

HUME CITY COUNCIL
OPEN SPACE
STRATEGY

2010 - 2015

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Hume City Open Space Strategy 2010-15 has been prepared to provide a framework for the future planning and provision of open space across the municipality.

As the provision of good quality open space significantly improves the quality of life and wellbeing of local communities, and encourages physically active, engaged and healthy communities, this strategy aims to provide for the equitable distribution of a diverse range of open space opportunities and facilities for all people who live and work in Hume.

The strategy sets out principles that apply equally to both existing and new communities, whether the open space is managed by Council or other public authorities.

The development of the strategy has involved assessing current and future population demographics and trends across Hume City.

The strategy also takes into account key issues that affect open space in Hume, such as the challenges of rapid population growth, the uneven level of facility provision in different areas, the large number of sites owned by Council and the need for consistent standards of development for open space.

The strategy establishes a new comprehensive open space planning framework suitable for the planning and development of all open space in Hume. This framework relates to the type or place of each site in the open space hierarchy, i.e. whether each site is a neighbourhood, sub district, district, regional, or state park, and the nature (or category) of each site, i.e. whether it is informal parkland, formal parkland, natural area, linkage/corridor, sporting area, civic space, etc. The strategy provides specific guidance for the provision of open space in new areas by developers in terms of area, distribution and size criteria.

The analysis of the current provision of open space outlined in the strategy indicates that Hume has a large number of neighbourhood parks, a relatively large extent of natural areas, some good major links and corridors and a very large number of small open spaces including many minor links. However the analysis also indicates that many of the spaces are not currently developed to their full potential.

The strategy proposes that the open space network be planned to meet the identified community needs for neighbourhood, sub district and district open spaces and that areas set aside primarily for conservation purposes often with limited availability for active or passive recreation be generally considered as additional to these spaces.

The strategy also outlines opportunities for improving the existing network by addressing the missing links and connections and by rationalising some of the smaller spaces to provide a network of strategically located upgraded sites in line with overall facility standards.

The strategy provides recommendations and actions relating to the Hume Planning Scheme, the provision of open space in green field and brown field sites, developing icon parks in Broadmeadows, Craigieburn and Sunbury and improving the environmental and conservation values. It also outlines actions for preparing master plans, applying infrastructure standards, prioritising capital works projects, developing complementary open space policies, creating community gardens and embedding community consultation in all aspects of open space planning and management.

The strategy contains a number of recommendations that will have resourcing implications for Council such as the development of icon parks and the upgrading of facilities in many open space sites. This is in addition to the impact on the parks maintenance budget that will arise from the management responsibility that Council will inherit from new open space in the urban growth areas.

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GLOSSARY

The glossary below describes terms as they are used in this strategy.

Term	Definition in this strategy
Open space	All parks, gardens, reserves and other parcels of land accessible to the public, managed by Council or other public authorities, and used for passive, active, formal and/or informal recreation.
Catchment	The area and residents serviced by specific open spaces.
Master plans	Overall concept development plans outlining proposed landscaping, activities, facilities and access. These plans guide the detailed design for construction purposes.
Concept Plans	Basic site concept plans for neighbourhood and sub-district parks that guide the development based on the infrastructure standards.
Infrastructure standard	The standard level of facilities proposed for categories of open space which guides the provision of facilities
Hierarchy of open space	The levels of provision of open space ranging from neighbourhood (or local) to state significance.
Interpretation	The process of explaining, presenting information or meaning of something.
Categories of open space	The types of open spaces relating to the nature of their landscape and the function they offer to the community such as informal parkland and sports areas. Further information of the categories defined for this strategy is outlined in chapter five.
Icon Park	High quality park developed primarily for passive recreation that offers a community focus for gatherings, events and recreation.
State open space	Open space that has a state level of significance usually managed by the State Government.
Regional open space	Open space which has a catchment of several districts and attracts people from the whole municipality and beyond.
District open space	Open space which has a catchment of six neighbourhoods and usually provides for organised sport.
Sub district open space	Open space which has a catchment of three neighbourhoods and often provides for organised sport.
Neighbourhood open space	Open space which is designed to service a local area and be within a 500 metre walkable distance from all residential properties.

Term	Definition in this strategy
Natural areas	Areas set aside primarily for the conservation of flora and/or fauna and generally provide opportunities for some forms of passive recreation.
Green field sites	Sites that are yet to be developed.
Brown field sites	Existing sites proposed for redevelopment.
Water sensitive urban design	Design for open space that considers water management such as storm water treatment, water re-use and water conservation measures.

1. INTRODUCTION

Hume City which lies within the area originally occupied by the traditional land owners, the Wurundjeri community, is a vibrant and multicultural community experiencing rapid population growth. It is located on the urban-rural fringe, 20-30 kilometres north-west of the centre of Melbourne. It occupies an area of approximately 504 square kilometres, which is bounded by the Hume Highway and Merri Creek (east), Western Ring Road and Calder Highway (south and west) and the Shire of Mitchell (north). Land uses within the municipality are diverse and include established residential communities, industry, significant rural tracts, and 'green field' areas designated for future urban residential growth. Hume is located predominantly on basalt plains which are mostly flat with some pockets of undulating country. Waterways have formed both deeply incised valleys such as Deep and Jacksons Creeks in the rural areas and the shallower valleys of Moonee Ponds and Merri Creeks.

1.1 Purpose of Strategy

The Hume City Open Space Strategy has been prepared to provide a strategic framework for the planning and provision of open space within the municipality. It aims to provide the basis for the equitable distribution of a diverse range of open space opportunities and facilities for all people who live and work in Hume.

The strategy provides a basis for assessing the adequacy of open space provision in existing developed areas and provides guidelines for the best practice planning of open space networks in new communities. This is to ensure that regardless of where they live, residents have access to an adequate provision of recreation and sporting opportunities.

The strategy also provides guidelines for the provision of facilities in each type of open space, identifies opportunities and policy directions, and outlines actions for implementing the strategy.

1.2 Scope and Methodology

The strategy applies to all the parks, gardens, reserves and other publicly accessible open space in Hume managed by Council or other public authorities. This includes spaces provided for passive, active, formal and informal recreation as well as for conservation purposes.

The development of the strategy has involved reviewing key State and local policies, analysing existing open space provision in Hume and assessing current and future population demographics and trends. It has also involved identifying and taking into account key issues that affect open space in Hume, including:

- the extensive growth and provision of new open space in the Craigieburn and Sunbury areas
- the different levels of facility provision in open space in established areas compared with those in the growth areas of Hume
- the large area of open space land held by Council
- the need to apply consistent standards in the development and design and maintenance of open space across the City
- the increasing need to consider long term sustainable management of open space especially in view of climate change.

The strategy establishes a comprehensive open space planning framework based on the type or place in the hierarchy of each open space area, i.e. whether each site is a state, regional, district, sub district or neighbourhood

space, and nature (or category) of each space e.g. informal parkland, conservation parkland, sporting, etc. This framework provides the basis for the future planning and development of the open space network in Hume.

As the major developed areas of Hume occur in three key areas, the analysis of the provision and opportunities for enhancement of open space is considered in this strategy in those three areas, i.e. the Broadmeadows, Craigieburn and Sunbury principal population centres.

The process used to complete the final strategy involved the following steps:

- preparation and release for public comment of a draft strategy
- preparation of a final strategy taking into account community feedback on the draft strategy
- formal Council consideration and release of the final strategy.

1.3 Background

Hume is fortunate in having a significant network of open spaces managed by both Council and State agencies, ranging from the Woodlands Historic Park and the major parkland areas along the Merri, Moonee Ponds and Yuroke creeks, to the multitude of district and neighbourhood spaces. This diversity of open space provides for the conservation of valuable natural values and a wide range of opportunities valued by the community and visitors such as places of celebration, contemplation, recreation, exercise and creative play.

This strategy builds on the findings of the previous open space strategy prepared in 1999 and takes into account key outcomes achieved since 1999 which include:

- An increased area of publicly available open space, especially along creek corridors
- An increased interaction between Council and the community in open space planning and development
- An increased involvement of local organisations in creek revitalisation and environmental management
- An increased area of restored indigenous vegetation along waterways
- An increased number of environmental programs involving schools and other interest groups
- The development of new policies and guidelines relating to open space issues such as dog management, and the planning and construction of facilities in open space.

1.4 Community Benefits of Open Space

The provision of good quality open space significantly improves quality of life and general wellbeing and encourages physically active, engaged and healthy communities.

Participation in recreation activities (both active and passive), has been linked to the prevention and treatment of physical and mental illnesses, and has a useful role in reducing anti-social behaviour. Participation in sport has been linked to increased levels of life expectancy and self esteem, lower levels of obesity and decreased involvement in risky behaviours such as drug-taking and crime. Belonging to sporting clubs provide opportunities for people to develop friendships, interact with others from various backgrounds, become part of a team and develop a strong sense of belonging and purpose.

In addition, participation in leisure activities provides people with valuable opportunities to engage and connect with their local community which further reinforces a sense of belonging.

An integrated network of pathways linking open spaces to residential areas, recreational and community facilities promotes safety and provides active healthy transport choices. It also provides opportunities for social interaction, participation in recreation activities and contributes to the overall health and well being of local communities.

Neighbourhood characteristics also have a strong influence on a person's physical and social development. Safe, liveable neighbourhoods allow people to develop positive and holistic views of their community. Local parks provide children with accessible opportunities for play and social interaction with peers and other families which supports children's development.

Natural areas help to create a sense of place and provide habitat corridors for native fauna through the preservation and establishment of indigenous flora.



1.5 Key Issues Affecting Hume Open Space

Changing community needs, limited resources and climate change are some of the key challenges facing all managers of community open space. While Hume has an extensive network of open space, the planning and future management of the network needs to respond to and address these and many other issues.

Some of the key issues that were identified in the research undertaken in preparing this strategy are outlined below:

1.5.1 Provision of open space

- Open space should be provided equitably across the municipality both in the older existing urban areas and in the new growth areas
- The rapid growth of new residential areas (green field sites) and redevelopment in existing urban areas (brown field sites) presents a challenge for providing well developed open space in these areas (in line with the infrastructure standards indicated in Section 7.11)
- The resourcing of open space management, including budgets for maintenance, and the funding required for implementing master plans presents a challenge
- Open spaces should be provided within walking distance of all residents
- Open space corridors should be provided wherever possible, both east-west and north-south, especially along waterways, to provide opportunities for fauna movement and the location of trail links
- The need to provide key community open space attractors or icon parks in the principal planning areas of Sunbury, Broadmeadows and Craigieburn
- The future challenge to manage former Council landfill sites as open space.

1.5.2 Meeting community needs

- The open space network should be well distributed and provide a range of activities for all members of the community including children, teenagers, people with limited mobility, older people and people from non-English speaking backgrounds, to play, recreate, play sport and meet family and friends
- The range of facilities and service standards should be provided at the highest level in open space areas across the municipality so that all communities have similar opportunities for recreation and sporting activities
- Balancing community demand for the use of open space for a wide range of activities, including sporting use, passive recreation and other activities such as exercising dogs off leash is an on going challenge
- Shared pathways and recreational cycle paths should be provided in open space wherever possible to encourage physical activities such as walking and cycling, and these pathways need to be linked with pedestrian and cycling routes along roadways

- The standard, of shared pathways and associated facilities such as signage needs to be, coordinated across management area boundaries
- Open spaces should provide opportunities for social gatherings and cultural events
- The development of landscapes in open space areas should create welcoming and visually attractive spaces
- Open space facilities should meet community expectations subject to available financial allocations.

1.5.3 Planning for climate change

- Climate change will require new design approaches to the planning of open space landscapes and planting programs to ensure long term sustainable management of these spaces
- Open space design needs to take account reduced rainfall, limited available mains and recycled water and consider increased use of more sustainable and drought tolerant plants
- Open space planning needs to consider the impact on planting and drainage systems of a possible increase in the frequency of storm events due to climate change
- The increased use of summer grasses and synthetic surfaces for sports fields needs to be considered
- The management of storm water should be integrated into open space designs, especially by embedding water sensitive urban design.

1.5.4 Open space planning and the Hume planning scheme

- The Hume Planning Scheme needs to reflect the community requirements for open space
- The planning provisions of the Hume Planning Scheme should maximise the opportunities to expand and enhance the open space network
- As the Hume Planning Scheme underpins all land usage in Hume, key open space objectives need to be incorporated in the Hume Planning Scheme
- Arrangements need to be in place to ensure that developers of new communities contribute to sustainable high quality provision of new open space areas and their development.

1.5.5 Natural areas

- Areas of significant, flora, fauna, heritage and cultural, values in open space areas need to be protected
- The provision of native vegetation offset areas, their interface with open space in new urban development and the effective ongoing management of these areas requires clear direction
- Fewer larger reserves need to be created to conserve flora and fauna of significance rather than more numerous smaller reserves that may not be viable in the long term

- The involvement of State Government agencies such as Parks Victoria, the Department of Sustainability and Environment and Melbourne Water in managing areas set aside for conservation purposes needs to be addressed
- The role of Melbourne Water in relation to management of waterways and their environs needs to be clarified and coordinated with Council.

1.5.6 Management issues

- The extent of the land within the open space network presents a management and maintenance challenge for Council
- Ensuring that the large number of new open space areas and associated new facilities in growth areas meet required standards at handover from developers and continues to be managed at a high standard are challenges for Council
- Management of open space should be undertaken in such a way that ensures public safety and minimises risk and litigation.

2. VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

2.1 Vision

Within the context of the 2009-2013 Council Plan Community Wellbeing Theme - Arts, Leisure and Recreation Strategic Objective, the following long term vision for open space in Hume has been developed:

“Hume will have a diverse range of open spaces which satisfy the needs of people of all ages, cultural backgrounds and abilities. The open space network will reflect Hume’s natural and cultural heritage, protect indigenous flora and fauna and enhance the visual quality of the urban landscape.”

2.2 Guiding Principles

In line with the above vision and in order to achieve the highest standard of open space in Hume, the following guiding principles will be used to guide the planning and management of new and existing open space.

2.2.1 Sustainability

Environmental sustainability and social well being will be considered in all aspects of open space planning, design, construction, maintenance and use.

2.2.2 Networks and Linkages

Open space corridors and shared use pathways will be provided within and between suburbs wherever possible to link key activity areas, community facilities and reserves.

2.2.3 Natural and Cultural Features

Open space will be planned and managed to protect and enhance significant natural features and landscapes, and Indigenous and post settlement cultural heritage sites.

2.2.4 Local Character

Open space will be located, designed and developed in a manner which contributes to the enhancement of distinctive local character.

2.2.5 Safety

Open space will be planned and designed to maximise community safety.

2.2.6 Diversity of Opportunities

A diverse range of opportunities for passive recreation, children’s play, informal and organised sport will be provided in a balanced way for all users.

2.2.7 Accessibility and Usability

Open space will be planned and designed to provide accessible, high quality spaces that meet the recreation and social needs of the entire community.

2.2.8 Water Management

Open Space will be planned and designed to minimise water usage and incorporate opportunities for storm water treatment and water harvesting in environmentally sustainable, multi-use areas. (It is noted that this might not apply in some conservation areas)

2.2.9 Innovation and Creativity

The design of open space will explore opportunities for innovation and creativity to reflect local character and contribute to the diversity and quality of user experience.

2.2.10 Community Involvement

Community involvement will be encouraged in the planning, development and management of open space.



3. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

This Open Space Strategy has been prepared to be consistent with relevant State policies and to be compatible with other Hume policies and strategies. It has also been prepared taking into account open space strategies prepared by other councils in metropolitan Melbourne.

The following documents have been considered in the development of this strategy:

3.1 State Policies

- Melbourne 2030 indicates future directions for Melbourne's growth and locations for the development of business, transport, education and other non residential centres. Melbourne 2030 also contains a Parklands Code that supports: community involvement in open space planning; transparent, consistent and equitable planning processes; appropriate zoning; public access and acquisition of links through private land (when land is developed or subdivided) or public land is sold; protection of heritage, biodiversity and landscape; areas undersupplied in open space to have priority for land acquisition; and the diversity of needs, abilities and aspirations within the population are accommodated.
- Melbourne @ 5 million provides specific policy initiatives that are complementary to the directions of Melbourne 2030 and the two documents should be considered together.
- Linking People and Spaces, Parks Victoria 2002. The objectives of this document are 'to provide a linked network of open space for all to enjoy as part of everyday life, preserved and enhanced into the future.' It outlines the principles of partnerships, equity of access, diversity, flexibility and responsiveness, and sustainability.
- The Catchment and Land Protection Act (1994) provides for the development of Regional Catchment Strategies which, amongst other things, must assess the nature, causes, extent and severity of land degradation of the catchments in the region and identify areas for priority attention. Local Planning schemes must have regard for the Regional Catchment Strategies. (Prepared by Catchment Management Authority).
- Native Vegetation Management – A Framework for Action (2002). This framework outlines the State Government's strategy to protect, enhance and revegetate Victoria's native vegetation. Its main goal is to achieve a reversal of the long term decline in the extent and quality of native vegetation, leading to net gain.
- Growth Area Authority Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines 2009. These guidelines provide guidance for the preparation of precinct structure plans which are designed to guide development in Melbourne's growth areas.

3.2 Other Councils' Open Space Strategies

Most other Councils in the Melbourne metropolitan area have or are developing open space strategies or equivalent documents. In order to ensure consistency across the wider metropolitan area, the open space strategies of the following councils were considered in the preparation of this strategy – Banyule, Brimbank, Whittlesea, Manningham, Melton, Wyndham, and Whitehorse.

