces to redress quality gaps between established areas and new development.
- Improving open space links and recreation to maximise use of significant encumbered land.
- Protect open spaces and improve linkages along Hovells Creek.
- Ensure open space delivered through NWGGA is accessible to existing Lara residents.
- Improve quality and functions of neighbourhood and district open spaces to increase carrying capacity.

SEIFA Index for LGA:	SEIFA Index range for Planning Area
1,007	1,014 - 1,077

PLANNING AREA 15:



2021 POPULATION 4,979

2046 POPULATION 55,240

TOTAL CHANGE - 1,009%

Lovely Banks - Batesford - Moorabool

Planning Area 15 is predominantly agricultural land with small holdings of rural living areas. The area has lower access to services and facilities due to challenges associated with economies of scale. It includes significant Regional Parks (You Yangs) and National Parks (parts of Brisbane Ranges) managed by Parks Victoria.

The Planning Area is identified for major population growth with Lovely Banks, Batesford and Moorabool forming part of the NWGGA. It is expected to increase by around 50,000 people to 2046.

KEY FINDINGS

- Due to current population and low density, there are few existing public open spaces. Majority are pocket, followed by neighbourhood.
- The average quality of open space is poor, with Lovely Banks and Batesford scoring the lowest.
- Future open space through NWGGA will lift open space diversity, quantity and average quality.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Improve carrying capacity and diversity of functions in open spaces in Anakie.
- Review and dispose of existing pocket open spaces which are not fit-for-purpose. Reinvest into upgrading neighbourhood or district open spaces to improve quality performance. Ensure no further reduction of per capita provision for the area.
- Provision of future open space in NWGGA must meet open space per capita target of 30 sqm.

SEIFA Index for LGA:	SEIFA Index range for Planning Area
1,007	996

PART 5: IMPLEMENTATION

IMPLEMENTATION

Provision standards set clear performance measures for our open spaces. This supports the City to plan, deliver, manage and maintain the open space network equitably and sustainably.

The following section provides an overview of:

- **Funding of open space:** an overview of funding opportunities for the delivery of actions
- **Action plan:** a list of actions to be delivered over the next 10 years
- **Prioritisation for delivery:** to be used to support the prioritisation of current and future open space actions
- **Monitoring and evaluation:** how we will track and measure our impact.

FUNDING OF OPEN SPACE

It is critical that the City ensures the planning, delivery and ongoing maintenance of open space is financially sustainable.

The City has a range of roles in caring for open space. These are:

- Policy and planning
- Design
- Delivery
- Funding
- Land management
- Operations
- Partnerships and advocacy
- Activation and stewardship.

The City generally has three mechanisms to fund open space: development contributions, state and federal government grants, and general revenue

DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

For new open space, or the redevelopment of existing open space, development contributions can be a key funding source. Councils in Victoria have multiple options when levying contributions for the provision of municipal open space. They can:

- Rely on the general power to levy development upon the creation of separate allotments under the Subdivision Act 1988.
- Codify the levy power under the Subdivision Act 1988 by incorporating municipal wide or district/area specific contribution rates in the Planning Scheme by amending the Schedule to Clause 53.01.
- Embed levies in a Development Contribution Plan (DCP) or Infrastructure Contribution Plan (ICP) made under Part 3B of the Planning and Environment Act.

The City currently applies all three mechanisms across different areas in the City.

A key challenge with these mechanisms is that the development contribution funds collected cannot be used for maintenance of open space. This means that while the City can use funds to acquire land, develop new spaces and deliver improvements to existing open space, the ongoing renewal and maintenance of these spaces will continue to increase and can only be funded through Council general revenue.

The management of development contribution funds is done in alignment with the Public Open Space Reserve Fund Management Procedure.

STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS

At times there are state and federal government grants available to support open space projects. These grants are usually for one-off projects that include the delivery of new infrastructure or redevelopment of existing infrastructure (e.g. pavilion upgrades, new dog parks).

Similar to development contributions, these grants are helpful additions in the delivery of new and improved asset, however cannot be used for ongoing renewal and maintenance. In addition, to be eligible for the grant it can require the project to include further embellishments that potentially were not included in the original project scope, increasing the overall project cost.

GENERAL REVENUE

General revenue is largely made up of rates. These funds are used to support the delivery of a range of Council services, including the delivery of new and improved open space. As noted earlier, it is also the only fund available to local government that can be used for renewal and maintenance of open space.

All councils in Victoria are subject to the State Government rate cap which stipulates how much councils can increase rates each year. This means that there is a cap on how much renewal and maintenance funds are available for open space. As a result, any new infrastructure delivered needs to consider the long-term ongoing renewal and maintenance costs and if this is financially viable within general revenue.

PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT THE OPEN SPACE NETWORK

Local governments are the main provider of open space. There are other entities however that provide open space, and while it is largely classified as restricted open space (such as schools, golf courses, racecourses, plazas/malls), it can still provide increased access to needed open space and decrease financial pressure and demand on the City infrastructure.

To support this the City can consider partnership opportunities to improve access to this land. A key consideration when entering into partnerships with private providers and other institutions is the lack of control over the location, infrastructure, intended uses and users, the longevity of the space for public use, and or the free access to spaces. To mitigate these challenges, the City can enter into a Joint Use Agreement (JUA) or a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). These agreements should clearly articulate when the community can access the infrastructure and funding support. The City of Greater Geelong currently has several partnerships with education facilities to share open space infrastructure.

In addition, the City can enter partnerships with clubs, community groups and other organisations on the City owned land. These partnerships can be made to support the activation and management of the City owned open space through formalised sport, events, or private business. These partnerships are generally secured through lease and licence agreements. These should aim to balance general community access, and free access to public spaces.

ACTION PLAN

This Action Plan turns the Strategy's long-term direction into clear, accountable actions that can be prioritised, delivered and adapted over time. Actions are scheduled as short (1–4 years), medium (5–7 years), long term (8–10 years) or ongoing, based on delivery timeframes, priorities and alignment with other opportunities.

Council has three key roles in implementing these actions. These roles are:

Deliver – Council directly funds and delivers services or infrastructure.

Partner – Council has a strong collaborative approach and facilities outcomes for its community and future generations through creating, building, and maintaining partnerships, promoting opportunities, and building the capacity and capability of community members and organisations.

Advocate – Council advocates to State and Federal Government on behalf of the Greater Geelong community for funding and delivery of equitable services and infrastructure.

The Action Plan will be reviewed and updated annually in alignment with new opportunities and available funding.

#	Action	Focus	Council's Role	Timeframe
OBJECTIVE 1: TO PROVIDE AN EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF OPEN SPACE ACROSS THE CITY				
1.1	Develop a land acquisition and consolidation plan (disposal or repurpose) to identify land that is no longer considered fit-for purpose. Reinvest funds to address gaps by purchasing land for new open space or to improve existing open spaces in order to achieve an equitable network.	Grow & Optimise	Deliver, Partner	Ongoing
1.2	In areas with low access to open space and land opportunities, identify neighbourhood and district level open space that could be further embellished to increase functionality.	Optimise	Deliver, Partner, Advocate	1-4yrs
1.3	Improve linkages to and between open spaces along encumbered land (such as drainage reserves, powerline easements) and restricted open space (such as creek corridors)	Grow	Deliver, Partner, Advocate	1-4yrs
1.4	Identify open space opportunities as part of major local and state infrastructure projects.	Grow	Partner, Advocate	Ongoing
OBJECTIVE 2: TO DELIVER A DIVERSITY OF HIGH-QUALITY EXPERIENCES				
2.1	Develop open space design guidelines in alignment with the Open Space Strategy. This should be done in consultation with the WTOAC and include employment precincts.	Protect & Optimise	Deliver, Partner	1-4yrs
2.2	Review master plans to identify what has been delivered, what needs to be reviewed based on the Strategy, and where additional master plans are required.	Optimise & Grow	Deliver	1-4yrs
2.3	Identify preferred open spaces for local and regional events and place activation, ensure supporting infrastructure is available.	Optimise	Deliver, Partner	1-4yrs
2.4	Update the City's Play Strategy to review and provide guidance on the level of embellishment and diversity of play across the network.	Optimise	Deliver	5-7yrs
2.5	Continue to engage with the community and stakeholders to understand changing trends and open space needs.	Optimise	Deliver, Partner, Advocate	Ongoing
2.6	Undertake a City-wide Park Assessment to measure improvements in open space quality.	Optimise & Grow	Deliver	5-10yrs
OBJECTIVE 3: TO PROVIDE A SUSTAINABLE, ADAPTABLE AND RESILIENT OPEN SPACE NETWORK THAT CAN SUPPORT HEALTHY LANDSCAPES AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING				
3.1	Develop climate change resilience and adaptation guidelines for open space. This should include innovative integrated open space water management.	Protect & Optimise	Deliver	1-10yrs
3.2	Review existing land management, and opportunities for partnerships/shared land management.	Optimise & Grow	Partner	1-10yrs
3.3	In areas with low access to open space and land opportunities, explore partnerships with schools and universities to share access.	Grow	Partner	1-5yrs
3.4	Review open space contributions and sustainable management of the Public Open Space Reserve Fund	Optimise	Deliver	1-4yrs
3.5	Amend the Planning Scheme to better protect parks and enable supporting developer contributions	Protect & Grow	Deliver	1-4yrs

