Open Space Plan 2016-2026

Melton City Council

February 2016

Background report

Contents

This report has been prepared by:

ROSS Planning Pty Ltd
ABN 32 508 029 959
Upper floor, 63 Bay Terrace
Wynnum QLD 4178

PO Box 5660
Manly QLD 4179

Telephone: (07) 3901 0730
Fax: (07) 3893 0593

Version control:

Version	Date	Document	Author	Reviewer	Recipient
1	26.05.15	Draft	CP & DC	DC	AC
2	11.09.15	Reviewed draft	CP & DC	DC	AC
3	26.10.15	Final draft	CP & DC	DC	AC & CL
4	20.11.15	Final draft (revised)	CP & DC	DC	AC & CL

Glossary of terms

Active open space	Land designated for formal outdoor sports. May also include passive recreation opportunities
Active recreation	Organised and (generally) competitive formal outdoor sporting activity
Encumbered open space	Land that is constrained for development purposes. Includes easements for power/transmission lines, sewers, gas, waterways/drainage; retarding basins/wetlands; landfill; conservation and heritage areas. This land may be used for a range of recreation activities (e.g. walking trails, sports fields), however, it is not provided as credit against public open space requirements. Regard is taken to the availability of encumbered land when determining over-arching open space requirements
Environmental open space	Land that contains biodiversity features of significance. As the primary use of the open space is for environmental protection, the area is likely to be encumbered and may preclude unrestricted public access
Linear open space	Long and narrow interconnected open space that can contain natural creek lines and associated riparian vegetation. Linear open space can also play an important secondary role providing cycle and pedestrian pathways, and values consistent with other open space categories
Open space	Land available for public recreation, pedestrian and cycle movement, sport or for nature conservation. It is generally managed by Council or other public authorities, such as water authorities or Parks Victoria
Passive open space	Land designated for passive recreation, play and unstructured physical activity (e.g. walking, cycling, hiking, contemplation and enjoying nature). May include parks, gardens, public squares and community gardens
Passive recreation	Non-organised, non-competitive open space activity undertaken for enjoyment (e.g. walking and cycling)
Precinct Structure Plan	A statutory document that describes how a precinct or series of sites within a growth area will be developed over time. A precinct structure plan sets out the broad environmental, social and economic parameters for the use and development of land within the precinct
Unencumbered open space	Land designated for open space without encumbrances such as easements, flooding, waterways/drainage, conservation etc. Only unencumbered open space is recognised as open space development contribution

List of tables

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This important project has included identifying trends in open space development, analysing current and planned open space supply and providing clear direction for the provision of open space and recreation facilities to meet the needs of existing and future communities.

A successful open space network is the result of considerable planning and an understanding of local influences (climate; geography; social, culture and political capacity). Therefore, this Open Space Plan is based on foundations that consider and embrace these matters. It has been developed giving thought to what is known about the City's open space, an understanding of local people's preferences to different open space types and functions, Council's (and the community's) capacity to deliver the infrastructure and the State's preferences and guidelines for planning for open space.

Melton City's approach to open space planning is framed by the legislative and policy environment for Victoria, Metropolitan Planning Authority and Melton City Council.

Strategic issues such as population growth, compact living and sustainability goals have been considered. The community's aspirations and expectations in regard to open space have also been paramount in the development of this Plan.

1.2 Scope

The Plan focuses on public open space. Natural areas, including state-owned conservation lands, have been considered for their current role in providing for nature-based recreation, however, are not assessed for future (land) provision as its primary purpose is for conservation and preservation (not active or passive recreation). This Plan does not provide detailed analysis of each individual Council reserve or detailed operational actions[1], however, it acts to provide strategic guidance on key identified issues from the open space network.

Information contained within this Plan is based on an audit and assessment of the City's open space network, and is a snapshot in time only. This information is accurate as at May 2015. Any open space developments or data updates since this time have not been taken into account.

The Open Space Plan is presented as two documents - a Background Report and the Plan. The Background Report provides the reader with contextual understanding, while the Plan provides a summary of the open space classification framework, open space analysis and actions.

1 *Addressed in Council's Review of Parks and Reserves (2013)*

Caroline Springs Recreation Reserve

2. Background

2.1 What is open space?

The definition of open space can be as varied as the communities it serves. For the purpose of this Plan, open space has been defined as Council-managed land that is broadly available for public recreation, pedestrian and cycle movement, sport or for nature conservation purposes.

However, the term 'open space' is a collective term with a number of subsets. Other terms that are often used when discussing open space include:

- Parks – normally refers to publicly accessible open space with specific infrastructure to support park function. While the term 'parks' generally conjures up thoughts of playgrounds and barbecue facilities, the term 'sport parks' is also not uncommon and refers to open space providing sporting opportunities
- Passive open space - refers to open space that primarily provides a setting for informal play and physical activity, relaxation and social interaction
- Active open space - refers to open space that primarily provides a setting for formal structured sporting activities.