3.3 Local Policies and Strategies

To ensure compatibility with the policy framework of Hume, the following strategies and policies were taken into account in the preparation of this strategy:

- Hume City Plan 2030
- Municipal Strategic Statement
- Council Plan 2009 - 2013
- Municipal Public and Community Health Strategy Plan 2007- 2011 for Hume City
- Hume City Council Social Justice Charter 2007
- Hume City Development Principles: Recreation and Community Facilities 2006
- Hume City Guidelines for the Planning, Design and Construction of Open Space 2003
- Hume Parks and Open Space Asset Management Plan 2006 (draft)
- Hume Natural Heritage Strategy 2006
- Hume City Council Department Asset Register 2007
- Hume City Leisure Strategy Plan 2006 - 2010
- Hume City Council Walking and Cycling Strategy 2009 - 2013 (Draft)
- Playspace Strategy (Draft)
- Park Master Plans
- Pathways to Sustainability – An Environmental Framework 2009
- Sustainable Land Management Strategy 2010
- Street and Reserves Tree Policy.

This strategy complements the directions outlined in other strategies and in particular the Hume Leisure Strategy and Plan in relation to active recreational opportunities and the Pathways to Sustainability – An environmental Framework, relating to environmental issues.



4. HUME COMMUNITIES

4.1 Demographics

In 2006 Hume City had a population of 154,357 that is expected to increase to 236,165 by 2030. This significant population growth will occur in new residential subdivisions and through the regeneration of existing suburbs. Hume City has a high level of cultural diversity throughout its communities which are characterised by a mix of household types. Overall there is trend towards lower than average income levels throughout the municipality.

The following table presents a summary of the population by age groups and indicates the estimated change between 2006 and 2030.

Table 4.1.1 Population by age groups 2006 – 2030

Age Group	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2030
0-4 yrs	11,581	12,440	13,456	14,520	15,704	16,776
5-14 yrs	25,527	25,554	27,221	29,770	32,539	34,900
15-19 yrs	12,588	13,247	13,712	14,536	15,996	17,199
20-24 yrs	11,371	12,616	13,479	14,237	15,223	16,251
25-34 yrs	22,120	23,242	25,571	27,719	29,915	31,609
35-44 yrs	25,144	25,112	25,806	28,021	30,884	33,372
45-54 yrs	20,029	22,895	24,705	25,677	27,454	29,692
55-64 yrs	13,820	16,418	18,753	21,274	23,232	24,389
65-74 yrs	7,596	9,805	12,870	15,367	17,524	19,370
75-84 yrs	3,705	4,858	6,448	8,389	10,433	11,731
85 yrs +	876	876	876	876	876	876
Total	154,357	167,063	182,897	200,386	219,780	236,165

While there are significant increases projected for most age groups, overall Hume City will continue to be a young community with some increase in the numbers of older people. There will be ongoing demand from all age groups for open space provision and in particular a need to plan for the needs of the formative and active age groups.

Planning Areas for the Open Space Strategy

For the purpose of the Open Space Strategy, Hume City Council has been divided into three planning areas basically using the Principal Population Centre boundaries. The areas that have been defined are Broadmeadows, Craigieburn and Sunbury.

Broadmeadows Planning Area	Attwood, Campbellfield, Coolaroo, Meadow Heights, Dallas, Broadmeadows, Jacana, Westmeadows, Gladstone Park and Tullamarine
Craigieburn Planning Area	Craigieburn, Roxburgh Park, Greenvale and part of Airport – Rural
Sunbury Planning Area	Sunbury, Bulla and part of Airport - Rural

Further details about the demographic profile of each planning area are summarised in Chapter 8.

4.2 Implications of Population Changes for Council's Open Space System

A number of demographic trends have impacts on the provision of open space and the implications are outlined below.

4.2.1 Age

Given the youthful age structure with around 30% of the total population under 20 years of age, there is an increased need for the provision of open space that caters for the physical, social and cognitive needs of the younger age groups. Facilities such as playgrounds, open playing areas, courts, sports reserves, skate and BMX parks and spaces that respond to the needs of families and young people and the provision of suitable access to these facilities will continue to be important.

The national trend of ageing communities reinforces the need for infrastructure such as seating and interconnected pathways that provide opportunities for all age groups.

4.2.2 Cultural diversity

Hume City has a high cultural and linguistic diversity with nearly 30% of all residents being born overseas and 24% of these from non-English speaking countries. This suggests a requirement for signage in open space to include multi-lingual text and universal symbols and the design and development of open space that considers the cultural diversity of users.

4.2.3 Transport

There is a high reliance on motor vehicles by Hume City residents with 67% using a vehicle as a preferred method of travel to work. (Source: ABS) This statistic supports the need for an effective pathway system for walking and cycling throughout the municipality which caters for the needs of both commuters and recreation users. The impact of a well connected path network will be significant in offering alternative transport options and also enhancing health and wellbeing in the lifestyles of residents. Opportunities also need to be provided for walking as it is one of the most popular activities undertaken in open space.

4.2.4 Income

Although there are significant variations in income levels across its communities, Hume City is reported to be the fourth most disadvantaged municipality in metropolitan Melbourne. It is important that affordable options for recreation are offered and that accessible open space meets the needs of all socio-economic levels of the community.

4.2.5 Disability

The prevalence of disability in Hume communities requires attention in the design and development of open space. Accessible spaces and pathways that promote use for all residents are important to cater for current and future community needs.

4.2.6 Planning Areas

Broadmeadows	With some population growth expected, a high level of cultural diversity, a mix of household types and generally low income levels, open space provision will be generally influenced by the needs of established families and older age groups and in a few key areas, younger age groups.
Craigieburn	This area accounts for much of the City's expected growth and will continue to have a very young age profile. Open space needs will be influenced by formative and active age groups.
Sunbury	This area will also experience population growth but as it will experience a relatively even age distribution, open space demand will be driven by all age groups.



5. OPEN SPACE PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The planning framework for open space outlined in this strategy reflects the vision and guiding principles that will ensure the provision of open space is diverse, meets the needs of all people, reflects cultural heritage and preserves its natural qualities.

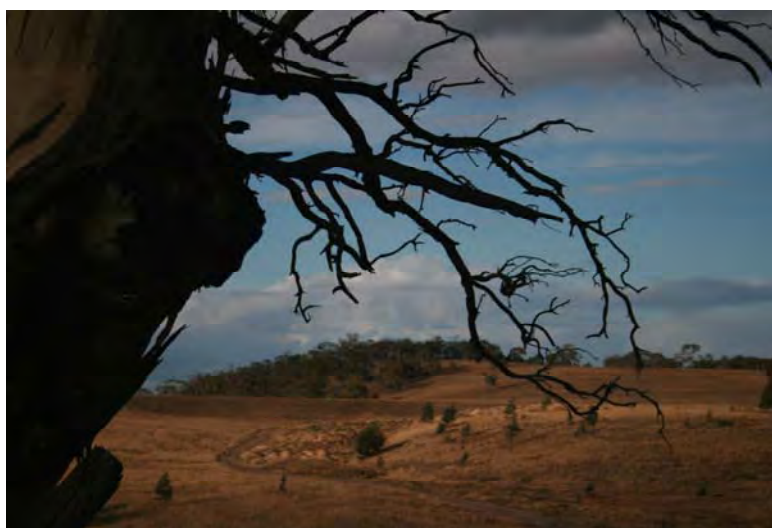
The analysis and planning of open space within Hume can be considered in a number of ways. The first two important methods relate to the level in the overall hierarchy of open space, i.e. the type of area and the size of its catchment, and the category of each area, i.e. whether the area is informal, formal, sporting parkland, etc. These and other criteria such as the amount of open space per 1000 people and deficiencies in the provision of such space can be used to analyse the existing open space system. The results of this analysis provides guidance for future acquisition and disposal of sites, a basis for planning new open space and helps identify priorities for capital works to improve open space.

5.1 Hierarchy of Open Space

Open space areas lie in a hierarchy of levels ranging from the neighbourhood space, through the sub district, district (usually containing sports facilities) and regional level spaces to the state level spaces. Open space at all levels in the hierarchy plays a role in providing open space opportunities for the surrounding community. The higher the space sits in the hierarchy, the larger the community area serviced by the space, i.e. the larger the community catchment. A neighbourhood space would generally service a local community, whereas a state level space would service a region larger than the municipality. However, spaces higher in the hierarchy can also fulfil the role of spaces lower on the hierarchy i.e. a district space can contain facilities that provide a neighbourhood space role.

The five (5) levels of open space that are proposed by this strategy for Hume are:

- Neighbourhood
- Sub District
- District
- Regional
- State.



Neighbourhood

Neighbourhood open space is the key building block within local communities and generally services an area within walking distance (without having to cross a major road/railway, or other major physical barrier) from most residential areas.

All neighbourhood open space areas in residential areas would generally be expected to meet the following criteria:

- Located within 500 metre walking distance of all residential properties
- The open space land requirement be generally a minimum of 0.75 hectare (although maybe less in some existing areas)
- Be designed to be compatible with the character of the neighbourhood
- Provide informal recreation opportunities for different age groups, e.g. playground, kick about space, shade areas, relaxation space, seating, paths, etc (see Section 7.11 Infrastructure Standards for details)
- Cater for frequent short visits by local residents
- Complement the network of other higher levels of open space such as district spaces
- May be provided within a larger space such as a sub district or district space (where available) provided that the land requirement and function of both spaces is not compromised
- Should be assessable to residents by paved footpaths or off road linkages.

In new residential areas, new neighbourhood open space in addition to meeting the above conditions would also be expected to meet the following criteria:

- Be constructed by the time of the release of the first 150 lots in a developing area
- Be provided at a ratio of 20 square metre per household and meet the total area requirement of 1 hectare per 500 households
- Have a minimum length of 70 metre in any one dimension to enable the space to be functional and safe for family social recreation and play purposes
- May be provided as part of a higher level open space, provided that the land requirement and function of both spaces is not compromised.

Neighbourhood open space is generally provided for residents in a single neighbourhood. As a result, funding for the provision of this level of open space can generally be sourced from open space contributions from the development of the neighbourhood and be negotiated as part of overall development and precinct structure plans.

Examples of neighbourhood open space include Fantasy Park - Meadow Heights, Boyden Square – Roxburgh Park, Century Park – Sunbury.

Sub District

Sub District open space has a catchment of three neighbourhoods.

Sub District open space areas in established residential areas would generally be expected to meet the following criteria:

- Be designed to be compatible with the character of the neighbourhood
- Fulfil a neighbourhood open space role, i.e. provide several informal recreation nodes offering a range of opportunities for different age groups, e.g. playground, kick about space, shade areas, relaxation space, seating, etc. (see Section 7.11 Infrastructure Standards for details)

- Generally provide one sports playing field where they are sporting open spaces
- Often be located adjacent to a school which provides complementary sporting facilities
- The open space land requirement is 5-6 hectare, although it may be less where the spaces already exist in established areas
- Complement the network of other higher levels of open spaces such as district parks
- Where possible, be linked to other open space areas and community facilities to encourage walking and cycling.

In new residential areas, new sub district open space areas in addition to the meeting the above conditions, would generally be expected to meet the following conditions:

- Be provided when the households number between 501 and 2,500 and as part of the release of the first 750 lots to be available to service the community being developed
- Be planned in conjunction with the higher levels of open space and in particular district open spaces
- Be generally located in such a way to complement sporting spaces provided in school sites.

Sub district open spaces are generally provided for residents across three neighbourhoods. As a result, funding for the development and enhancement of this level of open space can generally be sourced from the open space contributions from developments in three identified neighbourhoods.

Examples of Sub District open space include Galaxyland Park – Sunbury, Attwood Creek Reserve – Attwood, Seth Reistrick Reserve – Campbellfield.



District

District open space has a catchment of six neighbourhoods. These open space areas generally provide for a wide range of recreational activities including facilities for organised sports such as playing fields and pavilions.

District open space in established residential areas generally meets the following criteria:

- The minimum open space land requirement is 10.25 hectare although in some existing cases, it may be less. This area is required not only to provide space for sport, but also for other complementary recreational facilities
- Generally provide a suite of facilities for organised sport such as several playing fields and a pavilion

- Fulfil a neighbourhood open space role i.e. informal recreation opportunities for different age groups, e.g. kick about space, shade areas, relaxation space, seating, public toilets, barbecues, picnic tables, etc. (see Section 7.11 Infrastructure Standards for details)
- Be accessible to residents by safe walking and cycling routes, but also cater for visitors arriving by car.

In new residential areas, district open space areas, in addition to the meeting the above conditions would generally be expected to meet the following criteria:

- The requirement for a district site be triggered when the households number between 2,501 and 3,000
- Be provided as part of the release of the first 1,500 lots to service the new community being developed
- Will service a minimum of six neighbourhood areas and may have a broader catchment for sporting competition purposes
- Be planned in conjunction with sub district open spaces.

District open space is generally provided for residents across six neighbourhoods. As a result, funding for the development and enhancement of this level of open space can generally be sourced from the open space contributions from developments in six identified neighbourhoods.

Examples of district open space include Highgate Recreation Reserve, Craigieburn, Laura Douglas Reserve – Dallas and Kismet Creek Reserve – Sunbury.



Regional

Regional open space has the catchment formed by several districts which comprise the principal population centres of Broadmeadows, Craigieburn and Sunbury. Regional open spaces may attract people from neighbouring municipalities, though it is not the primary intent of the space. This level of open space is the highest that Council provides.

For example, the Civic Plaza in Main Street, Broadmeadows, is a regional open space designed and developed primarily to provide a civic space for the principal population centre of Broadmeadows. The nature of this space like most municipal open spaces at times also attracts users from the other principal population centres within Hume. In some circumstances when activities such as events/conferences/performances are held, the space is visited by people from neighbouring municipalities.

Significant sites of local or state historic, cultural, and/or environmental significance are also classified as regional open spaces. These may include native grassland areas, creek corridors, historical cemeteries, and significant sites of remnant vegetation or fauna habitat. These sites are not planned for each planning area, but are based on their topography and natural characteristics. In new development areas where these types of spaces are required by State or Commonwealth legislation, the land parcels and any improvements required are to be provided in addition to Council's open space contribution.

Regional open space would generally be expected to meet the following criteria:

- The minimum area required would generally be 5-7 hectare or 15 hectare if it contains sporting facilities. However spaces can be smaller if they have civic or historic values
- There would be only one space expected in each planning area of Broadmeadows, Sunbury and Craigieburn
- Provided with good walking and cycling access.

Regional open space is provided for residents across the planning areas, and where special features exist, there might be a municipal (or beyond) catchment. As a result, funding of the development and enhancement of this level of open space from open space contributions can be sourced from anywhere within a planning area in which the regional open space is located, or from across the City if a clear municipal catchment is demonstrated.

Examples of regional open spaces include Homestead Park – Roxburgh Park, Mount Ridley Nature Reserve – Mickleham, Sunbury Recreation Centre –Sunbury.



State Significant

State significant open spaces are generally large areas with significant recreation, natural, landscape and cultural values. They cater not only for visitors from the local area but also from the wider metropolitan area who may travel longer distances to visit the areas. These open spaces usually cater for relatively long stay due to the range of opportunities provided. The size and characteristics of the spaces are dependent on the characteristics of individual sites. Some of these spaces lie along regional waterways and most provide strategic shared trail linkages.

State significant open spaces are managed by State government agencies such as Parks Victoria or Melbourne Water, with sections often managed in partnership with Hume City Council (e.g. creek corridors).

Examples of regional open spaces in Hume include:

- Woodlands Historic Park – Greenvale
- Greenvale Reservoir Parkland – Greenvale Reservoir
- Merri Creek Parklands – Campbellfield.

Table 5.1.1 indicates the nature of parkland that would generally be applicable to different open spaces in the hierarchy.

Table 5.1.1 Category of Open Space Generally Applicable for Open Spaces in the Hierarchy

Hierarchy	Informal Parkland	Formal Parkland	Natural Areas	Major Linkages & Corridors	Minor Links	Sporting Areas	Civic Spaces	Cemeteries	Community Gardens
Neighbourhood	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Sub District	✓	✓	✓	✓		*		✓	✓
District	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Regional	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
State	✓	*	✓	✓		*		*	

* Depends of the nature of specific areas of open space.

5.2 Categories of Open Space

All the open spaces within Hume can be considered as belonging to a particular category and providing a particular function for the community. However in some cases open space which belongs to a primary category such as informal parkland can also have a secondary category i.e. providing a linkage and corridor.

Identifying the category of each open space area is an effective method for ensuring that an equitable range of open space opportunities are available to the community to meet the range of user needs. Together with the type of open space (or position in the hierarchy), it also guides the design of each space. The categories of open space together with the hierarchy of open space site is used to provide guidelines for infrastructure provision – see Table 5.2.1

Landscape character in the design and development of open space is guided by such elements as lawn / grasses, garden beds, shrubs, trees, pathway treatments, paving, turf, indigenous vegetation, water bodies, horticultural areas, etc. Council has a set of guidelines for landscape character in open space that provides further detail about the design and management of various landscapes.

For the purposes of this strategy the primary categories as outlined in Table 5.2.1 have been used for analysis purposes.