Figure 21. Open Space Action Plan

PRIORITISATION FOR DELIVERY

The City must prioritise delivery to focus its limited resources on the actions that will have the greatest impact, respond to areas of greatest need, and to ensure the strategy is implemented in a realistic and effective way. As it is not possible to provide equal investment across all Planning Areas, actions and projects will be prioritised based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Description
Strategic alignment or benefit	Is the project in alignment with Council's strategic directions? (Council Plan, Greater Geelong Planning Scheme, Open Space Strategy, Service and Asset Plans)
Equity and community need	Who benefits and where is investment needed most? (Gap analysis, SEIFA index, quality of visitor experience)
Inclusion	Does the project increase accessibility and inclusion? (Women & girls, LGBTIQ+, First Nations, people with a disability, older people, multicultural communities)
Environment	Does the project align with and support Council in meeting environmental responsibilities? (Heat vulnerability, canopy coverage, climate change resilience and adaptability)
Population growth and urban renewal	Is investment required to cater for areas undergoing significant change?
Asset condition & risk	Renewal urgency and compliance (Asset condition rating, community safety)
Deliverability and value for money	Is this action practical to deliver and a good use of public funds?
Readiness	Is the project ready to be delivered? (Planning and approvals, cultural assessments, community consultation, costings)

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The City will continue monitoring, reviewing, and measuring the effectiveness of this Strategy through annual tracking of progress, ongoing community and stakeholder feedback, and an in-depth review of the strategy every four years.

ANNUAL PROGRESS	• Based on the Action Plan, the City will undertake an annual review of actions to understand what is in progress, completed, not started, or no longer required. • Any new actions will also be identifed based on opportunities and or local needs. These new actions will be prioritised against the existing actions based on the priortisiation framework.
COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK	• We will seek ongoing feedback from the community and stakeholders through development of master plans, concept plans and Council budgets. This feedback will be used to inform the delivery of actions.
FOUR YEARLY REVIEWS	• Every four years we will undertake an assessment of progress against the indicators outlined in the Strategy. This will be used to inform broader updates to the Strategy and identify new priority areas.

GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Activity Centre	An Activity Centre is a planning and urban design concept used to describe areas that are hubs of community, economic, and social life. They are deliberately planned to concentrate a mix of activities so that people can live, work, shop, learn, and socialise in the same place.
ACUGA	Armstrong Creek Urban Growth Area which is a key growth precinct in the LGA.
Encumbered Land	Encumbered open space is land that is primarily used for transport corridors, utilities easements or buffers and drainage and water management reserves. Its primary function is not open space, however in some circumstances it can support secondary open space functions.
LGA	Local Government Area
Net Developable Area (NDA)	Land that is available for development. This excludes encumbered land, arterial roads, railway corridors, significant heritage, schools and community facilities and public open space. It includes lots, local streets and connector streets. Net Developable Area may be expressed in terms of hectare units (i.e. NDHa).
NWGGA	Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas which is a key future growth precinct in the LGA.
Open Space	Land where the primary purposes are recreation, leisure, access to nature, and cultural storytelling. It includes parks, gardens, reserves, and natural areas that support health, wellbeing, and connection to the environment. Open space includes public open space, encumbered land, and restricted open space.
Organised Sport	Structured physical activities conducted under formal rules and governance, typically coordinated by clubs, associations or schools. These activities are scheduled, competitive or training-based, and often require dedicated facilities or areas within open spaces.
Precinct Structure Plan (PSP)	A Precinct Structure Plan is a Victorian Planning Authority term for a long-term plan for urban development. It describes how the land is expected to be developed and how and where services and infrastructure are planned to support the development of new communities at a precinct scale.
Public Open Space	Council owned and managed accessible outdoor spaces which are designated for the primary use of public open space. This land provides the core open space network.
Public Space	Public space is the collective term for all publicly accessible outdoor areas where community life takes place. It includes both open space and the public realm, providing opportunities for recreation, social connection, cultural expression, movement, and engagement with nature.
Public Realm	Public realm encompasses the publicly accessible outdoor parts of the urban environment that connect people and places. It includes streets, laneways, plazas, civic squares, and spaces designed for movement, gathering, interaction, and the expression of civic life.
Restricted Open Space	Restricted open space is land that is designed to serve an open space use, such as for sport, play or conservation, however it has limited community access.
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) is a group of indexes that collectively provide a relative measure of socio-economic advantage and disadvantage for an area.

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