This Open Space Plan also considers environmental open space that provides a setting where biodiversity and environmental protection are the primary purposes.

Golding Park

2.2 Benefits of open space

Open space can improve an individual's physical and psychological health; strengthen communities and the economy; and make neighbourhoods more attractive places to live, work and visit through implementation of Healthy by Design Principles and Environments for Health Framework.

Benefits to individuals

- Improved health is available to individuals through participation in open space activities. Research has shown[1] that quality access to open space (specifically parks, sporting fields and their connectivity) increases physical activity frequency
- Opportunities exist to develop physical, social and decision-making skills through participation in open space activities
- Participation in open space activities and connection to nature can help individuals explore strategies for conflict resolution and enhance mental health and wellbeing by reducing stress and anxiety.

Benefits to communities

- Open space provision is essential for strengthening and maintaining a healthy community. Open space areas can provide a focal point for community gathering, promote interaction and combat social isolation[2]
- Participation in open space activities can improve social cohesion, build cultural tolerance and support for seniors and people with a disability
- Open space can provide areas of high visual amenity and attractiveness
- Open space areas can be used to record and retain history through place names, commemorative buildings and memorials and preserved areas of cultural significance
- Open space can provide connectivity. Recreation paths along open space corridors can link residential areas with key community facilities
- Open space can provide buffers between incompatible land uses
- Well-designed, maintained, effectively utilised and activated open space contributes to improved perceptions of safety and can lead to reduced opportunity for crime to occur[3].

Benefits to the environment

- Open space can help to maintain a sustainable environment by reducing water run-off and flooding-related problems, offsetting carbon emissions and filtering pollutants (trees)[4]
- Where open space provides for quality active transport opportunities (e.g. cycleways and walking paths/trails) and walking and cycling replace car trips, additional environmental benefits include reduced traffic congestion, reduced air pollution, reduced greenhouse emissions and reduced noise pollution[5]
- Daytime temperatures have been found to be up to 3°C cooler in large urban parks than the surrounding streets as a result of moisture released from trees[6]
- Open spaces provide habitats that support ecosystems. Even highly maintained urban open spaces can be host to a range of mammals, insects, birds and aquatic plant life[7]
- Open space, and in particular natural open space, can have high environmental values as this land may support species and ecosystems not reserved in national parks or other conservation reserves. They may support species and ecosystems that are of national or state significance; and may act as corridor linkages between larger areas of environmental value.

Benefits to the economy

- Quality open space can increase the value of nearby properties[8]
- Creating supportive environments where participation in sport and physical activity is accessible, available and affordable, can aid in reducing health care costs associated with increased rates of overweight and obesity, as well as their related non-communicable diseases (e.g. cardiovascular disease, diabetes and some cancers)[1]
- Quality open space can attract businesses, employees and tourists. Research has shown that recreation, parks and open space are some of the most important factors when new business locations are considered[9]
- Many events are hosted in open space areas - from small local community-based events, through to those of national and international importance.

1 *World Health Organisation, Global Action Plan for the prevention and control on non-communicable diseases 2013-20.*
2 *Montgomery, J. (2005). Community Place and Buildings: The Role of Community Facilities in Developing Community Spirit. Stronger Communities Conference, Melbourne, Australia.*
3 *City of Melton, Safer City Plan 2015-17.*
4 *Relf, D. (1996). Plants Actually Clean the Air.*
5 *Western Australia Department of Sport and Recreation.(2009). factsandstats – Benefits of Physical Activity - www.dsr.wa.gov.au*
6 *Urban Green Space Task Force (2002). Green Spaces, Better Places.*
7 *XI World Forestry Congress (1997). Significance of Green Areas to Biodiversity and the Environment.*
8 *Tibbatts, D. (2002). Your Parks – The benefits of parks and greenspace. Urban Parks Forum.*
9 *Trust for Public Land (United States of America). (1999). Open Space and Attracting Investment – a forum presentation.*

2.3 Trends in open space

Participation patterns in sport and leisure are changing at a community-level. Factors such as a move toward non-organised structured sport, increased use of technology and increased time pressures have all had a significant impact on the industry.

Understanding these trends (and their impacts) is important as Council looks to develop strategies, programs and facilities to encourage people to engage in recreation and environmental activities.

Participation considerations

A snapshot:

- For adults – a move away from traditional organised sport toward physical activity and non-organised (social) sport
- For children – decreases in physical activity (although formal sport participation has not changed), increases in obesity and increases in the amount of leisure time in indoor activities such as computer use.