Table 5.2.1 Categories of Hume Open Space

Category	Description	Function
Informal Parkland	Areas with an informal landscape structure primarily comprising shrubs, trees and grass scattered throughout.	Provides for landscape protection, social activities, informal, passive and active recreation and often provides for activities such as children’s play. Can also provide conservation of flora, fauna and cultural features.
Formal Parkland	Areas with a formal landscape structure comprising lawns, formed garden beds and specimen trees.	Provides for preservation of formal design and for informal passive recreation and social activities.
Natural Areas	Areas set aside for the protection and/or enhancement of landscapes of indigenous vegetation sometimes including cultural and/or heritage sites. These include bush lands, native grasslands, woodlands and riparian landscapes. Often contain walking tracks and other facilities.	Provide primarily for the conservation and restoration of natural areas and sometimes also for the protection of cultural and/or heritage values. Usually also protect landscape values and provide as a secondary role, opportunities for informal passive recreation where they do not compromise the primary conservation objectives

Category	Description	Function
Major Linkages and Corridors	Open space linkages in urban areas and vegetated corridors often along creeks or rivers.	Provide protection of landscape and environment along corridors, especially waterways. Usually provide location for walkways and/or shared pathways.
Minor Links	Small generally narrow grassy spaces that link streets and/or larger open space areas.	Provide pedestrian access between streets and/or larger open space areas.
Sporting Areas	Open space managed primarily for sports and/or active recreation.	Provides for active recreation both informal and organised sport with facilities such as playing fields and pavilions. Usually also provides for informal activities such as picnicking and children's play.
Civic Spaces	Areas located in high activity areas, such as plazas, malls and town centres.	Provides for respite and relaxation and for large gatherings and organised events.
Community Gardens	Areas used by the community for horticultural purposes.	Provide opportunities for the growing of plants especially for people with limited growing space and provide for related social activities.

There are other types of public land for which Council has management responsibility - e.g. streetscapes, retarding basins, drainage reserves, etc. While these sites may provide for some recreational activities, as these uses are incidental to the purpose of these areas, they may not always be available e.g. when they are holding water. These areas are considered complementary to the core open space network but not part of it.

5.3 Open Space Planning Criteria

In this strategy, the Hume open space network has been analysed using a range of criteria, both quantitative and qualitative. These criteria have been established taking into account the Hume City Development Principles for Recreation and Community Facilities, the Growth Area Authority Precinct Structure Plan Guidelines and industry standards. The criteria can not only be used for analysing the existing open space network but can also be applied to the planning, establishment and development of new open space.

5.3.1 Key Quantitative Criteria

Amount of open space

The total amount of open space is assessed in relation to the population and more specifically, the number of households. Open space must also be of sufficient size to be functional and of value to park users. The benchmarks overall provision of open space in Hume are:

- 1 hectare per 500 households for neighbourhood open space
- 5-6 hectare per 1500 households for sub district open space
- 10.25 hectare per 3000 households for district sporting open space
- Generally at least one regional open space for each principal population centre,

The provision of sub district and district open space needs to be considered together, for example 3,000 householders should be provided with one sub district space and one district space.

Distribution and accessibility of open space

Access to open space of all households in urban areas is assessed in relation to the following benchmarks as follows:

- A neighbourhood (or higher order) open space within 500 metre that can be safely accessed on foot.

In addition:

- Sub district open space and district (sporting) open spaces should be accessible by walking or cycling with safe crossings major barriers such as major roads and railways.

Good linkages and connections between all open spaces and through communities are important to provide safe access for all members of the community including young and older people. Safe crossings, such as traffic signals and bridges can help to overcome barriers such as major roads, freeways, railways, creeks, etc

Size of individual open spaces

The size of individual open spaces should be sufficient to be functional and of value to users. The minimum sizes considered appropriate to Hume are:

- Neighbourhood open space – 0.75 hectare with a minimum width of 70 metre
- Sub district open space – 5 to 6 hectare
- District open space – 10.25 hectare, provided as sporting space
- Regional open space - 5 to 7 hectare minimum size (except civic spaces) but at least 15 hectare if combined with sporting open space.

5.3.2 Other Qualitative Criteria

Location and characteristics of open space

Whether the site's location, landscape character and settings, etc, are appropriate for its neighbourhood and community, and how the amenity and aesthetics are treated to maximise enjoyment and the value of the open space area.

Level of use and usability

How the open space is currently used and whether it meets community needs.

Linkages and connections

How linkages and connections are provided. Off-road pathways and trails are critical components of an effective open space system and they often contain important flora and fauna habitat and provide corridors for wildlife movement. Open space linkages are often complemented by wider footpath networks which provide safe and aesthetically pleasing routes between open spaces and within communities.

Significance – cultural/heritage/environmental/conservation

How the open space system conserves and enhances significant features that may be present. This can be achieved through the development of management plans and effective maintenance practices. This criterion examines the existing response to local and environmental significance and identifies any gaps or opportunities.



6. HUME OPEN SPACE

6.1 Existing Provision of Open Space in Hume

Hume is generally well provided with open space with an area of about 2137 hectare distributed across approximately 620 sites managed by either Council or State government agencies (refer to maps in attachments). These areas consist of a large range of sites that include the state significant Woodlands Historic Park, the linear parkland areas along the Merri, Yuroke and Moonee Ponds Creeks, the network of district sporting parks as well as the large number of neighbourhood parks throughout the municipality.

Although many of these areas were created in the late twentieth century in the older suburbs, significant numbers of new sites are being developed in the new residential areas in the urban growth areas.

This strategy applies to all the open space in Hume regardless of the land owner or management body. See appended plans and Tables 6.1.1 and 6.1.2 provide summaries of the open space sites in Hume.

Table 6.1.1 Hume Open Spaces Areas Relating to Hierarchy

Open space	No.	Hectares
State	2	734
Regional	22	514
District	38	370
Sub district	65	288
Neighbourhood	469	166
Unclassified *	27	78
Total	620	2137

Note * Subject to further review

Table 6.1.2 Hume Open Space Areas Relating to Categories

Open space categories	No.	Hectares
Informal parkland	182	379
Formal parkland	12	35
Natural areas	28	1134
Major Linkages and Corridors	34	188
Minor Linkages and Corridors	299	48
Sporting areas	39	276
Civic space	2	<1
No Category (no identified purpose)	24	77
Total	620	2137



7. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The provision of appropriate open space and community facilities is integral to the development of strong and vibrant communities. Conversely, a lack of facilities and recreation opportunities disadvantages residents and undermines the ability of all residents to experience equal opportunity of access to those services and facilities which are important for their quality of life.

A suite of strategic directions have been developed to address the issues relating to the planning and management of the open space network and to meet community needs. These directions are intended to provide guidance for Council in its decision making relating to open space and form the basis of the actions outlined in Section 9 – Recommendations and Actions.

7.1 Planning Scheme

As the Hume Planning Scheme provides the basis for all land use planning and development in the municipality, it is important that its provisions provide the framework for expanding and enhancing the open space network.

Key policy provisions in the Hume Planning Scheme relating to the planning of open space in Hume are contained in the Local Policy Framework (the Municipal Strategic Statement and the Local Planning Policies) and the Particular Provisions. Other provisions in the planning scheme relating to open space include the zoning and overlay provisions.

Strategic Directions – Planning Scheme

- The provisions of the Hume Planning Scheme relating to open space policy, specifically the Municipal Strategic Statement and the Local Planning Policies will be strengthened.

7.2 Open Space Planning in Green Field Sites

Planning in green field sites (especially new residential development sites in growth areas) presents an opportunity to create open space networks that meet community needs and conserve significant natural values.

Council's objective is to achieve a satisfactory network of open space in these areas that will meet the community's long term requirements for recreation and sporting needs. In many cases these areas are supplemented by other spaces that cannot be developed due their physical form, are required to be set aside for storm water management purposes, or to conserve natural values protected under State and/or Commonwealth legislation. These latter areas should be in addition to the areas required for the primary open space network, not a substitute for them.

Good planning and design of new sites can avoid on going management and social problems that may arise from poorly planned sites. Some of the issues that need to be addressed in the design phase include the shape and layout of the spaces, access arrangements, interfaces with the adjacent communities, safety of the spaces, edge effects, etc.

The configuration of the open space network and general form and layout of individual sites is basically determined during the development of precinct structure plans for new areas. It is therefore essential that the core requirements

of the open space network are built into these plans as these plans form the basis for amending the planning scheme to allow the development of new areas to occur.

The Growth Area Authority's (GAA's) guidelines for precinct structure plans provide State Government guidance on open space planning in growth areas. Hume Council's position on the provision of open space is outlined in this Strategy and may vary in some respects from the Growth Area Authority guidelines.

The on ground creation and development of new open spaces and/or monetary contributions which can be based on a dollar per lot contribution, is achieved through negotiations between the Council and the developer during the finalisation of development plans or precinct structure plans.

As community requirements for open space include the need for local neighbourhood, sub district and/or district sports and regional open spaces, the contributions sourced from new areas may be needed to contribute to the development of open space at all levels of the open space hierarchy. As not all levels of open space (e.g. regional parks) may lie within a particular development area, this may require funds collected to be spent on a park outside the area being developed.

A key issue facing Council relates the management responsibilities of new open space areas that are not part of the core open space network and in particular, areas that are set aside to conserve flora and fauna within new development areas. These often contain flora and/or fauna which have regional, state or even national significance requiring protection under State and/or Commonwealth legislation.

Strategic Directions – Open Space Planning in Green Field Sites

- A network of open space will be created in new areas to meet the community's long term requirements for recreation and sporting needs
- Hume Council's position on the creation of new open space in new areas will be based on this strategy and where this varies from the Growth Area Authority's precinct structure plan guidelines, negotiations will be undertaken with the Growth Area Authority and developers to achieve the best outcomes in the precinct structure plans and development plans
- The open space network will be planned to meet the community requirements for active and passive recreation and any areas that need to be set aside as offsets to conserve natural values protected under State planning requirements and/or Commonwealth or State legislation, for storm water management or any other purposes, will be generally considered to be in addition to community open space
- Options will be explored for the involvement of state agencies in the management arrangements for land set aside to conserve areas of flora and/or fauna values or other purposes which are not key parts of the open space network available for community use
- Best practice planning and design will be applied to the development of new open spaces
- The timing of the development of open space facilities will be negotiated with developers to ensure that they are available to residents of new communities at the point of subdivision.



7.3 Open Space Planning in Brown Field Sites

Opportunities to create new open space sites (or enhance the existing network) in current urban areas can arise during the redevelopment of existing residential areas. These include new multi unit developments or may arise from changed land use, e.g. redevelopment of school sites, industrial sites or public housing sites that are no longer required. These sites are known as brown field sites.

In order to enhance the open space network in brown fields sites, Council currently uses the provisions of the Subdivision Act which provides for up to five per cent of the development area to be set aside for new open space, or in lieu of an area, provides for a contribution of an equivalent monetary amount, which has to be spent on acquiring a new site or expanding or improving an exiting site. To ensure the best case for obtaining the money, it is important that there is a nexus between where money is collected and where it is spent. Also any requests under this Act can be appealed at VCAT.

An alternative approach would be to enhance Clause 52.01- Public Open Space Contributions and Subdivision of the Planning Scheme (by the inclusion of a Schedule) which could be designed to relate to specific areas where needs to enhance the open space network have been identified. This approach would give more certainty to both developers and the community.

Strategic Directions – Open Space Planning in Brown Field Sites

- The creation of new open space, or the improvement of existing open space, in existing urban areas will be explored when Council considers redevelopment proposals under the Subdivision Act
- The enhancement of the Planning Scheme (Clause 52.01- Public Open Space Contributions and Subdivision) will be explored as an alternative approach to the use of the provisions of the Subdivision Act

7.4 Landfill Sites as Open Space

Hume has a number of former and currently operating landfill sites owned by Council. When filled and capped these sites have limited potential for other uses as they are often prone to subsidence and can emit methane (which in many cases can be captured and used to generate electricity). They can also contain contaminated ground water.

These sites are often unsuitable for the location of any form of structure or formal playing surface so their use for sporting purposes is limited. In some cases they can be landscaped and used for informal recreation and activities such as kite flying or exercising dogs off leash.

Strategic Directions – Landfill Sites as Open Space

- Former landfill sites owned by Council will be assessed for their value as open space and where appropriate and safe for community use, opportunities for informal recreation will be provided.

7.5 Partnerships in providing open space

Open space in Hume is managed by both the Hume Council as well as State agencies such as Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water. These agencies manage some of the larger regional parks such as Woodlands Historic Park, the proposed Merri Creek Parkland (Galada Tamboroore) and Greenvale Reservoir Park. These regional parks provide recreational opportunities both for visitors from outside the municipality as well as local residents and in some cases they provide neighbourhood park opportunities for local communities. In many cases these parks provide landscape, flora and fauna corridors and opportunities passive recreation and shared trails and pathways. As the main agency in Victoria responsible for management of reserves for biodiversity protection, Parks Victoria has significant expertise and may be in the best position to manage reserves with high flora and/or fauna significance.

Other public bodies such as Victrack, Vicroads, Department of Sustainability and Environment and schools are responsible for land that is currently used by the community (or has the potential to be used) as open space for conservation, links and corridors, recreation and/or sporting activities. As this land contributes to the Hume open space network, it is important that Council maintains close liaison with these bodies. Also it is important that Council ensures that the planning of the open space network in Hume is coordinated with open space planning in neighbouring municipalities.

Strategic Directions – Partnerships in providing open space

- Discussions will be held with, other public agencies that manage, open space i.e. Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, Department of Sustainability and Environment, VicTrack, VicRoads and schools in relation to the planning and management of land that has conservation values and/or is currently used by the community as open space, or has the potential to become open space
- As the State Government (Parks Victoria) rather than Council is best suited to manage state and regional reserves established to conserve areas of high flora and/or fauna significance, it is not appropriate that Council have the management responsibility for these areas
- Ongoing discussions will continue with the Whittlesea, Moreland, Melton, Mitchell, Brimbank, Moonee Valley, and Macedon Ranges councils to ensure that open space planning is consistent across municipal boundaries.

Table 7.5.1 indicates the different roles of State Government agencies and Hume City Council have in managing various types of public land in Hume. Appreciating these different roles should assist in decision making regarding which management agencies would be most appropriate for managing various areas of public land that may be acquired in the future.

Table 7.5.1 Public Land Management Responsibilities of Government Agencies and Hume City Council

Open Space Category	State Government			Local Government (owner or as committee of management)
	DSE	PV	MW	
Informal Parkland	x	x	x	✓ Core activity for Council to support active participation, healthy communities.
Formal Parkland	x	x	x	✓ Generally responsibility of Council due to resources and expertise required.
Natural Areas	✓ Regional or State significance.		✓ When linked to water way.	✓ Possibly sections that form part of broader linkage / corridor or has recreation values for community.
Linkages and Corridors (major and minor)	✓ Regional or State significance.		✓ When linked to water way.	✓ If it forms a strong connection as part of overall open space network.
Sporting Parkland	x	x	x	✓ Sub district, District or Regional significance.
Civic Space	✓ May include civic plazas of state govt offices / buildings	x	x	✓ Core Council responsibility.
Community Gardens	x	x	x	✓
Landfill	✓ Regional or State significance.		x	✓

7.6 Strategic upgrading of the neighbourhood open space network

Hume owns many small parcels of open space, often no larger than one or more house blocks which are too small to be effectively developed as neighbourhood parks. These blocks have never been developed and given their size and current resourcing levels, may not be able to be developed to a satisfactory standard in the foreseeable future. To provide satisfactory community recreational opportunities it would be preferable to upgrade a strategic network of neighbourhood open spaces with high standard facilities (i.e. in line with the infrastructure standards indicated in Section 7.11), rather than try to spread lower standard facilities (or continue to have no facilities) across a larger number of small sites. This option could be funded by using the proceeds from the sale of some low priority sites e.g. where there are two or more sites in close proximity.

Strategic Directions – Strategic upgrading of the neighbourhood open space network

- The distribution of open spaces will be reviewed in selected areas (generally a number of neighbourhoods) where there are several sites in close proximity, to determine whether a number of sites could be upgraded in line with the infrastructure standards in Section 7.11, with the funds potentially being sourced from the sale of sites which have little or no potential for use as neighbourhood open spaces.



7.7 Environment and Conservation

Consideration of environmental factors is important for the overall well being of the community and its environment when planning and managing open space. Climate change is leading to reduced rainfall, less available potable mains water and the possibility of more frequent major storm events. This is a major environmental issue facing the future management of Hume's open space.

Recycled water, where it is available, for example in Craigieburn and Sunbury can provide an alternative water source. However during extended dry periods even the supply of this water can become limited.

Many of Hume's open space areas, which have low visual amenity and are not particularly inviting for visitors or residents, could be enhanced by more extensive tree plantings where appropriate. Planting programs using hardy drought tolerant species, especially local native trees, would provide more attractive and sheltered open spaces. Such programs would also ensure more sustainable open space management in the future and provide enhanced habitat for native wildlife, especially birdlife.

Many streams and waterways flow through Hume and provide opportunities for the creation of green links and corridors that conserve significant natural areas and provide routes for linked pathways.

Open space also presents significant opportunities for storm water treatment, storage and harvesting through the application of water sensitive urban design principles and the incorporation of attractive, environmentally sustainable, multi-purpose water areas.

Environmentally responsible open space design also calls for the use of materials that are selected taking to account the environmental and social impacts of their origin.

Hume contains significant areas of indigenous vegetation, in particular areas of basalt plains grasslands and river red gum woodlands, and some of these sites lie within areas proposed for urban growth. State Government policy requires a "net gain" quality-quantity measure outcome for native vegetation. Achieving this outcome requires either protecting remnant areas of native vegetation within new urban areas and/or offsetting losses by better protection or enhancement of remnant areas elsewhere.

The long term conservation of native vegetation ecosystems is now recognised as best achieved by the creation of the largest possible reserves containing the best stands of these communities rather than preserving small isolated areas within developed urban communities. This is because the smaller the area, the more it suffers from edge effects such as the invasion of weeds and the harder it is to manage. Resources that can be obtained through the use of offsets negotiated during the development of precinct structure plans could be used to establish larger areas outside urban development areas preferably elsewhere in Hume (see also Sections 7.2 & 9.2).

Strategic Directions – Environment and conservation

- Planning and design of open space will respond to climate change, especially in relation to reduced rainfall and less available potable and recycled water
- Planting programs will aim to improve the visual amenity and environment of open space landscapes by the increased use of hardy drought tolerant trees especially Australian native species
- Open space with significant landscape and/or flora and fauna values will be protected and enhanced wherever possible
- Management of open space will apply best practice sustainable management principles in relation to materials, energy sources, chemical use and waste management wherever possible

- Significant natural vegetation communities will be protected by the establishment of larger reserves outside the proposed urban areas where possible, rather than by the creation of small isolated areas within developed urban areas (see also Section 7.5).

7.8 Icon Parks

Attractive well developed parks which are strategically located can provide valuable high profile community space suitable for relaxation, recreation, community functions and public events.

In order to be successful, these parks need to meet a number of objectives as indicated by the following criteria. Ideally they should:

- Be highly visible spaces with high community profile
- Be well located and readily accessible by walking, cycling, public transport and car
- Be highly attractive well landscaped spaces with good tree planting and shade/shelter structures
- Be highly desirable destinations with a range of attractors to cater for a wide range of groups in the community. They should contain playgrounds, seating, shelters and picnic facilities
- Contain a key centre piece or feature, such as public art
- Feature well designed high standard plantings, such as flower beds or beds of native shrubs
- Have open spaces suitable for functions such as weddings, community gatherings and small to medium sized events
- Have effective waste management including recycling facilities.

It is proposed that a suite of complementary icon parks will be created in Hume, one in each of the three planning areas, i.e. Broadmeadows, Craigieburn and Sunbury. Each space would be different, reflecting the local needs, opportunities and surrounding environment. Council's capital and operational budgets will need to be increased to develop and then maintain these parks to a high quality.

Strategic Directions – Icon Parks

- A suite of complementary icon parks will be established in Hume:
 - Broadmeadows Town Park which would be a formal high standard space that would provide respite from the Broadmeadows Activity Centre
 - Highlands Park in Craigieburn which would be a less formal space developed around Highlands Lake close to the proposed town centre
 - Bicentennial Park on Jacksons Creek in Sunbury, which would provide a range of informal recreational activities in a semi-natural environment.
- As the presentation and management of these parks will be at a high standard, specific funding will be required for their development and ongoing management.

7.9 Links and Corridors

Links and corridors are important features of the Melbourne metropolitan open space network. They contain key metropolitan shared pathways and protect important natural features, post-settlement cultural sites and sites of cultural significance to the Indigenous community as well as providing movement corridors for wildlife. Hume contains sections of three major waterway systems, the Merri Creek, the Moonee Ponds Creek and part of the Maribyrnong River catchment, together with many tributary creeks. Key open space corridors, many with shared pathways have been developed along these waterways. Encouraging community use of these pathways both by walking and cycling is important for improving community health through increased physical activity.

It is important to complete the green links along waterways and the connections to other open space areas where possible. It is also desirable to develop a network of connected trails both within open space areas and to other destinations. High standard pathways and associated infrastructure such as signage are needed both within Hume and across management area boundaries.

Melbourne Water is responsible for the management of the bed and banks of waterways and the water flowing within them. Coordination between Council and Melbourne Water relating to the management of open space along waterways is important. Parks Victoria also has a role in coordinating trails along waterways and is responsible for managing key parks along waterways.

Strategic Directions – Links and Corridors

- Open Space corridors will be provided wherever possible to link open space areas and along waterways to protect their natural features
- High standard shared pathways will be provided in open space wherever possible to encourage physical activities such as walking and cycling, and these pathways will be linked along roadways where appropriate to selected key community destinations
- Liaison will be maintained with Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria in relation to the responsibilities of these agencies for managing open space along waterways.

7.10 Master Planning

Good strategic planning underpins good management of open space areas and provides an effective mechanism for engaging the community in the future development of these areas. Strategic planning provides a process for addressing the varying community requirements for open space ranging from providing spaces for social gatherings, passive recreation and relaxation to active sporting activities, children's play and dog off leash exercising. Such planning also provides a sound basis for planning capital investment.

Usually the more complex higher order open spaces in the hierarchy such as state, regional and district parks benefit most from the preparation of strategic master or management plans whereas for smaller neighbourhood parks a simple design plan is generally sufficient. However in some cases smaller high profile parks or parks especially where there are specific issues that need to be addressed may also need some form of plan. In all cases the community should be involved in the process of developing the plans or designs.

This strategy identifies a number of open space sites recommended for the preparation of new plans or the review of existing plans. The details relating to specific parks are outlined in Section 9.10 -Recommendations and Actions.

Strategic Directions – Master Planning

- Strategic master plans will be prepared to outline future directions for key regional and district open spaces and provide effective guidance for on the ground management
- Concept plans will be prepared for sub district and neighbourhood parks where key issues need to be addressed and/or are proposed for significant upgrading
- The community will be involved in the preparation of all master and concept plans.



7.11 Infrastructure Standards

The current provision of facilities provided across Hume’s open space network varies especially between new growth areas and established urban areas. For example, neighbourhood open spaces in growth areas often contain picnic shelters, basketball half courts, landscaping and facilities for social recreation. In comparison in established areas facilities are typically limited to a park bench, picnic table and play facilities.

In order to provide equity in the provision of open space facilities, a set of standards termed ‘infrastructure standards’ has been developed to indicate the basic standard or level of service/ facility provision that has been adopted for each open space area both in terms of its type, i.e. position in the hierarchy and the function that the space provides. These standards provide guidance on the nature of facilities that the community could realistically expect in each open space area.

Implementation of these standards would provide the community with high quality facilities in each open space area compatible in character with the neighbourhood in which the open space is located. However it should be noted that finite resourcing could constrain the achievement of facilities in line with these standards in all open spaces in the short term.

Table 7.11.1 indicates the infrastructure standards that should be the objective for each category and type of open space.

Table 7.11.1 Infrastructure Standards

Table 7.11.1a Informal Parkland

Hierarchy	Infrastructure Standards	
	Should have:	Might have:
Neighbourhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drought tolerant planting ▪ Shade planting ▪ Open areas for informal play ▪ Seating ▪ Play equipment (not all age groups will be catered for in every park) ▪ Pathways ▪ Signage ▪ Provision for a range of abilities ▪ Water sensitive urban design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Picnic tables ▪ Basketball ring /hitting wall/soccer goals ▪ Tennis courts ▪ Shade structure ▪ Rubbish bins ▪ Bike racks ▪ Linkages to the wider open space network through trails
Sub District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drought tolerant ▪ Shade planting ▪ Open areas for informal play and sport ▪ Seating ▪ Play equipment ▪ Pathways ▪ Signage ▪ Disabled access ▪ Water sensitive urban design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Picnic tables ▪ Barbecues ▪ Public toilets ▪ Water/drinking fountain ▪ Basketball goal /hitting wall/soccer goal/tennis court ▪ Shade structure ▪ Rubbish bins ▪ Bicycle racks ▪ Linkages to the wider open space network through trails ▪ Irrigation for establishment ▪ Lighting ▪ Car parking ▪ Pavilion

Hierarchy	Infrastructure Standards	
	Should have:	Might have:
District Regional State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drought tolerant planting ▪ Shade planting ▪ Open areas for informal play and sport ▪ Seating ▪ Play spaces catering for all ages and abilities ▪ Pathways ▪ Picnic tables ▪ Signage ▪ Drinking fountains ▪ Public toilets ▪ Bicycle racks ▪ Barbecues ▪ Disability access ▪ Rubbish bins ▪ Water sensitive urban design ▪ Structure / shelter ▪ Linkages into the wider open space network through trails ▪ Irrigation (sports fields only) ▪ Off-street parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lighting ▪ Art and/or sculpture ▪ Basketball ring, hitting wall, soccer goals /tennis court, etc ▪ Deciduous tree planting ▪ Water feature ▪ Skate facility ▪ Dog off-leash area ▪ Irrigation for other areas of parkland

Table 7.11.1b Formal Parkland
(parks with formally designed garden beds, historic gardens, etc)

Hierarchy	Infrastructure Standards	
	Should have:	Might have:
Neighbourhood Sub District District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shade planting ▪ Formal garden beds ▪ Open areas ▪ Seating ▪ Pathways ▪ Signage ▪ Disabled access ▪ Water sensitive urban design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Play equipment ▪ Irrigation systems ▪ Lighting ▪ Artworks and/or sculpture ▪ Drinking Fountain ▪ Toilets ▪ Off-road parking ▪ Bicycle racks ▪ Barbecues ▪ Fencing ▪ Rubbish bins ▪ Structure / shelter ▪ Linkages into the wider open space network of trails ▪ Picnic tables

Table 7.11.1c Natural Areas

Hierarchy	Infrastructure Standards	
	Should have:	Might have:
Neighbourhood Sub District District Regional State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interpretative signage ▪ Signage to name reserve ▪ Indigenous planting ▪ Water sensitive urban design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seating ▪ Pathways ▪ Picnic tables ▪ Barbecues ▪ Boardwalks ▪ Shelters ▪ Protective fencing of areas of high environment values ▪ Play features

Table 7.11.1d Major Linkages and Corridors

Hierarchy	Infrastructure Standards	
	Should have:	Might have:
Neighbourhood Sub District District Regional State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drought tolerant native planting ▪ Vegetation compatible with landscape character of surrounding area ▪ Seating ▪ All weather, shared cycling and pedestrian pathways ▪ Water sensitive urban design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Directional signage ▪ Interpretative signage ▪ Drinking fountains ▪ Public toilets ▪ Water sensitive urban design ▪ Play equipment

Table 7.11.1e Minor Links

Hierarchy	Infrastructure Standards	
	Should have:	Might have:
Neighbourhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vegetation compatible with landscape character of surrounding area ▪ Water sensitive urban design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Directional signage ▪ Seating ▪ Pathways ▪ Drought tolerant planting

Table 7.11.1f Community Gardens

Hierarchy	Infrastructure Standards	
	Should have:	Might have:
Neighbourhood Sub District District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Garden plots developed organic gardening techniques ▪ Alternate sources of water used for irrigation ▪ Shade/Shelter ▪ Seating ▪ Water sensitive urban design ▪ Directional and interpretive signage ▪ Sheds/water tanks ▪ Bicycle racks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Off-street parking ▪ Picnic tables ▪ Toilets ▪ Pathways ▪ Drinking fountains ▪ Water sensitive urban design

Table 7.11.1g Sporting Areas

Hierarchy	Infrastructure Standards	
	Should have:	Might have:
Sub District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Playing surfaces for sport ▪ Identifying signage ▪ Drought tolerant planting ▪ Shade planting ▪ Seating ▪ Pathways ▪ Drinking Fountains ▪ Disability access ▪ Rubbish bins ▪ Shared pavilion / change rooms /public toilets ▪ Off-street parking ▪ Bicycle racks ▪ Water sensitive urban design ▪ Water tanks / Solar panels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Play space ▪ Sport field lighting ▪ Barbecue and picnic facilities ▪ Pathways and plantings ▪ Irrigation systems ▪ Shade structures ▪ Training facilities
District Regional State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Several sports playing surfaces ▪ Shared pavilion /toilet / change rooms (including public toilet) ▪ Water tanks / Solar panels ▪ Identifying signage ▪ Drought tolerant planting ▪ Shade planting ▪ Bench seating ▪ Pathways ▪ Drinking Fountains ▪ Disability access ▪ Rubbish bins ▪ Off-street parking ▪ Bicycle racks ▪ Irrigation systems for playing fields ▪ Training facilities ▪ Sport field lighting ▪ Barbecue and picnic facilities ▪ Pathways and plantings ▪ Shade structures / Shelters ▪ Water sensitive urban design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Play space ▪ Fitness equipment ▪ Skate equipment

Table 7.11.1h Civic Spaces

Hierarchy	Infrastructure Standards	
	Should have:	Might have
Neighbourhood District Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attractive landscape ▪ Seating ▪ Pathways access that links into the footpath system and provides disability access ▪ Signage ▪ Security lighting ▪ Wind and sun shelter ▪ Water sensitive urban design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Artworks ▪ Rest areas ▪ Public Toilets ▪ Event spaces

Strategic Directions – Infrastructure Standards

- That the infrastructure standards as indicated in Table 7.11.1 will guide the provision of facilities in open space areas to accommodate activities appropriate to each category of open space, with particular emphasis on addressing the imbalance of facilities currently provided at different sites
- Developers of new open spaces in new urban areas will be expected to meet the 'should have' standards as a minimum requirement.

7.12 Capital Works Criteria

In order to assist the development of priorities for the upgrading of open space facilities through the open space investment program to the standards indicated in Table 7.11.1, a suite of capital works criteria have been developed. Projects that meet the greatest number of these criteria which should be given equal weighting, will be considered for priority implementation.

Strategic Directions – Capital Works Criteria

The following criteria will be used for assessing capital works proposals:

- adding diversity to a space
- adding a function which is deficient
- creating or enhancing the landscape character
- contributing to the environmental sustainability of the space and/or surrounding area through the protection or enhancement of environmental values
- providing for a more equitable distribution of facilities
- achieving the infrastructure core service standards
- providing the widest range of facilities for different segments of the community, eg young children, teenagers, older people, etc
- whether there is a Council endorsed design and/or concept or management plan

7.13 Policies

Best practice management of open space is dependent on having a sound strategic framework for decision making as outlined in this overall open space strategy as well as being complemented by set of policies that address specific management issues. Such policies are important in outlining Council's position on specific issues and well as providing a consistent basis for decision making.

A number of areas that require policy development have been identified in the development of this strategy.

Strategic Directions – Open Space Policies

- Specific open space policies and standards will be prepared during the life of this strategy to address priority management issues.

7.14 Community Gardens

During the development of this strategy, it was identified that there is a need for space to be set aside for community gardens. Community gardens are widely accepted for bringing benefits to individuals, as well as to the neighbourhoods and communities where they are located. Community gardening is an active pursuit that contributes to the health of individuals through physical activity and may provide a source of fresh food. It involves learning to grow plants, is mentally stimulating and adds to an individual's knowledge and expertise. It provides a social activity involving shared decision making, problem solving and negotiating, increasing these skills amongst the gardeners. As social venues, community gardens can be used to build a sense of community and belonging.

Community gardens can assist community education, TAFE, schools and universities as learning venues and provide opportunities for waste minimisation and the recycling of wastes through composting and mulching. Locally growing vegetables can also contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions that arise from the transportation of food.

Community gardens are best co-located with other community facilities allowing joint and ongoing sustainable management arrangements. As community gardens need to be fenced and are not generally available for broad public access they are best considered as part of community complexes, whereas there is a question as to whether they could be considered as part of the overall open space system. Also community gardens should be as sustainable as possible and when co-located with community facilities, they could have rainwater storage tanks supplied from the building roof area.

Strategic Directions – Community gardens

- In addition to the Alistair Clark Memorial Rose Garden, that has a community garden, opportunities will be pursued for the establishment of at least three community gardens, one in each of the Broadmeadows, Craigieburn and Sunbury areas.



7.15 Community Engagement

The engagement and partnering with the community is of paramount importance in all aspects of open space planning and management and is essential for the successful implementation of this strategy. The community's perception of open space can vary from place to place and day to day. However an increased involvement in decision-making relating to open space often leads to an increased community sense of ownership and generally results in more responsible use of these areas.

It is also important that Council maintains regular liaison with key stakeholders especially those who use open space and/or facilities such as sports grounds and pavilions.

Strategic Directions – Community engagement in open space

- The community and key stakeholders will be involved in all aspects of open space planning, including the development of master, design plans and open space projects
- Programs will be undertaken to increase community awareness of Hume's open space.



8. OPEN SPACE ANALYSIS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The open space in Hume has been analysed in three components based on the three planning areas of Broadmeadows, Craigieburn and Sunbury. It has been undertaken taking into account the following:

- Natural areas which are included in the overall assessment of open space in each planning area (in recognition of their significant values) but excluded from the detailed provision analysis because they do not provide a full range of recreation opportunities.
- Linkages/corridors which are important in the open space system for the values that they provide in connecting communities, open spaces and wildlife habitat, etc.
- That the linkages/corridors have been divided into two categories:
 - Major linkages/corridors which also provide open space opportunities
 - Minor links which are important for pedestrian and/or natural corridors, but offer few recreation opportunities.

8.1 Open Space Analysis – Broadmeadows Planning Area

The Broadmeadows Principal Population Centre includes Attwood, Broadmeadows, Campbellfield/Somerton, Coolaroo, Dallas, Gladstone Park, Jacana, Meadow Heights, Tullamarine and Westmeadows.

The population of the Broadmeadows Population Area is 68,038 (2006 census). This is an area experiencing regeneration of some of its established residential areas and the population is expected to increase to nearly 70,000 by 2030.

Small population increases are expected in the older age groups with a projected decline in the numbers of younger people from 2006 to 2030. The median age of communities that comprise the Broadmeadows planning area in the 2006 census ranged from 28 years in Meadow Heights to 40 years in Gladstone Park compared to the national average of 37 years.

Broadmeadows has a diverse mix of Anglo, European, and Middle Eastern profiles with figures ranging from 41% of Campbellfield/Somerton residents born in Australia to 73.1% of Attwood residents being Australian born and origins including Turkey, Italy and Iraq featuring highly in overseas born residents. There is a mix of household structures and higher than average income levels in Attwood with lower income levels averaging in all the other areas that make up the Broadmeadows planning area.

The following table shows the areas that comprise the Broadmeadows Planning Area and the estimated population and household change through to 2030.