Key findings from the Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey[1] (ERASS –national and state trends) and the Melton City Council Active Participation Survey[2] (local trends) are highlighted below:

Non-organised physical activity

Table 1. Top ten non-organised physical activities

	Australia	Victoria	Melton City Council
1	Walking	Walking	Walking
2	Aerobics/fitness	Aerobics/fitness	Swimming
3	Swimming	Swimming	Cycling
4	Cycling	Cycling	Gym workouts
5	Running	Running	Play (playgrounds)
6	Bushwalking	Golf	Running
7	Golf	Tennis	Kick-about (parks)
8	Tennis	Bushwalking	Tenpin bowling
9	Weight training	Yoga	Fishing
10	Fishing	Weight training	Tennis

National considerations

- Aerobics/fitness had the largest increase in total participation between 2001 and 2010
- The regular participation rate (participating at least 3 times per week) in non-organised physical activity increased 11% from 2001

Local considerations

- 49 different non-organised physical activities were noted
- Participation in non-organised physical activity has increased from 59.1% (2010) to 80.5% in (2013)
- Walking, swimming, cycling and gym workouts have been the top 4 non-organised activities for all three Active Participation Surveys (2008, 2010 and 2013)
- The majority of residents (80.5%) participate in informal physical activity at least once per week with over half (60.2%) using the City of Melton shared path network and footpaths to recreate
- 82.6% of respondents used the City of Melton open space network. The top three reasons for visiting a park were physical activity, exercise and children's play.

Organised physical activity

Table 2. Top ten organised physical activities

	Australia	Victoria	Melton City Council
1	Aerobics/fitness	Aerobics/fitness	Swimming
2	Golf	AFL	AFL
3	Soccer	Golf	Aerobics/fitness
4	Netball	Basketball	Basketball
5	AFL	Netball	Soccer
6	Tennis	Tennis	Cycling
7	Basketball	Cricket	Tennis
8	Touch football	Yoga	Netball
9	Cricket	Soccer	Cricket
10	Lawn bowls	Running	Badminton, dance

National considerations

- In terms of the top 10 organised physical activities, AFL had the largest increase in total participation between 2001 and 2010, increasing by 64%. Soccer (55% increase) and cricket (33% increase) also had large increases
- Of all top 10 organised activities, tennis (–24%) and golf (–8%) experienced the greatest declines in participation between 2001 and 2010.

Local considerations

- 45 different organised physical activities were noted
- Indoor sport (swimming, aerobics, basketball, netball, futsal, badminton, table tennis, yoga and pilates) participation has jumped from 13.1% (2010) to 26.9% (2013)
- Respondents participation rate in organised sport has declined from 37.8% (2010) to 32.4% (2013)
- Those between 5 to 14 years are the most likely to participate in organised physical activities.

1 *Australian Sports Commission, 2010*
2 *ROSS Planning, 2013*

Impacts of technology

Traditional sport and leisure providers are not only competing against each other for participants but also against non-physical activities such as the internet and computer games.

The ABS nation-wide Children's (5 to 14 years) Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities Survey showed there had been no increase in the use of internet and other screen-based activities between 2003 and 2006. However, significant increases were found between 2006 and 2009 (the most recent occasion the survey was conducted).

While there are a number of movement-based computer gaming consoles (such as Wii) that can provide a level of physical activity, a much larger proportion provide predominantly sedentary activity.

The increases in the amount of time young people are spending playing computer games, using the internet and watching television is limiting available time for recreation.

However, councils are beginning to embrace technology as an opportunity to encourage people to use open space. Emerging technologies, such as QR (Quick Response) codes, and the provision of Wi-Fi in open spaces are popular.

The City of Melton has recently utilised QR code technology as a part of shared path network signage and fitness equipment. Scanning the QR code on the path signage with a phone or tablet provides access to online maps that identify where the person is, points of interest in the area and infrastructure (i.e. shared paths, BBQ, toilets). Additionally, the QR codes on the fitness equipment takes the user to the manufacturer's website where appropriate use of each item of equipment is detailed.

An ageing society

The population of Melton City Council is expected to age slightly in coming years, with the proportion of people aged 65 years and over rising from 8.2% (in 2015) to 10.6% (in 2026)[1]. This trend is expected to continue up to and after the anticipated ultimate growth. It is important to note that this 'slight' ageing is in contrast to much of Australia where marked ageing is expected.

An older society will have a greater demand for passive and informal recreation opportunities than a younger society. Access to playing fields and formal sport opportunities will continue to be important as the numbers of young people will continue to increase. Additionally, with the trend for grandparents to be carers for their grandchildren increasing[2], the need for recreation and play opportunities (outside formal care centres) will continue to exist. However, greater emphasis will be needed on the requirements of older people likely to be seeking walking, cycling and other low impact physical activity. Parks and public open space will require wider pathways, improved wheelchair/disabled access, more lighting, dog parks and the presence of shaded seats for resting along pathways. The increased use of mobility scooters as a favourable method of transportation will also need to be recognised and reflected in the development of a quality cycleway/pedestrian network.