Table 8.1.1 Broadmeadows Planning Area - estimated population change 2006 - 2030

Area	2006	2011	2020	2030	2006 - 2030 change
Attwood	3,099 people 907 households	3,396 people 1,026 households	3,670 people 1,166 households	3,602 people 1,186 households	503 people 279 households
Broadmeadows	10,362 people 3,562 households	10,679 people 3,719 households	11,684 people 4,096 households	12,843 people 4,532 households	2,418 people 970 households
Campbellfield Somerton	5,747 people 1,817 households	5,671 people 1,827 households	5,759 people 1,873 households	6,043 people 1,967 households	296 people 150 households
Coolaroo	3,181 people 1,047 households	3,170 people 1,109 households	3,205 people 1,168 households	3,416 people 1,227 households	235 people 180 households
Meadow Heights	15,226 people 4,402 households	14,472 people 4,440 households	13,787 people 4,484 households	14,066 people 4,594 households	-1160 people 192 households
Tullamarine	6,678 people 2,674 households	6,715 people 2,761 households	7,014 people 2,928 households	7,222 people 3,013 households	544 people 339 households
Dallas	6,330 people 2,004 households	6,276 people 2,026 households	6,183 people 2,045 households	6,187 people 2,064 households	-143 people 60 households
Jacana	2,102 people 728 households	2,142 people 751 households	2,265 people 795 households	2,488 people 873 households	386 people 145 households
Westmeadows	6,260 people 2,107 households	5,839 people 2,222 households	5,514 people 2,368 households	5,818 people 2,515 households	-442 people 408 households
Gladstone Park	9,053 people 3,207 households	8,412 people 3,183 households	7,948 people 3,208 households	8,020 people 3,252 households	-1033 people 45 households
Total for Planning Area	68,038 people 22,455 households	66,072 people 23,064 households	67,029 people 24,131 households	69,750 people 25,223 households	1,712 people 2,768 households

Summary

The Broadmeadows Planning Area in most parts has a reasonable distribution of open space and the overall provision slightly exceeds the benchmark standards at all levels in the hierarchy. The limited projected population growth will be generally catered for by the existing open space system, although any new residential areas will need to consider walking distance access (500 metre) to neighbourhood or higher level open space for all residents.

The main shortcoming of the existing open space provision relates to the quality, presentation and range of facilities provided in open space areas. Enhancement and improvement to open space in accordance with the infrastructure standards (Table 7.11.1) will be an important objective and should be a focus for local open space contributions that may be applied to new developments.

There are some areas where there are a number of small open space sites that are too small to be developed as good neighbourhood parks which could be reviewed as part of a process to achieve a network of more strategically located well developed as neighbourhood parks.

Current Provision of Open Space

The Broadmeadows Planning Area has 174 open space sites comprising 123 neighbourhood, 21 sub district, 9 district and 4 regional and 1 state level open spaces. Thirteen areas have not been classified by hierarchy because their role and value is recommended for review.

The following table summarises the open spaces in the state, regional, district and sub district levels.

Table 8.1.2 Current provision of open space (excluding neighbourhood spaces)

Name	Hierarchy	Owner	Manager	Function	Size
Merri Creek Parklands	State	State Gov	PV	Natural Area	34.46 ha
Civic Plaza (GLC)	Regional	HCC	HCC	Civic	0.18 ha
Broadmeadows Town Park	Regional	HCC	HCC	Formal Parkland	2.88 ha
Jack Roper Reserve	Regional	HCC	HCC	Formal Parkland	17 ha
Broadmeadows Valley Park	Regional	HCC	HCC	Sport & Informal Parkland	89.64 ha
Global Drive Reserve	District	HCC	HCC	Formal Parkland	1.16 ha
Moonee Ponds Creek Parkland	District	State Govt	HCC	Informal Parkland and Major Linkages / Corridor	63.89 ha
Jacana Valley Park	District	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland & Sporting	45.37 ha
Johnstone Street Reserve	District	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland	26.07 ha
Buchan Street Reserve	District	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland	4.33 ha
Progress Reserve	District	HCC	HCC	Sporting	8.65 ha
Laura Douglas Reserve	District	HCC	HCC	Sporting	8.3 ha
Carrick - Elmhurst Reserve	District	HCC	HCC	Sporting	0.82 ha
Gladstone Park Reserve	District	HCC	HCC	Sporting	3.5 ha
Merlynston Creek Corridor	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Major Linkages / Corridor	18.89 ha
Bethall Gully Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Major Linkages / Corridor	5.69 ha
Haddon Hall Drive Reserve - Batman	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland	3.1 ha
Allan Barry Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland	1.43 ha
Elmhurst Drive Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland	1.84 ha
Shankland Boulevard Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland	4.4 ha
S.F. Hedger Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland	3.53 ha
Trade Park	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland	4.5 ha
Attwood Creek Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Major Linkages / Corridor	2.0 ha
Northcorp Boulevard Reserve North	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Natural Area	17.63 ha
Banksia Gardens	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Natural Area	0.84 ha
Anderson Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Sporting	4.42 ha
Seabrook Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Sporting	16.18 ha
Seth Reistrick Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Sporting	3.24 ha
Gibb Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Sporting	6.15 ha
Jack Ginifer Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Sporting	3.24 ha
Leo Dineen Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Sporting	2.57 ha
Melrose Drive Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Sporting	2.83 ha
Derby Street Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Sporting	1.06 ha
Westmeadows Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Sporting	2.63 ha
Willowbrook Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Sporting	4.65 ha

In addition to the above open space there are 123 neighbourhood sites in Broadmeadows and of these:

- One is formal parkland
- One is civic open space
- Two are natural areas
- Two are sporting open space
- 55 are informal parkland
- 5 are major linkages / corridors
- 57 are minor links.

Assessment of Open Space by criteria:

Amount of open space:	
Population in 2006	68,038
Number of households in 2006	22,455
Population projected to 2030	69,705
Number of households projected to 2030	25,223
Open Space Quantity: (existing open space excluding natural areas, cemeteries and minor links)	47 ha
▪ Neighbourhood (minimum requirement 45 ha)	70 ha
▪ Sub district (minimum requirement 120 ha)	129 ha
▪ District (minimum requirement 77 ha)	4 sites (110ha)
▪ Regional (generally one for the planning area).	
Projected open space required based on 2030 population projections:	
▪ The total amount of Neighbourhood open space that will be required: 50ha (Currently there is 47ha)	
▪ The total amount of Sub district open space that will be required: 135 ha (Currently there is 70 ha)	
▪ The total amount of District open space that will be required: 86 ha (Currently there is 129 ha)	
▪ The total amount of Regional open space that will be required: 4 current sites	
Note: The provision of sub district open space should be planned and considered in conjunction with, provision of district open space.	

Neighbourhood open space provision currently meets the benchmarks set for Hume but by 2030 the amount of neighbourhood open space will fall short of requirements. District and Sub district open space provision combined meets the benchmark of 197 hectare by the range of both types of open space, totalling 199 hectare. These levels of open space encompass all categories of open space except for natural areas and minor links.

A further analysis of sporting open space, which is an important feature of the district level of provision, reveals that there is 76 hectare of Sub district and district open space which meets the current target of 77 hectare. An additional 7.4 hectare of regional sporting open space is provided in Broadmeadows Valley Park.

Four sites of regional and one state level open space provide a good mix of formal and informal parkland, natural areas and sporting open space. Unless specific features of particular sites warrant further consideration for regional open space, this planning area would not require any further acquisition of open space at a regional / state level.

Distribution and Accessibility

Open space in the Broadmeadows Planning Area is generally well distributed throughout the residential areas and generally meets the requirements of neighbourhood open space within 500 metre of every household (although not in the area south of Camp Road and east of Widford Street). Sub district and district open space is also generally well distributed and complements the network of neighbourhood open space and linkages.

Barriers to accessing open space for residents of this planning area are significant and include the railway lines, Pascoe Vale Road, the Western Ring Road, creeks (Moonee Ponds and Merlynston), Sydney Road, Tullamarine Freeway and Mickleham Road. Many of these barriers run north-south and if safe crossings are not available, create significant difficulties for accessing open space in east-west directions throughout the planning area.



Size of open space	
<p>A large number of neighbourhood open spaces throughout the Broadmeadows Planning Area do not meet the minimum size requirements.</p> <p>None of the stand alone district level sporting reserves meet the minimum requirement of 10.25 hectare and with the exception of a couple of sites, the Sub district sporting open spaces also fall short of minimum size requirements. It is not proposed that the size of these open space sites be reconsidered but that consideration of appropriate and adequate infrastructure be included when any redevelopment occurs. It is appropriate that in certain circumstances (major sub division) that the Open Space Standards in this document are applied.</p>	
Location and characteristics	
<p>A number of open spaces sites lie along waterways that run north-south through the planning area. Others are stand alone within residential and commercial areas of the municipality.</p>	
Level of use / usability	
<p>Although all the open space sites provide opportunities for some form of informal play, many have low level of facilities and some smaller spaces have none at all. A large number of spaces are very small, many comprise narrow linkages and some lack good street frontages leading to limited surveillance and perceptions of lack of security. Overall the neighbourhood park network in Broadmeadows is under-performing as an important community resource. Most sporting spaces have facilities but many are old and in need of renewal or replacement. The key waterways have trails, although many lack supporting infrastructure such as signage</p>	
Linkages and Corridors	
<p>The Broadmeadows Planning Area is generally well provided for linkages and corridors with many of the regional, district, Sub district and larger neighbourhood sites located adjacent to open space connections, particularly the Moonee Ponds Creek and its tributaries. Shortfalls have been identified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potential linkages between Broadmeadows Valley Park and Craigieburn ▪ Along Merri Creek from Mahoneys Road to Craigieburn ▪ Along some creeks and waterways throughout the planning area ▪ Along the Melbourne Water pipe track through Attwood and through to the Broadmeadows Valley Park ▪ An east – west link extending from Seabrook Reserve and Merlynston Creek in the east, across the Craigieburn rail line and through the Broadmeadows activities centre to the Broadmeadows Valley Park in the west 	
Significance / cultural / heritage / environmental / conservation	
<p>The Broadmeadows Planning Area has the state significant Merri Creek Parklands located on its eastern edge which contains important natural features characteristic of this creek corridor. Similarly the Moonee Ponds creek corridor runs through this area and contains some important natural environments as well as providing recreation opportunities.</p> <p>There are opportunities to improve environmental values through waterway/natural corridors including at :</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jack Roper Reserve ▪ Attwood Creek ▪ Merlynston Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Moonee Ponds Creek ▪ Yuroke Creek ▪ Shankland Gully

8.2 Open Space Analysis – Craigieburn Planning Area

The Craigieburn Principal Population Centre includes Craigieburn, Greenvale, Roxburgh Park and some of the rural area of Hume.

The population of the Craigieburn Population Area is 52,566 (2006 census). As this is an area experiencing significant subdivision growth, the population is expected to climb to 110,000 by 2030.

Population increase is expected in all age groups with sustained and significant population growth occurring in line with residential development. The median age of residents in this planning area ranges from 28 years in Roxburgh Park to 37 years in Greenvale, compared to the national average of 37 years.

The Craigieburn planning area has a mix of Anglo, European and Middle Eastern communities with a high proportion of residents born in Australia, which is as high as 72% in Craigieburn. There is a significantly higher than average proportion of households with dependents/children with generally average income levels.

The following table shows the areas that comprise the Craigieburn Planning Area and the estimated population change through to 2030.

Table 8.2.1 Craigieburn Planning Area - estimated population change 2006 – 2030

Area	2006	2011	2020	2030	2006 - 2030 change
Craigieburn	21,910 people 7,022 households	29,973 people 9,781 households	44,444 people 14,984 households	58,033 people 19,984 households	36,123 people 12,962 households
Roxburgh Park	17,645 people 993 households	18,882 people 1,112 households	20,729 people 6,386 households	20,268 people 6,512 households	2,623 people 1,597 households
Greenvale	11,339 people 3,178 households	12,700 people 3,699 households	19,159 people 5,704 households	22,827 people 7,117 households	11,488 people 3,939 households
Rural Area	1,672 people 511 households	1,870 people 576 households	1,946 people 615 households	6,745 people 1,981 households	5,073 people 1,470 households
Total for Planning Area	52,566 people 15,626 households	63,425 people 19,554 households	86,278 people 27,662 households	107,873 people 35,594 households	55,307 people 19,968 households

Summary

The Craigieburn Planning Area at this point in time generally has an adequate distribution of open space to meet the needs of the current community. However as new development occurs it will be necessary to retain and build on this network to ensure that there will be sufficient open space in terms of both the amount and quality to service the long term needs of the growing community. The range of facilities provided in neighbourhood parks tends to be more extensive than that which is provided in the Broadmeadows planning area, but will be an ongoing challenge to provide facilities in view of the rapidly increasing population.

Current Provision of Open Space

The Craigieburn Planning Area has 264 open space sites comprising 215 neighbourhood, 32 sub district, ten district, five regional and one state level open space. Six areas have not been classified by hierarchy because their role and value is recommended for review.

The following table summarises the open spaces in the state, regional, district and sub district levels.

Table 8.2.2 Current Provision of Open Space (excluding neighbourhood spaces)

Name	Hierarchy	Owner	Manager	Function	Size
Woodlands Historic Park	State	State Govt	PV	Natural Area	700 ha
Grand Boulevard Pine Reserve – Monetrey	Regional	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland	1 ha
Greenvale Reservoir Park	Regional	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland	53 ha
Homestead Park	Regional	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland	2.98 ha
Woodlea Reserve	Regional	HCC	HCC	Natural Area	0.15 ha
Mt Ridley Nature Reserve	Regional	HCC	HCC	Natural Area	32 ha
Aitken Creek Linear Reserve	District	HCC	HCC	Major Linkages / Corridor	20 ha
Joe Sullivan Reserve	District	HCC	HCC	Formal Parkland	0.56 ha
Craigieburn Gardens	District	HCC	HCC	Formal Parkland	4.63 ha
Barrymore Road Reserve	District	HCC	HCC	Major Linkages / Corridor	6.5 ha
Yuroke Creek Reserve	District	HCC	HCC	Major Linkages / Corridor	10.3 ha
GPU Easement	District	HCC	HCC	Minor Links	17.23 ha
Highgate Reserve	District	HCC	HCC	Sporting	10.25 ha
Greenvale Recreation Reserve	District	State Govt	HCC	Sporting	16 ha
Greenvale Equestrian Centre	District	State Govt	Pony Club	Sporting	40 ha
Lakeside Drive Reserve	District	HCC	HCC	Sporting	6.66 ha
Kirkham Drive Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Formal Parkland	2.52 ha
Craigieburn Bicentennial Park	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland	0.63 ha
Dewvale Place Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland	1.42 ha
The Gateway Reserve Fairways Village Park	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland	1.65 ha
Greenvale Drive Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland	3.54 ha
Greenvale Linear Trail	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Major Linkages / Corridor	5.44 ha
Windmill Park Sanctuary	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland	7.3 ha
Kirwan Park Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland	1.74 ha
St Clair Park	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland	2.63 ha
Zambezi Court Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland	2.33 ha
Lake Mclvor Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland	4.1 ha
Tiffany Crescent Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland	2.35 ha
Malcolm Creek Linear Park	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Major Linkages / Corridor	11.3 ha
Attwood Creek Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Major Linkages / Corridor	12.19 ha
Linkages to MW Pipe Track	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Minor Links	0.22 ha
Somerton Road Lake Railway Easement	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Minor Links	5.26 ha
45 Moir Drive	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Major Linkages / Corridor	0.98 ha

Name	Hierarchy	Owner	Manager	Function	Size
Bridgewater Road Walkways	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Major Linkages / Corridor	0.45 ha
Donald Cameron Drive Walkways	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Minor Links	0.04 ha
James Mirams Drive Walkways	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Minor Links	0.26 ha
Matthews Park	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Major Linkages / Corridor	2.44 ha
Roxburgh Park Drive Walkways	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Minor Links	0.83 ha
Shankland Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Major Linkages / Corridor	6.0 ha
Thomas Brunton Parade Walkways	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Minor Links	0.43 ha
Woodlands Park	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Major Linkages / Corridor	3 ha
Merri Creek Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Natural Area	11.8 ha
D.S. Aitken Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Sporting	6.4 ha
Hothlyn Drive Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Sporting	3 ha
Vic Foster Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Sporting	3.6 ha
Bradford Avenue Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Sporting	2.5 ha
Drummond Street Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Sporting	3 ha
John Laffan Memorial Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Sporting	8 ha

In addition to the above open space there are 215 neighbourhood sites in Craigieburn and of these:

- Two are formal parkland
- One is civic open space
- Six are natural areas
- Four are sporting open space
- 51 are informal parkland
- 3 are major linkages / corridors
- 148 are minor links.