There is also anecdotal evidence of an increase in participation in masters sports (formal sporting fixtures and carnivals for participants, generally, thirty-five years and above). Sports such as football (soccer) have maintained masters-level fixtures for a number of years, while large State, National, Pan Pacific and World Masters multi-sports carnivals are regularly conducted across Australia. These events are placing increasing pressure on existing sports facility networks. However, it should be noted that these participation observations are yet to be reflected in research conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Becoming time poor

While the popularity of technology appears to be reducing available time for young people to be involved in leisure pursuits, the adult population is also becoming time poor.

Extended trading hours, shift work, increasing numbers in part-time and casual employment and new communications media are changing the concept of the nine to five, five-day work week to a more flexible work/life style. The traditional notion of recreation participation on weekends is diminishing and people are seeking more flexibility in facility opening hours and programming, and scheduling of training and competition.

There is increasing demand for drop-in drop-out (or pay-as-you-go) sport and leisure options where participants are looking for opportunities without additional commitments (training, volunteering etc). Similarly, having limited uncommitted time for recreation pursuits is likely to push people more toward unstructured individual activities (e.g. walking, fitness) that can be conducted at flexible times rather than more traditional sport (particularly team sports) with fixed schedules. Many people are seeking to do activities at their own convenience.

For a significant proportion of Melton City Council residents, there is additional time pressure associated with the need to travel outside the LGA for work. In 2011[3], 65.8% of the workforce commuted to a workplace outside Melton. The additional time pressures involved in travel to work further reduce the uncommitted time available for physical activity and recreation pursuits.

Rising cost of sport

The cost of participating in sport is increasing. Cost is now a barrier to participation for many people. A survey of parents of Australian children aged 5-14 years found that cost is a significant factor for parents when allowing their children to participate in organised sport[4].

With the City of Melton having a moderately high proportion of people from a low socio-economic background (particularly in Melton Township), access to free and/or low cost physical activity options will grow in importance.

1 *forecast.id (accessed May 2015)*
2 *Australian Bureau of Statistics (2011). Childhood Education and Care Survey*
3 *profile.id (accessed May 2015)*
4 *Hardy et al.,2010*

Barriers and motivators in participation

It is important that councils and other organisations that provide recreation opportunities understand what motivates or prevents members of the public from participation. Understanding these motivations and constraints allows organisations to develop strategies and programs that embrace the motivations and overcome the constraints/barriers to participation.

Barriers

Barriers to participation in sport and physical activity vary between individuals. However, research[1,2] has identified consistent factors.

- Lack of time (due to work and/or family) is the most frequently reported barrier to participation for all adults under 55 years
- Poor health is the most frequently reported barrier for those aged 55 years and over.

Gender

The ABS findings confirm the demand for flexible operation times and physical activity programs with 'lack of time due to work' the most common constraint for males. For females, 'not interested', 'age/too old', 'injury/illness' and 'lack of time due to work' are all key constraints. This highlights the need for both flexible timing of program delivery and also the need for a range of interesting age- and ability-specific programs being available.

Youth (0-15 years old)

While the ABS survey did not consider youth participation, previous research[3] has identified key barriers for youth participation to include:

- Feeling uncomfortable, body image
- Parents do not approve
- Too much effort
- Commitments (family, work, study)
- Influence of peers.

Seniors (65 years and older)

Taken together, the ABS and Australian Sports Commission reports suggest that common barriers for participation by seniors include:

- Feeling old (stereotyped images)
- Injury, illness, poor health
- Lack of confidence
- Lack of appropriate opportunities and/or specialist trainers
- Lack of transport and access.

Motivators

The two most common reasons for people participating in physical activity and other recreation pursuits is to participate for 'health/ fitness benefits' and for 'enjoyment'. These results are consistent for both males and females.

Gender

Males are somewhat more motivated by 'enjoyment' than females, while 'weight control' is a more important factor for females.

Youth (0-15 years old)

Key motivators for youth participation include:

- Enjoying the activity
- Health/fitness
- Success – they are good at it
- They participated in the activity at school first and enjoyed it
- Their friends participate.

Seniors (65 years and over)

Common factors that encourage seniors to participate include:

- Improving health/fitness
- Enjoyment
- Companionship
- Increasing self-esteem and control over one's life.

1 *Australian Bureau of Statistics (2007). Motivators and Constraints to Participation in Sports and Physical Recreation*

2 *Australian Sports Commission (2001). Older, smarter, fitter: a guide for providers of sport and physical activity programs for older Australians*

3 *Taggart, A. & Sharp, S. (2000). Adolescents and Sport: Determinants of current and future participation. Sport and Physical Activity Research Centre, Edith Cowan University*

The ABS data[1] presented in the adjoining table paints a clear picture of participation barriers and motivators.

1 *Australian Bureau of Statistics (2007). Motivators and Constraints to Participation in Sports and Physical Recreation*

Table 3. Constraints and Motivators for participation in sports and physical recreation (National level)

	CONSTRAINTS (%)					MOTIVATORS (%)			
	Age/too old	Injury/ illness	Not interested	Lack of time - work	Lack of time- family	Health/ fitness	Well-being	Enjoyment	Social/ family
Males	15.8	19.3	18.9	27.3	5.4	49.6	6.0	27.3	8.4
Females	17.8	17.6	18.2	17.6	13.5	58.5	8.8	16.1	5.5
Age Group (years)									
15 to 24	0.4	10.6	30.9	36.6	5.7	39.5	4.1	34.4	10.3
25 to 34	0.8	9.8	22.5	31.2	17.7	53.9	6.9	20.9	8.2
35 to 44	1.9	13.9	18.8	30.9	19.4	57.6	7.6	17.6	6.4
45 to 54	7.9	20.7	18.1	26.5	9.4	57.9	10.1	18.2	3.5
55 to 64	20.2	28.5	17.2	15.2	5.2	60.5	8.6	17.8	5.1
65+	55.7	24.4	8.6	1.6	1.6	50.2	8.4	17.9	7.4

Active seniors

Provision considerations

Expectations of flexible hours

With the amount of time available for recreation pursuits decreasing, participants are seeking flexible hours to undertake activities. Walking, running and cycling are likely to continue to be popular forms of activity as participants can be flexible in when, where and how long they undertake the activity. For additional activities to retain or gain in popularity it is likely that they will need to be able to offer longer and more flexible operating hours or a more flexible approach to training and competition participation (in the case of more traditional team sports such as football).

Move toward indoor sport?

Anecdotally, within the sport and recreation industry there is some suggestion of a move toward indoor sport (as opposed to outdoor field sports). However, it should be noted that this notion has not been confirmed by any of the ERASS data up to and including 2010 (the most recent survey results).

The suggestion is, however, supported by Council's 2010 and 2013 Active Participation Surveys that highlighted that participation in indoor sports more than doubled from 13.1% (in 2010) to 26.9% (in 2013). Comparatively participation in field sports only rose from 14.2% to 16.0% across the two surveys.

If this move is shown to be a trend, potentially it may be a result of a preference for activity in a more controlled climate (e.g. out of the summer sun and winter chill), the provision of flexible hours of play and/or for the greater proportion of mid-week competition opportunities generally provided by indoor sport compared with outdoor.

Multi-purpose community facilities

A trend in open space design and delivery is the move away from single-purpose or dedicated facilities towards a cost and land use efficient model of multi-purpose facilities. An example of a new multi-purpose facility is the Arnolds Creek Recreation Reserve, which is co-located with a government primary school, and includes the following components:

- basketball/netball courts
- children's and community centre
- grass fields that can be used for rectangular field sports or AFL (winter) and cricket (summer)
- pavilion utilised by community clubs, the community and is the administrative home of the Riddell District Football League
- playground
- shared car parking
- shared paths throughout the reserve
- tennis courts.

Lengthening seasons

Further impacting on recreation time choices, is a move toward year-round sport. Nation-wide, a number of sports are lengthening their seasons well past the traditional summer/winter season to the point where it becomes difficult for participants to be involved in more than one activity each year. Alternatively, sports are running two seasons or a modified season (e.g. 20/20 winter cricket) as an adjunct to the primary season.

Brookside Recreation Reserve

Field overuse

While participation rates for adults in organised sport and recreation activities has decreased somewhat in recent years, sustained participation rates by young people, increasing populations and increasing range of opportunities have resulted in field overuse and/or lack of fields in a number of areas. Many councils have difficulty allocating field space each season or finding additional areas where clubs achieve growth or when new activities are born.

A growing trend is for councils to develop synthetic playing fields in an attempt to address field overuse, water conservation and field damage. Predominantly, these fields have been developed for soccer and can sustain far greater loads. Melton City Council has three synthetic field sites (Brookside Recreation Reserve (*pictured*), Kurunjang Recreation Reserve and Springside Recreation Reserve). They have proven popular and hard-wearing and able to accommodate greater use when compared to traditional grass surfaces.

Importance of play

Evidence indicates that the community is placing a higher value on open space as the density of residential developments increases (reflecting the Metropolitan Planning Authority directives). As a result, block sizes become smaller and, thus, the quantity of private open space diminishes. The 2013 Active Participation Survey showed that 82.6% of residents visited a Melton City Council park in 2013, up from 67.2% in 2008, with the top three park activities being physical activity, exercise and play.

Play is a key driver of the health and wellbeing of children as well as a tool for their education and development - with active and social play adding to cognitive and social development. Therefore, the need to provide well designed open space that is engaging is becoming more important. Children need access to a range of play opportunities around their neighbourhood as they grow up.