Assessment of Open Space by criteria:

Amount of open space:	
Population in 2006	52,566
Number of households in 2006	15,626
Population projected to 2030	107,873
Number of households projected to 2030	35,594
Open Space Quantity : (existing open space excluding natural areas, cemeteries and minor links)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Neighbourhood (minimum requirement 31 ha) ▪ Sub district (minimum requirement 83 ha) ▪ District (minimum requirement 53 ha) ▪ Regional (generally one for the planning area) 	50 ha 99 ha 115 ha 3 sites (57ha)
<p>Projected open space required based on 2030 population projections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The total amount of Neighbourhood open space that will be required: 72 ha (Currently there is 50 ha) ▪ The total amount of Sub district open space that will be required: 190 ha (Currently there is 99 ha) ▪ The total amount of District open space that will be required: 122 ha (Currently there is 115 ha) ▪ The total amount of Regional open space that will be required: 3 current sites <p>The projected open space for 2030 will be provided on the basis of the framework contained within this report.</p> <p>Note: The provision of sub district open space should be planned and in conjunction with the provision of district open space.</p>	
<p>The area of neighbourhood, sub district and district open space exceeds the required benchmarks for all types of open space. However the projected 2030 population and anticipated number of households will require an increase in the amount of all levels of open space.</p> <p>The area of district and sub district open sporting open space is 59 hectare (excluding the Greenvale Equestrian Centre) – this just exceeds the benchmark total of 53 hectare for district sporting open space. An increase in the amount of sporting open space will be required, as the population increases to a target of 122 hectare by 2030.</p> <p>Three sites of regional and one state level open space provide a good mix of natural and informal open space. Unless specific features of other particular sites require further consideration for regional or state level open space, and therefore consideration of appropriate ownership and management responsibilities, this planning area would not require any further acquisition of open space at a regional/state level.</p>	

Distribution and Accessibility
Open space in the Craigieburn Planning Area is generally well distributed throughout the residential areas and broadly meets the requirements of neighbourhood open space within 500 metre of every household. Sub district and district open space is also generally well distributed and for many sites, is accessible from a range of pedestrian pathways and linkages.
Size of open space
A number of neighbourhood sites are smaller in size than the minimum requirement of 0.75 hectare. While the quality of parkland is also an important factor in the effectiveness of a local park to meet community needs, every effort should be made so that future open spaces achieve the minimum size and dimension requirements. Similarly, sub district and district open space varies in size and many sites fall short of minimum targets. New parkland development, particularly sporting open space will need to consider the minimum size requirements to enable appropriate open space development to meet community needs and offer diverse opportunities for formal and informal recreation.
Location and characteristics
The newly developed areas in Craigieburn generally have well distributed networks of accessible and appropriately sized neighbourhood open spaces. Some areas also have sites set aside for conservation of native flora and/or fauna although in some cases these sites have limited use for passive recreation. These urban areas also have strategically located sporting spaces, often located close to schools, and trails and connections along waterways.
Level of use / usability
The newer urban areas of Craigieburn generally have neighbourhood spaces often with a good range of facilities provided by the developers of the area. Space is also available for sporting activities, although the development of some sites has not yet been completed. Links and corridors are generally well planted and developed with trails, although some key sections of trails have not yet been constructed.
Linkages and Corridors
The Craigieburn Planning Area is characterised by a number of significant linkages and corridors, especially adjacent to the Greenvale Reservoir, along Malcolm Creek and extending from Broadmeadows Valley Park through to Roxburgh Park. Shortfalls have been identified as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Along the Yuroke creek in Greenvale, across Somerton Road to Grenvale Reservoir ▪ From Greenvale reservoir across Somerton Road and into Broadmeadows Valley Park ▪ From Greenvale Reservoir through Roxburgh Park and to Craigieburn ▪ Along the rail line easement from Somerton Road to Craigieburn
Significance / cultural / heritage / environmental / conservation
There are opportunities to improve environmental values in waterway/natural corridors including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The link between Broadmeadows Valley Park and Craigieburn through Roxburgh Park and Greenvale ▪ Maribyrnong River linking to Greenvale Reservoir and Merri Creek ▪ Merri Creek from Mahoneys Road to Craigieburn ▪ Shankland Reserve in Greenvale ▪ Lake Mclvor in Roxburgh Park ▪ Highlands Lake in Craigieburn.

8.3 Open Space Analysis – Sunbury Planning Area

The Sunbury Principal Population Centre includes Sunbury, Bulla and surrounding areas including the rural zone that surrounds Melbourne Airport.

The population of the Sunbury Population Area is 33,753 (2006 census). As this is an area experiencing significant subdivision growth as well as regeneration of established residential areas, the population is expected to climb to over 58,000 by 2030. This figure could be even higher following the recent announcements by the State Government to expand the urban growth area.

Population increase is expected in all age groups with some rural areas ageing more significantly than the urban areas. The median age of this area in the 2006 census was 34 years compared to the national average of 37 years. Sunbury also has a dominant Anglo and European profile with a high proportion of Australian born residents. There is a higher than average proportion of households without dependent children and higher than average income levels.

The following table shows the areas that comprise the Sunbury Planning Area and the estimated population change through to 2030.

Table 8.3.1 Sunbury Planning Area - estimated population change 2006 – 2030

Area	2006	2011	2020	2030	2006 - 2030 change
Sunbury	32,147 people 11,115 households	35,069 people 15,515 households	41,664 people 15,175 households	56,572 people 20,386 households	24,425 people 9,271 households
Rural area	1,606 people 491 households	1,797 people 554 households	1,869 people 590 households	2,015 people 592 households	409 people 101 households
Total of Planning Area	33,753 people 11,606 households	36,866 people 13,069 households	43,533 people 15,765 households	58,587 people 20,978 households	24,834 people 24,834 households

Summary

The Sunbury Planning Area at this point in time is generally well serviced with an adequate distribution of open space. The benchmark standards suggest that there is sufficient open space across the area to cater for the long term needs of the current community. However as new areas are developed, it will be necessary not only to retain the existing open space network, but also to provide new space so that all residents have access to neighbourhood parkland that is well linked within communities. The quality of open space requires improvement to ensure that the open space system is well presented, has a high level of amenity and landscape and offers a range of recreation opportunities.

Current Provision of Open Space

The Sunbury Planning Area has 163 open space sites comprising 129 neighbourhood, 11 sub district, 14 district and 8 regional level open spaces. Eleven areas have not been classified in the hierarchy analysis because their role and value for open space is recommended for review.

The following table summarises the open spaces in the state, regional, district and sub district levels.

Table 8.3.2 Current Provision of Open Space (excluding neighbourhood spaces)

Name	Hierarchy	Owner	Manager	Function	Size
Alistair Clark Memorial Rose Garden	Regional	HCC	HCC	Formal Parkland	0.25 ha
Village Green	Regional	HCC	HCC	Formal Parkland	1.5 ha
Holden Flora & Fauna Reserve	Regional	HCC	HCC	Major Linkages / Corridor	83.28 ha
School Lane Reserve	Regional	HCC	HCC	Natural Area	3.2 ha
Emu Bottom Recreation Reserve	Regional	HCC	HCC	Natural Area	66.77 ha
Jacksons Creek Reserve	Regional	HCC	HCC	Natural Area	45.2 ha
Mt Holden Reserve	Regional	HCC	HCC	Natural Area	159.58 ha
Sunbury Recreation Reserve	Regional	HCC	HCC	Sporting	30.51 ha
Galaxyland – Jacksons Park	District	HCC	HCC	Formal Parkland	5 ha
Apex Park	District	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland	1.56 ha
Spavin Drive Reserve	District	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland	13.4 ha
Kismet Creek Reserve 1	District	HCC	HCC	Major Linkages / Corridor	7.06 ha
Kismet Creek Reserve 2	District	HCC	HCC	Major Linkages / Corridor	0.33 ha
Martin Dillon Reserve	District	HCC	HCC	Natural Area	2.7 ha
Black Hill Bridge	District	HCC	HCC	Natural Area	1 ha
Albert Road Nature Reserve	District	HCC	HCC	Natural Area	14.8 ha
Jacksons Crk – Glencoe Dve Reserve	District	HCC	HCC	Natural Area	11.21 ha
Bulla Recreation Reserve	District	HCC	HCC	Sporting	5.2 ha
Eric Boardman Memorial Reserve	District	HCC	HCC	Sporting	11.62 ha
Goonawarra Recreation Reserve	District	HCC	HCC	Sporting	20.42 ha
Langama Park	District	HCC	HCC	Sporting	8.2 ha
Blind Creek Parklands 1	District	HCC	HCC	Major Linkages / Corridor	1.58 ha
Village Green – Goonawarra	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Informal Parkland	1.68 ha
Blind Creek Parklands 2	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Major Linkages / Corridor	24.71 ha
Blind Creek Parklands 3	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Major Linkages / Corridor	15.35 ha
Heysen Drive Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Major Linkages / Corridor	9.1 ha
Bellevue – Viaduct Way Corridor	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Major Linkages / Corridor	2.3 ha
Curtin Drive Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Major Linkages / Corridor	5.06 ha
Konagadera Bridge Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Natural Area	4.8 ha
Stewarts Lane Nature Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Natural Area	10.27 ha
The Parkway Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Natural Area	15.5 ha
Hammersmith Court Reserve, Jacksons Hill Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Natural Area	7 ha
McEwan Drive Reserve	Sub district	HCC	HCC	Sporting	3.5 ha

In addition to the above open space there are 129 neighbourhood sites in Sunbury and of these:

- One is natural area
- One is sporting open space
- 41 are informal parkland
- One is major linkages / corridors
- 85 are minor links.

Assessment of Open Space by criteria:

Amount of open space:	
Population in 2006	33,753
Number of households in 2006	11,606
Population projected to 2030	58,587
Number of households projected to 2030	20,978
Open Space Quantity(existing open space excluding natural areas, cemeteries and minor links):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Neighbourhood (minimum requirement 23 ha) ▪ Sub district (minimum requirement 62 ha) ▪ District (minimum requirement 40 ha) ▪ Regional (generally one for the planning area) 	32 ha 62 ha 131 ha 4 sites (116ha)
Projected open space required based on 2030 population projections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The total amount of Neighbourhood open space that will be required: 42 ha (Currently there is 32 ha) ▪ The total amount of Sub district open space that will be required: 112 ha (Currently there is 62 ha) ▪ The total amount of District open space that will be required: 72 ha (Currently there is 131 ha) ▪ The total amount of Regional open space that will be required: 4 current sites 	
The projected open space for 2030 will be provided on the basis of the framework contained within this report. Note: The provision of sub district open space should be considered and planned in conjunction with the provision of district open space..	
The above summary indicates that the amount of open space in the Sunbury Planning Area currently meets the benchmarks at neighbourhood and district levels. However the projected increase in the number of households between 2006 and 2030 will require that this quantity of open space will need to be maintained. For sporting open space, the current district and Sub district amount of 49 hectare just exceeds the benchmark of 40 hectare for district sporting opens pace – with the regional level sporting open space at Sunbury Recreation Reserve included, the total increases to 80 hectare.	

Distribution and Accessibility
<p>Open space in the Sunbury Planning Area is well distributed throughout the residential areas and meets the requirements for neighbourhood open space within 500 metre of every household.</p> <p>Sub district and district open space is generally well distributed and complements the substantial network of neighbourhood open space and linkages.</p>
Size of open space
<p>A number of neighbourhood open space areas are smaller than the minimum size of 0.75 hectare. While in most cases it will not be possible to expand the sizes of these sites, the minimum target of 0.75 hectare should be explored wherever possible in new sites.</p> <p>Sub district and district open space generally meets the guidelines for size of space and as the regional open space is provided for special purposes, its size becomes less relevant for protecting its values and site attributes.</p>
Location and characteristics
<p>Neighbourhood and sporting spaces are generally well distributed throughout the Sunbury. Linear corridors with trails extend along many of the waterways especially in the northern part of Sunbury, although the key link along Jacksons Creek has not yet been completed. Many spaces are attractive due to the undulating topography of the area and its natural vegetation. Key conservation reserves are located along Jacksons Creek.</p>
Level of use / usability
<p>Most of the neighbourhood spaces in the older parts of Sunbury have some level of facilities while the newer areas are generally well provided with developed neighbourhood spaces provided by the developers of these areas. The key sporting spaces generally have a good range of facilities and are well used by sporting clubs.</p>
Linkages and Connections
<p>The Sunbury Planning Area is generally well provided with linkages and connections with many of the regional, district, sub district and larger neighbourhood sites located adjacent to open space connections. Shortfalls have been identified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Along Deep Creek, which could improve access into the Bulla Recreation Reserve ▪ Along Jackson's Creek in Sunbury ▪ Between Salesian College and Holden Flora and Fauna Reserve ▪ From existing key open space sites (Including Spavin Lake and Sunbury Recreation Reserve) into new residential areas.
Significance / cultural / heritage / environmental / conservation
<p>There are opportunities to improve environmental values through waterway/natural corridors including at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jackson's Creek ▪ Kismet Creek ▪ Blind Creek ▪ Spavin Lake

9. RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS

This Section outlines recommendations and actions proposed to achieve the implementation of this strategy. These recommendations and actions arise from the strategic directions outlined in Section 7 – Strategic Directions (which are indicated in the following as dot points under each heading) and from the analysis and opportunities outlined in Section 8 - Open Space Analysis and Opportunities.

The background and discussion that underpins the strategic directions is outlined in Section 7 and is presented under the same headings and in the same sequence as is used in this section.

The priority and financial implications for each action where additional funding is required is indicated in the box following each action as follows;

- Priority 1 indicates that the action is proposed in years one and two
- Priority 2 indicates implementation in years three and four and
- Priority 3 in years four onwards.

Where there are no financial implications indicated then the action is proposed to be scheduled into already funded programs. Where there is no box then the action is such that it can be incorporated into ongoing work programs.

9.1 Planning Scheme

Strategic Direction

- The provisions of the Hume Planning Scheme relating to open space policy, specifically the Municipal Strategic Statement and the Local Planning Policies will be strengthened.

Actions

1. The sections of the Hume Planning Scheme where it relates to open space, specifically in the Municipal Strategic Statement (Clause 21) and Local Planning Policies (Clause 22), will be reviewed and amended, based on the information contained in this strategy specifically relating to the amount, distribution and size of open spaces.

Priority 1	Financial Implications - Nil
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2. Clause 52.01- Public Open Space Contributions and Subdivision of the Hume planning scheme will be reviewed with the objective of preparing a schedule that would provide a basis for enhancing the open space network in areas where deficiencies in the existing network have been identified (see also Section 9.3).

Priority 1	Financial Implications - Nil
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9.2 Open Space Planning in Green Fields Sites

Strategic Directions

- A network of open space will be created in new areas to meet the community's long term requirements for recreation and sporting needs
- Hume Council's position on the creation of new open space in new areas will be based on this strategy and where this varies from the Growth Area Authority's precinct structure plan guidelines, negotiations will be undertaken with the Growth Area Authority and developers to achieve the best outcomes in the precinct structure plans and development plans
- The open space network will be planned to meet the community requirements for active and passive recreation and any areas that need to be set aside as offsets to conserve natural values protected under State planning requirements and/or Commonwealth or State legislation, for storm water management or any other purposes, will be generally considered to be in addition to community open space
- Options will be explored for the involvement of state agencies in the management arrangements for land set aside to conserve areas of flora and/or fauna values or other purposes which are not key parts of the open space network available for community use
- Best practice planning and design will be applied to the development of new open spaces
- The timing of the development of open space facilities will be negotiated with developers to ensure that they are available to residents of new communities.

Actions

1. The core network of open spaces required to meet the community's long term recreation and sporting needs, as well as opportunities to create links and corridors, will be negotiated with the Growth Area Authority and incorporated wherever possible into the precinct structure plans for new urban areas.

Priority 1	Financial Implications - Nil
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2. The criteria as outlined in Section 5.3 (relating to the amount, distribution and size of open space) will be used as a basis for the planning of the core open space networks in green field sites.
3. Areas needed to be set aside to conserve natural values protected under State and/or Commonwealth legislation will be generally considered to be in addition to the areas required for the open space network available for community use.
4. Areas set aside to protect natural attributes such as stands of significant trees, or for wetlands, flood ways or storm water management areas will generally be considered to be in addition to areas required for the community open space. However in some cases these areas may be able to be incorporated in the design and included in community open space, e.g. stands of trees that provide shade.
5. Areas of key vegetation types outside proposed development areas that have the potential to be included in reserves that would be viable in the long term will be identified. The feasibility of acquiring these areas by using resources obtained from the offsets negotiated during the development of individual precinct structure plans will be explored (see also Section 9.7).

Priority 2	Financial Implications - Nil
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6. A position paper will be developed in consultation with the State Government on issues relating to the creation and management of sites set aside for the conservation of natural and/or cultural values (i.e. land which is not part of the core open space network) in green field sites (see also Section 9.5).

Priority 2	Financial Implications - Nil
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7. The guidelines for the planning, design and construction of open space in green and brown field sites will be revised to reflect this strategy and also address issues such water sensitive urban design, access options, park frontage treatment, the design of edges to maximise surveillance opportunities, safety, etc (see also Section 9.3).

Priority 1	Financial Implications - Nil
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8. The infrastructure standards as indicated in Table 7.11.1 will be used as a basis for planning facilities in new open space sites.
9. Council will seek to have developers provide open space areas with high standard facilities available in a timely manner for community use.
10. The opportunity to fund open space development at different levels in the open space hierarchy i.e. neighbourhood, sub district, district parks (including natural areas), using the per lot contribution negotiated in green field sites will be explored.

Priority 1	Financial Implications - Nil
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9.3 Open Space Planning in Brown Field Sites

Strategic Directions

- The creation of new open space, or the improvement of existing open space in existing urban areas, will be explored when Council considers redevelopment proposals under the Subdivision Act
- The enhancement of the Planning Scheme (Clause 52.01- Public Open Space Contributions and Subdivision) will be explored as an alternative approach to the use of the provisions of the Subdivision Act.

Actions

1. As redevelopment opportunities arise in existing urban areas where there are deficiencies in the distribution of existing open space, the provisions of the Subdivision Act will be used to create new open space of up to five percent of the redevelopment area.
2. Where analysis determines that the creation of new space is not appropriate, then up to a five percent monetary equivalent will be sought to fund the purchase of new open space elsewhere or for the upgrading of existing open space that will be accessible to the residents of the development being proposed.

3. As an alternative the using the Subdivision Act, Clause 52.01- Public Open Space Contributions and Subdivision of the Hume planning scheme will be reviewed with the objective of preparing a schedule that would provide a basis for enhancing the open space network in areas where a deficiency in the existing network has been identified.