A play experience (or playspace) should be vibrant and exciting - whereas a playground is just the infrastructure that is provided. The difference is somewhat like that between a mountain bike ride and a stationary bicycle. More importantly, a play experience does not innately require the installation of structured play equipment. Typically, uninteresting play equipment does not engage children for long periods. Interesting and interactive places to play and explore may be created by designing evocative landscapes such as the playspace at Burnside Heights Recreation Reserve. This may include sculpting the earth or utilising the natural contours, planting (e.g. vegetated tunnels or mazes, forests) and/or utilising textures and materials such as creative paving patterns (stepping stones, steps, edgings for balancing). A play space may incorporate interesting views or vistas, showcase art or innovation (mobiles and alternate energy sources), sculptural park furniture, landscape structures or buildings. Play experiences may incorporate elements such as:

- storytelling/sculpture trees
- labyrinth/mazes
- tunnels of plants
- mist water play and water jets
- meandering paths
- meeting places
- musical play.

The common characteristic in all of these elements is that the infrastructure suggests (but never dictates) how it is to be used. Moreover, each element can be used in many ways – commonsense says that a toddler will use a mist water play area quite differently to a 12-year old child.

Unstructured play needs to complement and be integrated with other recreation facilities to encourage active recreation for children, youth and adults. Examples include:

- basketball courts/hoops
- cycling/pedestrian networks and skill development circuits
- attractive open space areas for ball games etc.
- water play parks
- surfaces and markings for games (e.g. hopscotch and handball)
- swings for all ages and abilities
- flying foxes/climbing walls
- fitness stations/training equipment.

Future open space development must provide interest and challenges to ensure open space is highly valued by the community.

Risk management

In the late 90's and early 2000's spiralling costs of liability insurance premiums placed added stresses on community organisations and councils. Many of these groups responded by developing policies and risk management strategies to control and avoid risk in an effort to reduce (or contain) premiums.

Community organisations and councils have moved toward formal training of operators in risk management planning and reducing exposure to risk, both for the operators and for participants. In a number of cases, these risk management processes are proving resource intensive (both in time and funding). For example, whereas cricket umpires previously commenced a match by simply tossing a coin, walking to the wicket and calling 'play', all State cricket bodies now legislate that umpires are expected to inspect the entire field before determining the facility fit-for-play. This is now common across many sports. Staying with the sport of cricket – many clubs and councils invested in attractive picket fences as field boundaries only to see the risk management movement result in these fences being banned as boundaries and replaced with ropes, line marking or markers.

Additionally, risk management has seen a reduction in play opportunities through play sanitisation[1]. Many play elements have been removed from public areas through perceived risk and hazard identification. Elements such as large open slides, climbing frames and monkey bars have been removed throughout many councils.

Water availability

Water is critically important for the management of the landscape and to service the facilities that are located within open space. Water serves a number of functions within open space including the provision of a higher amenity value, creating a focus for both active and passive/informal recreation as well as for use for irrigation of the landscape. The irrigation of open space can create a positive environment that attracts users to open space and results in more hard wearing surfaces.

The availability of recycled water is improving and its use (along with stormwater) should be investigated to service both irrigation and toilet facilities. Water sensitive urban design should be incorporated in all landscape development including the use of drought-resistant plants and warm season grass wherever practical.

Council has put in place a number of actions to reduce water consumption associated with recreation reserves including the implementation of a warm season grass program at a number of sports grounds and the use of drought resistant plants when landscaping.

1 *Kidsafe NSW, 2013*

3. Analysis

3.1 Population and demographic considerations

Understanding population size, growth and demographic characteristics is fundamental to responding to community needs and providing adequate and appropriate open space. Estimated population projections also assist in quantifying likely future demand and in prioritising land/facility developments.