Priority 1	Financial Implications - Nil
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4. The criteria as outlined in Section 5.3 (relating to the amount, distribution and size of open space) will be used as a basis for planning of open space networks in brown field sites where significant sub division may occur.
5. The infrastructure standards as indicated in Table 7.11.1 will be used as a basis for planning facilities in new open space sites.
6. The guidelines for the planning, design and construction of open space in green and brown field sites will be revised to reflect this strategy and also address issues such water sensitive urban design, access options, park frontage treatment, the design of edges to maximise surveillance opportunities, safety, etc (see also Section 9.2).

Priority 1	Financial Implications - Nil
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9.4 Landfill sites as open space

Strategic Directions

- Former landfill sites owned by Council will be assessed for their value as open space and where appropriate and safe for community use, opportunities for informal recreation will be provided.
- Community consultation will be conducted on any proposal for the future use of landfill sites for open space purposes.

Actions

1. Principles will be developed for the future use of disused landfill sites as open space which could include the creation of landscaped areas, construction of trails, development of facilities for informal ball play and providing areas for exercising dogs off leash.

Priority 1	Financial Implications – Refer to capital works program for consideration
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2. Each former landfill site will be assessed for its potential use as open space and subject to assessments relating to contamination, safety and possible ongoing monitoring, plans will be prepared in line with the principles developed under Action 1.

Priority 1	Financial Implications – Refer to capital works program for consideration
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9.5 Partnerships in providing open space

Strategic Directions

- Discussions will be undertaken with other public agencies that manage open space, i.e. Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victrack, Vicroads and schools in relation to the planning and management of land that is currently used by the community as open space, or has the potential to become open space
- As the State Government (Parks Victoria) rather than Council is best suited to manage state and regional reserves established to conserve areas of high flora and/or fauna significance, it is not appropriate that Council have the management responsibility for these areas
- Ongoing discussions will continue with the Whittlesea, Moreland, Melton, Mitchell, Brimbank, Moonee Valley and Macedon Ranges councils to ensure that open space planning is consistent across municipal boundaries.

Actions

1. Close liaison will be maintained with schools to encourage the development of projects and open space developments which may enhance parent/guardian and child interest and stewardship in open space, as well as to explore options for use of school land as open space in areas not currently well provided with open space.
2. Council will advise the Department of Sustainability and Parks Victoria that it considers that the State Government should manage the larger reserves (> 20 hectare) established to conserve areas of high flora and fauna significance.

Priority 1	Financial Implications - Nil
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3. Council will work with Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water and the City of Whittlesea to ensure that the development of the Galada Tamboore (Merri Creek) parkland occurs as soon as possible and that the trail links along Merri Creek are completed.

Priority 1	Financial Implications – Initial funding available and project has commenced
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4. Council will continue to participate in regional forums such as the Merri Creek Management Committee and the Merri Creek Parklands Steering Committee.

9.6 Strategic upgrading of the neighbourhood open space network

Strategic Directions

- The distribution of open spaces will be reviewed in selected areas (generally a number of neighbourhoods) where there are several sites in close proximity, to determine whether a number of sites could be upgraded in line with the infrastructure standards in Table 7.11.1, with the funds being sourced from the sale of sites which have little or no potential for use as neighbourhood open spaces.

Actions

1. Priority areas of the open space network will be identified for strategic upgrading where the existing network has deficiencies and where the analysis in this strategy indicates that there are a number of existing undeveloped or poorly developed small open spaces in close proximity.

Priority 2	Financial Implications – Will be outlined in a program developed for priority areas
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2. All the sites in these areas will be reviewed to determine whether the local network of sites can be rationalised without compromising the ability of residents to access open space within 500 metre walking distance.

Priority 2	Financial Implications – Will be outlined in a program developed for priority areas
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3. All potential uses and values of sites specifically identified will be explored prior to proceeding with any disposal process.

Priority 2	Financial Implications – Will be outlined in a program developed for priority areas
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4. Strategically located sites suitable for upgrading into a well developed neighbourhood parks will be identified and proposals developed of their upgrading.

Priority 2	Financial Implications – Will be outlined in a program developed for priority areas
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5. Nearby residents will be consulted in relation to any proposed action.

Priority 2	Financial Implications – Will be outlined in a program developed for priority areas
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6. Mechanisms will be explored to enable the funds gained from the sale of any land to be referred to the Capital Works program and where appropriate to be used for in the upgrading of alternative sites.

Priority 1	Financial Implications - Nil
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9.7 Environment and conservation

Strategic Directions

- Planning and design of open space will respond to climate change, especially in relation to reduced rainfall and less available potable and recycled water
- Planting programs will aim to improve the visual amenity and environment of open space landscapes by the increased use of hardy drought tolerant trees especially Australian native species
- Open space with significant landscape and/or flora and fauna values will be protected and enhanced wherever possible

- Management of open space will apply best practice sustainable management principles in relation to materials, energy sources, chemical use and waste management wherever possible
- Significant natural vegetation communities will be protected by the establishment of larger reserves outside the proposed urban areas where possible, rather than by the creation of small isolated areas within developed urban areas.

Actions

1. Planting programs in open space will use drought tolerant species wherever possible. To ensure more sustainable open space in the future and provide improved habitat for native wildlife, especially birdlife, planting of indigenous or Australian species will be encouraged.
2. Open space design will incorporate water sensitive urban design principles wherever possible
3. Opportunities will be explored to store and reuse storm water in attractive, environmentally sustainable, multi-purpose water areas located in open space.
4. Opportunities will be explored to use treated recycled water from industry and water treatment plants for open space irrigation, especially sports fields.
5. Discussions will be held with land developers and other stakeholders to protect land with high natural values in new development areas and along waterways and other corridors wherever possible.
6. The design of open space assets where feasible, will use materials that are selected taking into account the environmental and social impacts of their origin.
7. Community based environmental improvement programs (involving friends groups and schools) will continue to be supported to achieve the re-vegetation of areas along creek and river corridors.
8. Resource efficient practices will be included within open space developments wherever possible, eg solar heating of water, tanks for water storage on pavilions.
9. Opportunities for heritage, cultural and environmental interpretation and trails to complement conservation sites will be explored.
10. Opportunities will be explored to enhance the recreational use and environmental conservation elements of water bodies, in particular, Jack Roper Reserve - Broadmeadows, Shankland Reserve - Greenvale, Lake Mclvor - Roxburgh Park, Highlands Lake - Craigieburn, Spavin Lake - Sunbury.
11. A strategy based on accurate base information will be prepared in consultation with the Department of Sustainability and Environment to identify natural areas that could be effective in protecting key vegetation types in the long term, rather than relying on the creation of small isolated areas within developed urban areas (see also Section 9.2).

Priority 2	Financial Implications - Nil
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9.8 Icon parks

Strategic Directions

- A suite of complementary icon parks will be established in Hume:
 - Broadmeadows Town Park which would be a formal high standard space that would provide respite from the Broadmeadows Activity Centre
 - Highlands Park in Craigieburn which would be a less formal space developed around Highlands Lake close to the proposed town centre
 - Bicentennial Park on Jacksons Creek in Sunbury, which would provide a range of informal recreational activities in a semi-natural environment.
- As the presentation and management of these parks will be of a high standard, specific funding will be required for their development and ongoing management.

Actions

1. The Broadmeadows Town Park will be upgraded to an icon park with high standard landscaping, significant tree planting to provide future shade and shelter, and formal garden beds. Consideration will be given to the creation a well designed sustainable park feature and the provision of a play facility. Priority will be given to ensuring that the design of the park integrates into the overall design of the Broadmeadows Central Activity District and in particular improves the interface of the park with the shopping centre and enhances the pedestrian connection across Pearcedale Parade. Provision will be made for a future food outlet in the park.

Priority 1	Financial Implications – Included in 2010-11 capital works program
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2. The Highlands Park in Craigieburn will be upgraded into an icon park with additional planting of trees to provide future shade and shelter, and garden bed plantings. Spaces will be identified for small/medium scale social and cultural gatherings and events. Provision will be made for a future high standard pedestrian link to the proposed Craigieburn town centre.
3. The parkland along Jacksons Creek in Sunbury (including the Nook and Bicentennial Park) will be upgraded into an icon park with high standard and diverse facilities for passive recreation. In particular a well designed parking area will be provided, picnic facilities will be constructed on the eastern side of the creek and a high standard playground provided in the park. The park will eventually become a key entry to a network of walking tracks along Jacksons Creek.

Priority 2	Financial Implications – Refer to capital works program for consideration
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4. Investigate the potential for informal naming rights of Icon parks based on commercial sponsorship opportunities.

9.9 Links and corridors

Strategic Directions

- Open Space corridors will be provided wherever possible to link open space areas and along waterways to protect their natural features
- High standard shared pathways will be provided in open space wherever possible to encourage physical activities such as walking and cycling, and these pathways will be linked along roadways where appropriate to selected key community destinations

- Liaison will be maintained with Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria relating to the responsibilities of these agencies for managing open space along waterways.

Actions

1. Opportunities to create or enhance green links along waterways and in other open space areas will be explored in conjunction with key stakeholders, both in existing urban and new growth areas.
2. Discussions will be undertaken with Melbourne Water to clarify its role in relation to the management of open space and structures such as bridges along waterways.

Priority 1	Financial Implications - Nil
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3. Links and shared pathways will be provided in open space areas and linked to selected key community destinations by well designed connections to and along roadway pedestrian and cycling routes.

Priority 1	Financial Implications – Initial project in 2010 capital works program, refer other projects to future programs
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4. Discussions will be held with Parks Victoria, adjoining councils and developers of new areas to ensure that the standard, surface and width of shared pathways and associated facilities such as signage are standardised across management area boundaries.
5. Priority will be given to upgrading the standard of trails including surfacing and associated facilities such as signage within Hume.
6. Discussions will be undertaken with Vicroads to determine whether the Somerton Road duplication project could provide opportunities for a pedestrian and cycling linkages between Roxburgh Park, Craigieburn and Mickleham with Greenvale, Broadmeadows and also the Melbourne Creek trails.

Priority 1	Financial Implications - Nil
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7. Negotiations will be undertaken with key stakeholders to overcome the existing “missing links” and expand and/or improve the trail network in the Broadmeadows, Craigieburn and Sunbury Planning Areas as follows;

Broadmeadows Planning Area

- From Broadmeadows Valley Park to link with Craigieburn
- A link along Merri Creek from Mahoneys Road to Craigieburn
- Along Moonee Ponds Creek
- Along Merlynston Creek including linking Jack Roper Reserve, Seabrook Reserve and Laura Douglas Reserve
- Along the Melbourne Water pipe track through Attwood and from this track to the Broadmeadows Park across the route of the Aitken Boulevard roadway
- From Seabrook Reserve west along the old rail reserve, across the Craigieburn rail line to the Broadmeadows Valley Park
- The Upfield Railway linkage

Craigieburn Planning Area

- Pathway linkages into and through the Greenvale Reservoir parklands - in partnership with Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water
- Along the railway easement between Somerton Road and Craigieburn through Roxburgh Park

- Along the Melbourne Water and Yarra Valley Water pipe track through Roxburgh Park
- Complete the missing link of the Yuroke Creek pathway across Somerton Road and the proposed route at the Aitken Boulevard roadway at the Shankland wetlands area
- Improve the linkages along Aitken Creek and Malcolm Creek

Sunbury Planning Area

- A future corridor and trail along Jacksons Creek to link to the Maribyrnong Metropolitan Trail - in partnership with Western Water, Parks Victoria and the Department of Sustainability and Environment (not all this land is currently in public ownership)
- Along Deep Creek / Trap Reserve up to the swinging bridge to provide links to Bulla Recreation Reserve
- Along Jacksons Creek from Salesian College to Holden Flora and Fauna reserve
- Along Kismet Creek to Jacksons Creek and north through Spavin Drive Lake Reserve
- Along Blind Creek from Sunbury Recreation Reserve to the new urban development areas near Mt Holden.

Priority 1	Financial Implications – Projects will be referred to capital works program for consideration. External funds will be sought
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9.10 Master Planning

Strategic Directions

- Strategic master or management plans will be prepared to outline future directions for key regional and district open spaces and provide effective guidance for ongoing management
- Concept plans will be prepared for sub district and neighbourhood parks where key issues need to be addressed and/or are proposed for significant upgrading
- The community will be involved in the preparation of all master and concept plans.

Actions

1. Master plans will be prepared, or where there are current plans will be reviewed as indicated in Appendix 2.

Priority 1	Financial Implications – Funding bids will be developed on a case by case basis
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2. Concept plans will be prepared for sub district and neighbourhood parks where key issues are required to be addressed and/or are proposed for significant change or upgrading.

Priority 1	Financial Implications – Funding bids will be based on a case by case basis
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3. Conservation management plans will be prepared for all natural areas reserves to guide their management.

9.11 Infrastructure Standards

Strategic Directions

- That the infrastructure standards as indicated in Table 7.11.1 will guide the provision of facilities in open space areas to facilitate the activities appropriate to each category of open space, with particular emphasis on addressing the imbalance of facilities currently provided at different sites
- Developers of new open spaces in new urban areas will be expected to meet the 'should have' standards as a minimum requirement

Actions

1. The neighbourhood open space network (including parks higher in the open space hierarchy which provide a neighbourhood park function) will be reviewed by planning area to identify high priority sites requiring upgrading. An upgrade program will be developed to bring these parks up to the Infrastructure Standards outline in Table 7.11.1 (see also appendix 1)

Priority 1	Financial Implications – A program will be developed which will be referred to capital works program for consideration
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2. The district and sub district open space network will be reviewed to identify high priority sites requiring upgrading and an upgrade program will be developed to bring these parks up to the Infrastructure Standards outlined in Table 7.11.1 (see also appendix 1)

Priority 1	Financial Implications – A program will be developed which will be referred to capital works program for consideration
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9.12 Capital Works Criteria

Strategic Directions

The following criteria will be used for assessing capital works proposals:

- adding diversity to a space
- adding a function which is deficient
- creating or enhancing the landscape character
- contributing to the environmental sustainability of the space and/or surrounding area through the protection or enhancement of environmental values
- providing for a more equitable distribution of facilities
- achieving the infrastructure core service standards
- providing the widest range of facilities for different segments of the community, e.g. young children, teenagers, older people, etc
- whether there is a Council endorsed design and/or concept or management plan.

Actions

1. Capital works proposals will be assessed against the above set of criteria and those that meet the most number of criteria will be considered within the capital program as a priority in the allocation of funds available for open space projects.

9.13 Open Space Policies

Strategic Directions

- Specific open space policies and standards will be prepared during the life of this strategy to address priority management issues.

Actions

1. An action plan will be developed for signage in open space including an improvement/replacement program which will consider the identification of each space, directional signage, interpretation and regulatory signage requirements and the use of international symbols and information services to assist the needs of people who have English language difficulties and visual impairments.

Priority 1	Financial Implications – Bid will be referred to capital works program for consideration
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2. Standards will be revised for park furniture suitable in open spaces to ensure consistency and provide a streamlined replacement process. This would detail the type of park furniture is suitable for particular spaces.

Priority 1	Financial Implications – Bid will be referred to capital works program for consideration
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3. A strategy will be developed for lighting of open spaces which will include requirements for lighting for public safety, in spaces used by young people, at transport nodes, and in spaces with facilities used at night to extend their use and safety.

Priority 1	Financial Implications – Bid will be referred to capital works program for consideration
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4. A memorials and monuments policy will be developed which will address the handling of applications for placing of memorials and monuments in open space and ensure transparency and consistency of decision making.

Priority 3	Financial Implications – Nil
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5. A skate and BMX facility strategy/policy will be developed to guide the future provision of skate and BMX facilities in open spaces across the network.

Priority 1	Financial Implications – Nil, Project underway
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6. A public art policy will be developed to provide a framework for the acquisition and placement of public art in open space. It will also be designed to encourage and support an increase in public art and cultural elements in the design and development of open space.

Priority 2	Financial Implications – Nil
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7. A walking and cycling strategy will be developed to provide a framework of programs, projects and actions to facilitate the growth of walking and cycling as important transport modes.

Priority 1	Financial Implications – Nil
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8. A policy position will be developed on the holding of events in open space, particularly relating the suitability and carrying capacity of sites for various types of events.

Priority 1	Financial Implications – Nil
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9. The demand for possible provision of commercial open space activities to enrich experiences for visitors to Hume’s open spaces will be examined through policy development.

These activities could include:

- Tours of sites of historic interest in Sunbury, Bulla and Westmeadows
- Interpretation tours of significant vegetation sites
- Sites for possible café and provision of refreshments
- Entertainment opportunities.

Priority 3	Financial Implications – Nil
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9.14 Community gardens

Strategic Directions

- Opportunities will be pursued for the establishment of at least three community gardens, one in the Broadmeadows, Craigieburn and Sunbury areas.

Actions

1. The open space network will be reviewed to identify possible sites for community gardens in the Broadmeadows, Craigieburn and Sunbury areas that do not currently have or are expected in the future to have any other priority community use.

Priority 1	Financial Implications – Nil
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2. Community gardens will be sited where sustainable management arrangements can be put in place, i.e. near existing community facilities where the gardens’ management could be coordinated with that of the community facility, and support facilities such as toilets and meeting rooms are available.
3. Guidelines will be prepared for the management arrangements needed to ensure responsible management of community gardens.

9.15 Community engagement in open space

Strategic Directions

- The local community and key stakeholders will be involved in open space planning, including the development of master plans, concept plans, and open space projects.
- Programs to increase community awareness of Hume’s open space will be undertaken.

Actions

1. Regular dialogue will be undertaken with cultural, environmental, sporting and other groups and agencies including neighbouring municipalities, in relation to open space planning, development and management.
2. Local industry will be encouraged to support the revitalisation and management of open spaces in Hume, e.g. tree planting and revegetation projects, picnic/barbeque developments, litter control projects, etc
3. A policy will be developed to ensure a transparent process when Council is approached by a volunteer/service club/community group to assist and/or partake in a project which impacts on open spaces.

Priority 2	Financial Implications – Nil
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4. Promotional material will be prepared and/or updated for key Hume’s overall open space network and key individual open spaces.

Priority 1	Financial Implications – Nil
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5. A consultation framework and procedure guidelines will be prepared to guide consultation on Council open space projects. The extent of consultation coverage will be dependent on the hierarchy of the space in which the proposed project is located, i.e.:
 - Neighbourhood open space will involve coverage of all properties within 500 metre radius of the subject space
 - Sub district open space will involve coverage to all properties within a 1.0 kilometre radius of the subject space
 - District open space will involve coverage to all properties within a 3 kilometre radius of the subject space
 - Regional open space will involve municipal wide coverage.

Priority 2	Financial Implications – Nil
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10. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

The successful implementation of this strategy will require commitment of adequate financial and staff resources over the life of the strategy. As Council's budgets are developed annually, commitment to the implementation will need to be reflected in each year's annual recurrent and capital works programs.

Progress on implementation of the strategy should be monitored periodically and reported to Councillors and the wider community.

The strategy should be reviewed and revised in 2015.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Open Space Site Recommended for Preparation / Review of a Master Plan

The following open space sites are recommended for the preparation or review of an existing master plan (see Section 9.2)

Site	Position in Hierarchy	Category of Open Space	New Revise Plan	Need for Plan
Broadmeadows Planning Area				
Broadmeadows Valley Park – John Ilham Reserve	Regional	Sporting	Review	Plan needed for sporting area south of Barry Road
Jack Roper Reserve	Regional	Formal	Review	Needed to plan future development
Progress Reserve Coolaroo	District	Sporting	Review	Need to update plan for active sporting activities
Greenvale Recreation Reserve	District	Sporting	Review	Update needed to plan for active sporting activities
Johnstone Street Reserve, Jacana	District	Informal Parkland	New	Plan for additional facilities
Buchan Street Reserve, Meadow Heights	District	Informal Parkland	Review	Plan for additional facilities
Craigieburn Planning Area				
Craigieburn Gardens	District	Formal Parkland	Review	Review future development
Sunbury Planning Area				
Bulla Recreation Reserve	District	Sporting	Review	Review to ensure plan meets current needs
Sunbury Recreation Reserve	Municipal?	Sporting Area	Review	Review to ensure development is coordinated
Boardman Reserve, Sunbury	Regional	Sporting	Review	Reviewed plan needed to guide future development

Note: In addition all natural area reserves should have conservation management plans to guide management activities

11.2 Preliminary Recommendations for Upgrading of Open Spaces

The following sites are recommended for upgrading to the infrastructure standards indicated in Table 7.11.1 (see Section 9.11). The funding for these works will be included in both operational and capital works programs. Priorities for these developments will be considered on an annual basis. The upgrading of these sites will commence in year one (1) of this strategy with funding commitments required over the next ten (10) years to complete the upgrade.

1. Neighbourhood Open Spaces

Broadmeadows Planning Area

Westmeadows

- Evita Reserve
- Eyre Street Reserve
- Hillcrest Reserve
- Ian Musgrove Reserve
- Tylden Place Reserve

Tullamarine

- Camphill Park
- Churchill Avenue Reserve
- Tangemere Crescent Reserve

Attwood

- Harricks Crescent Reserve
- Tollkeeperes Parade Reserve

Coolaroo

- Kalimna/Etna/Genoa Reserve

Meadow Heights

- Fantasy Park
- John Verkdale Reserve
- Melaleuca Reserve
- Redwood Reserve
- Sheoak Court Reserve
- Tyrell Reserve

Dallas

- Kilmore Crescent Reserve

- Gladstone Park
- Clarke Drive Reserve
- Dunfield Drive Reserve
- Fairbank Avenue Reserve
- Trentham Drive Reserve
- Vaucluse Drive Reserve

Craigieburn Planning Area

Craigieburn

- Abercan Avenue Reserve
- Carlton Court Reserve
- Eastgate Road Reserve
- Northern Crescent Reserve
- Pembroke Court Reserve
- Peterlee Court Reserve
- Tavistock Court Reserve

Greenvale

- Overton Close Reserve
- Piccadilly Court Reserve
- Rudstone Bend Reserve
- Wichill Close Reserve

Roxburgh Park

- Marne Drive Reserve
- Moir Drive Reserve
- Pinnock Reserve
- Reardon Park
- Sandover Drive Reserve

Sunbury Planning Area

Sunbury

- Abelia – Sandelford – Underhill – Wainwright Reserve
- Acheron Court Reserve
- Camphill Park
- Churchill Ave Reserve

- Dobell Ave Reserve
- Forrest St Reserve\
- Gosse – Monash Court Reserve
- Gowrie – Fisher – Scullin – McLean Reserve
- Gruner St Reserve
- Harvard Court Reserve
- Hume St Reserve
- Keith Ave Reserve
- Kingsley Dve Reserve
- Lachlan Court Reserve
- Meldrum – McCubbin Reserve
- Off Stump Park
- Ruthven St Reserve
- Sheffield Park
- Tower Court Reserve
- Turnberry Drive Reserve
- Yellowgum Boulevard Reserve

Bulla

- Trap St Reserve, Bulla
- Campbellfield
- Hughes Court
- Roeburne Crescent
- Sycamore Crescent Reserve

2. Sub District and District Open Spaces

Broadmeadows Planning Area

- Carrick Reserve, Gladstone Park
- Elmhurst Drive Reserve, Gladstone Park
- Jack Ginifer Reserve, Gladstone Park
- Bethal Gully Reserve, Meadow Heights

Craigieburn Planning Area

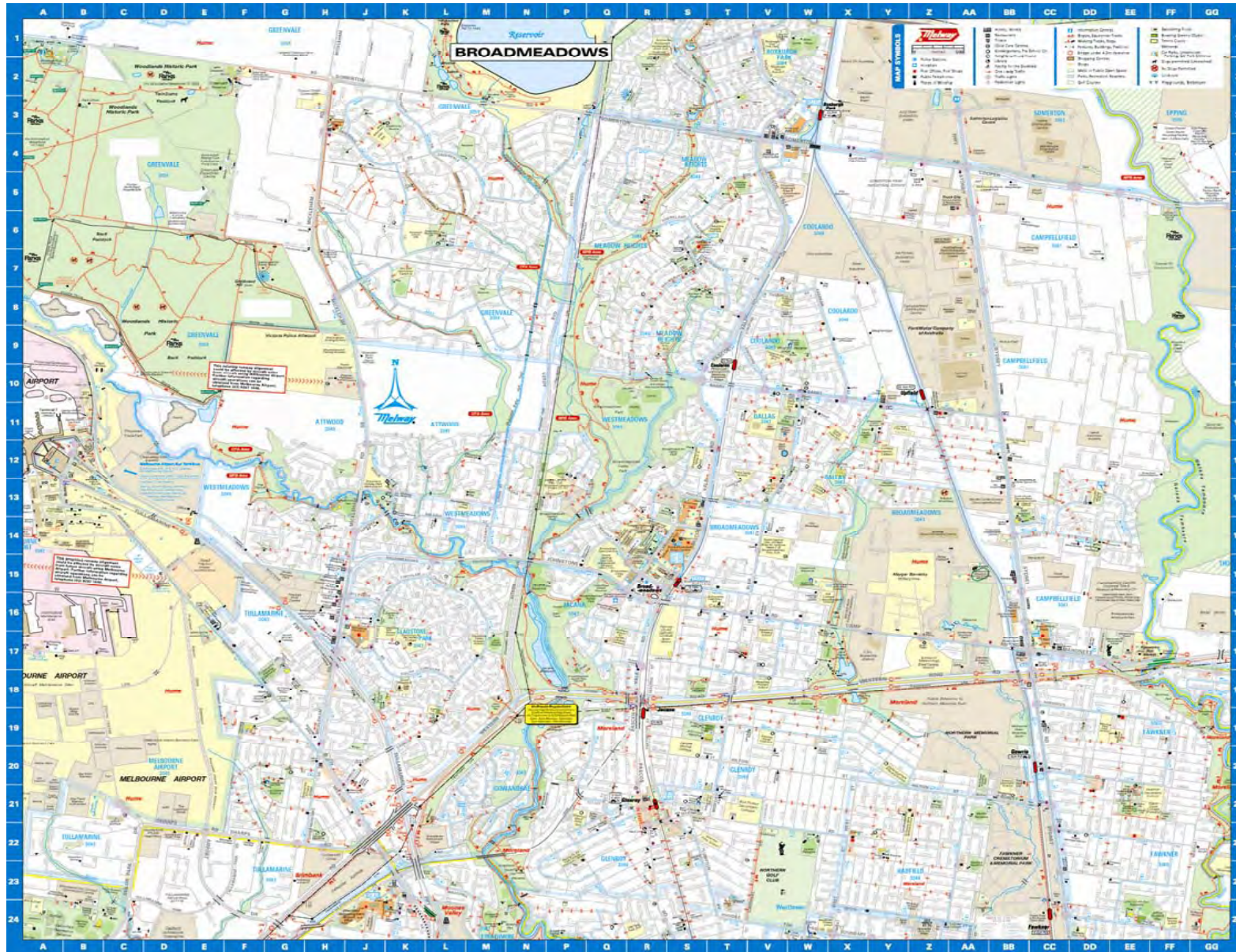
- Greenvale Drive Reserve, Greenvale

- Barrymore Road Reserve, Greenvale
- Greenvale Recreation Reserve
- Lake Mclvor Reserve, Roxburgh Park

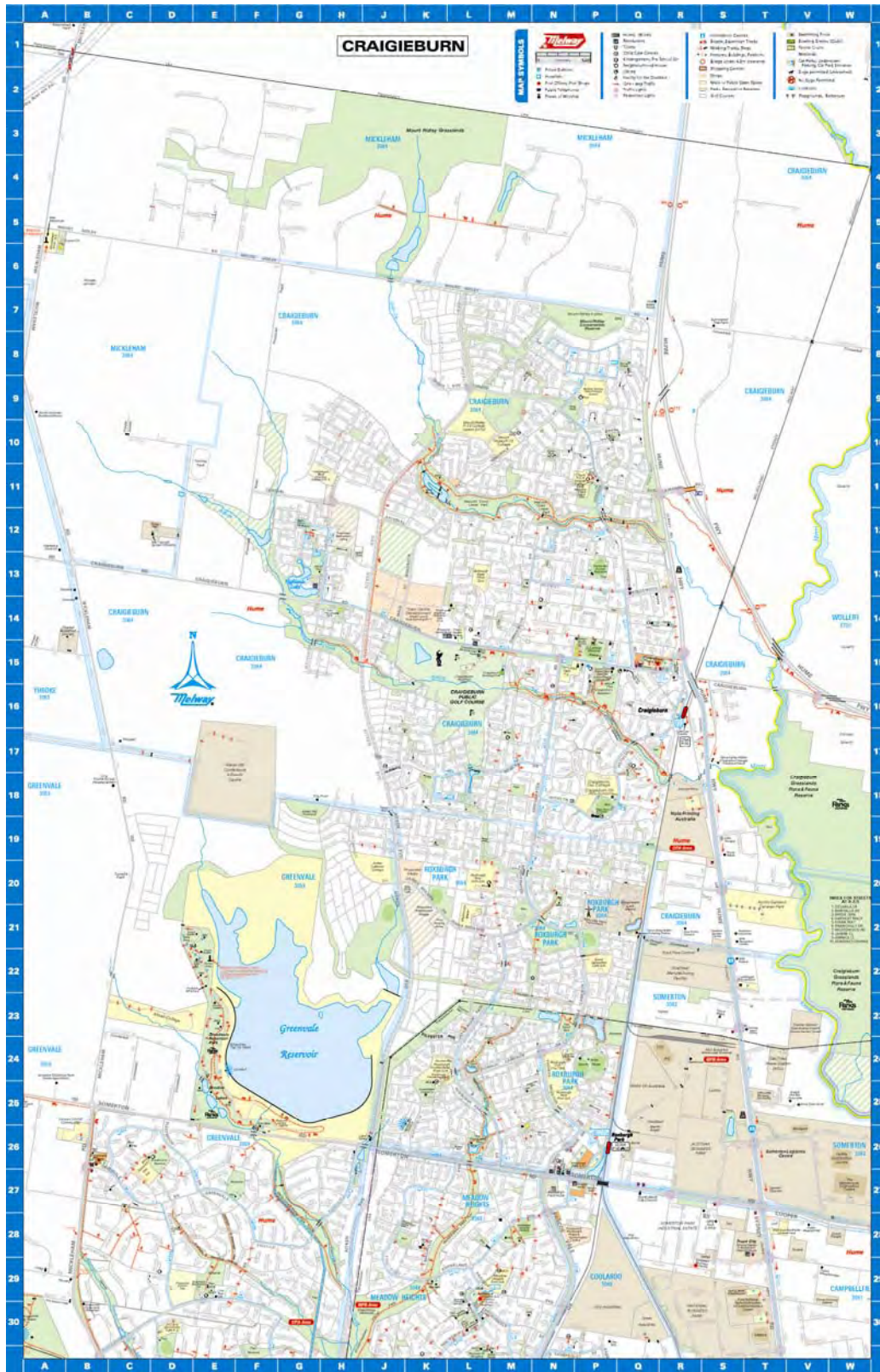
Sunbury Planning Area

- Bellview-Viaduct Way Corridor, Sunbury
- Galaxyland Park, Sunbury
- Googly Park, Sunbury
- Neil Street Reserve, Sunbury
- Village Green(Goonawarra),Sunbury
- Spavin Drive Reserve

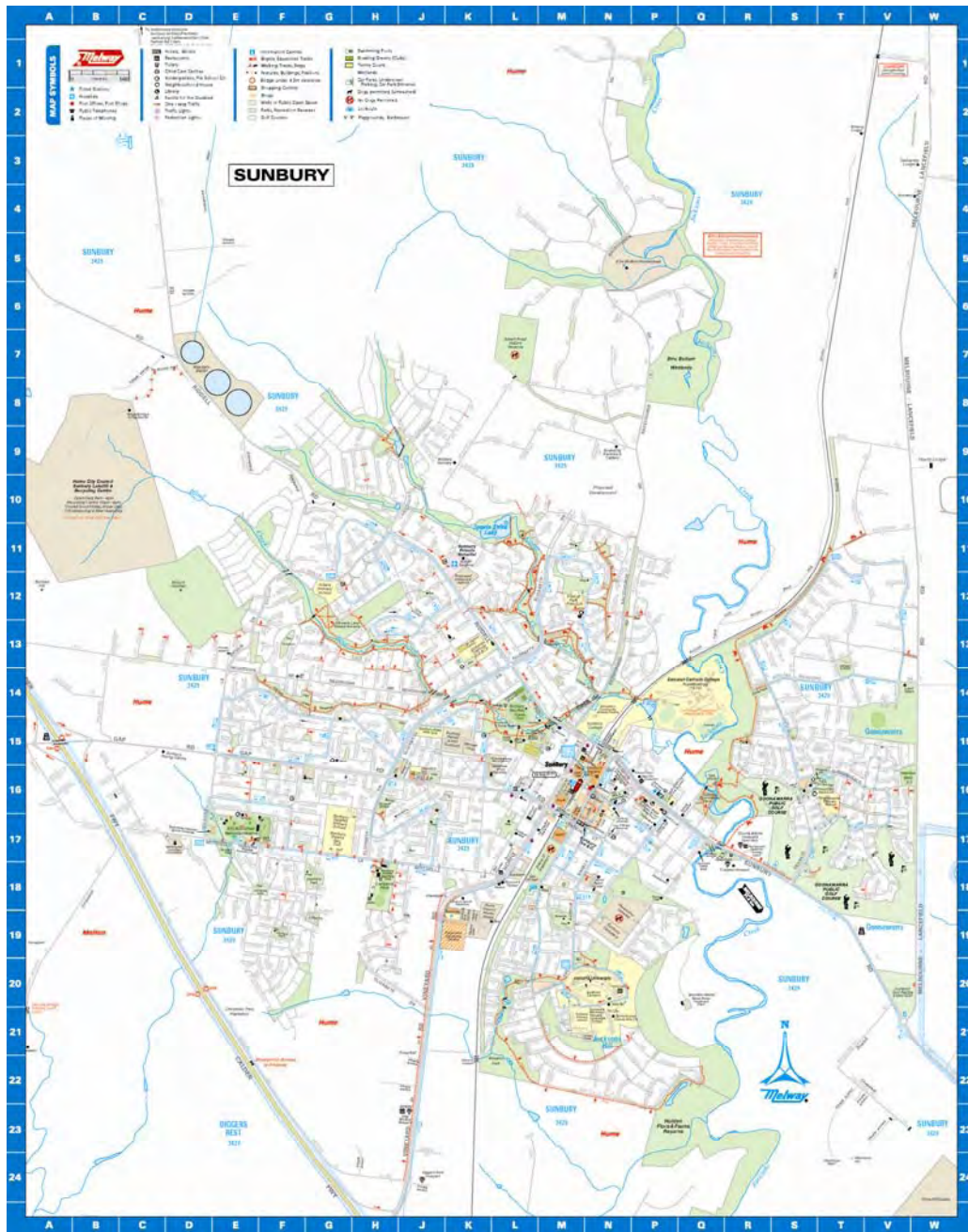
11.3 Broadmeadows Planning Area



11.4 Craigeburn Planning Area



11.5 Sunbury Planning Area



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