Population projections

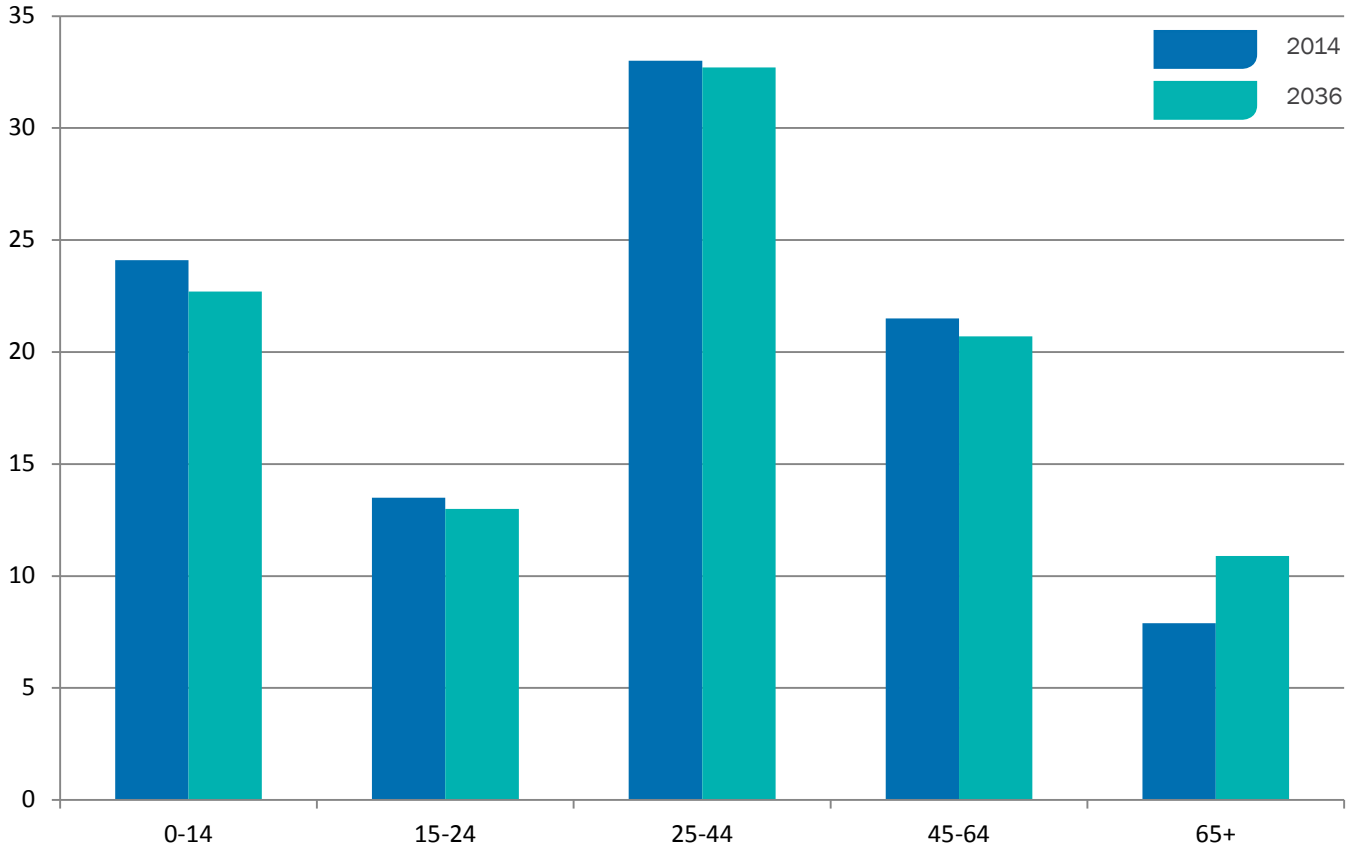
The City of Melton is one of the fastest growing municipalities in Victoria. The population estimate (provided by forecast.id) for 2016 is 134,967. By 2026, population forecasts of more than 207,000 are indicated while, at full development, Melton City's population is expected to reach approximately 441,000 (more than 307,000 additional residents). The majority of the population growth will occur in existing and planned Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) areas with minimal growth expected to occur in established areas.

Interestingly, since the last Open Space Plan in 2004, the population has grown by more than 63,000.

Changes to the different age cohorts between 2014 and 2036 are shown in the figure below. The current age structure is projected to continue into the future, with only slight changes in age cohort percentages. Compared to many communities throughout Australia, Melton City Council is not ageing markedly. The predicted ongoing popularity of the local government area as a location for young families is maintaining high levels in the younger age brackets. Hence, the age cohorts which are projected to maintain the highest prevalence in the community are those aged 0-14 (children) and 25-44 (typified by young parents).

Comparatively, the 65+ age cohort is expected to experience a substantial increase in growth (proportionally), yet remain the least common age cohort.

Table 4.Age cohort breakdown by % (2014 and 2036)



Demographic considerations

A summary of population characteristics (from forecast.id) for the City, Melton Township and Melton East (referred to as the Eastern Corridor in this Plan) are presented below. For comparison purposes, statistics for Greater Melbourne and Victoria are also displayed. Stand-out characteristics include:

- High proportion of young people (24.7%) and couples with children across the LGA (43.4%) compared with both Greater Melbourne (18.5% and 33.6%) and Victoria (18.7% and 31.8%). Particularly high levels in Melton East where more than half (54.1%) of the households are couples with children
- Reflecting the higher proportion of young people, the City of Melton is also typified by a low proportion of residents 65 years and over (6.5% compared with 13.1% and 14.2% for Greater Melbourne and Victoria respectively)
- Melton East has a high proportion of people born overseas and speaking a language other than English at home (compared with the City of Melton, Greater Melbourne and Victoria)
- Melton City Council has a moderate index of relative socio-economic disadvantage (1002.1), making it slightly more disadvantaged than Greater Melbourne (1020.3) and Victoria (1009.6). Interestingly, clear differences exist between Melton Township and Melton East. As an older area (and home to a larger proportion of older residents), Melton Township shows significantly higher degrees of disadvantage (953.4) while Melton East (a newer area with younger population) has significantly lower levels of disadvantage (1043.4)
- Slightly lower proportion of dwellings with no internet (yet marked differences between Melton Township (19.2%) and Melton East (11.0%) are evident)
- Lower proportions of dwellings with no motor vehicles
- Lower proportion of residents undertaking volunteer activities.

Implications for Council

Marked population growth will put additional pressure on existing facilities while expectations for new facilities will also continue. With a high proportion of young people and an emerging larger proportion of older residents, Council will face demand for both active recreation (e.g. playing fields, court sports and skate/ bmx facilities) and for alternate recreation opportunities (e.g. walking, cycling, swimming and bowls).

With demographics which vary significantly throughout the City, it is vital for Council to plan for those areas based on their needs and the resources available to the community. As the Melton Township is significantly more socio-economically disadvantaged than Melton East, it is vital for open space to be located in areas that are easily accessible and allow for free recreation activities. It is also important that open space provides a higher level of recreation for the older age cohorts. In comparison, Melton East will require open space that continues to cater for younger families with children.

Table 5. Demographic considerations

Characteristics*	City of Melton %	Melton Township %	Melton East %	Greater Melbourne %	Victoria %
Age profile					
0 to 14	24.7	22.2	27.7	18.5	18.7
15 to 24	13.4	14.7	12.1	13.8	13.4
25 to 44	34.1	29.9	37.7	30.5	28.7
45 to 64	21.3	24.1	18.0	24.1	25.0
65 and over	6.5	9.0	4.5	13.1	14.2
Household composition					
Couples with children	43.4	33.1	54.1	33.6	31.8
Couples without children	21.2	22.7	19.5	23.5	24.6
One parent families	13.0	15.8	10.4	10.4	10.5
Lone person	15.7	20.1	10.8	22.3	23.5
Ethnicity					
Born overseas	27.8	20.3	34.6	31.4	26.2
Speaks language other than English at home	28.9	14.7	42.3	29.1	23.1
Socio-economic disadvantage					
Index of relative socio-economic disadvantage	1002.1	953.4	1043.4	1020.3	1009.6
Other characteristics					
Dwellings with no internet connection	15.1	19.2	11.0	16.8	19.1
Dwellings with no motor vehicles	4.0	5.8	2.4	9.0	8.3
Undertake volunteer activities	10.5	10.8	10.2	15.8	17.7
* This data is from the 2011 ABS Census (analysed by forecast.id)					

3.2 Strategic document review

In order to present a clear picture of the background issues impacting on the development of the Open Space Plan, a Council literature review has been undertaken. Understanding where the Plan sits within Council's integrated planning framework is important to ensure it aligns with key directions and is pitched at an appropriate strategic level. Ultimately, the Plan will provide a basis for planning and development of open space within the City of Melton.

The diagram below highlights the strategic alignment of the Open Space Plan with other key Council documents. A brief description of these key influencing documents can be found on the adjoining page.

Strategic Alignment - Open Space Plan

Council Plan 2013-2017

This Plan is Council's key strategic planning document providing direction in policy development, decision making and community accountability. The Plan provides a wide range of objectives and associated strategies under four key themes.

With regard to the development of the Open Space Plan, it is exciting to note that the provision of well-planned and appropriate open space and community facilities is a clear priority across each of the key themes. The importance of decision making based on statutory obligations and community engagement is also repeatedly noted.

Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017

This Plan was prepared as a key strategic document that directs actions to maximise community health and wellbeing. It presents a range of strategies, objectives and outcomes under four lead themes. A common message amongst these areas is the importance of community facility design practices that enhance opportunities for active lifestyles and community interaction.

Municipal Strategic Statement

The Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) provides the strategic framework and directions for the future development of the City of Melton. It aligns with State, regional and local policies and is the co-ordinating document guiding land-use in the City.

Ageing Well Strategy 2004-2016

This Strategy was a joint initiative between the Cities of Brimbank and Maribyrnong and the Shire of Melton to define the role of each council in relation to their ageing communities. The vision presented in the Strategy is for '*Communities that offer positive experiences with older people living in age friendly environments.*'

Of the four principles underlying the Strategy, Principle 1 outlines the importance of working with older people to plan and develop communities where people can age well in safety and security. The Open Space Plan will reflect the importance of this principle.

Safer City Plan 2015-17

This plan provides a framework outlining Council's commitment to working with local partners to achieve optimum safety for the City of Melton community members.

The following strategies of the Safer City Plan align with the prinicples of the Open Space Plan:

- Create safe physical, built and natural environments through adherence to Safer Design principles including Crime Prevention Through Environment Design (CPTED).
- Maintain and improve accessibility and attractiveness of public places and spaces to increase levels of perceived and actual safety amongst community members.

Youth Strategy 2014-2017

While the Youth Strategy focuses on the importance of engaging with young people to facilitate appropriate programs and services, under the theme of Safe, Vibrant and Connected Communities, the need for planning of future youth spaces is highlighted.

Municipal Early Years Plan 2014-2017

The Plan sets the direction for services that impact on children aged up to 12 years. It advocates for the provision of a range of diverse opportunities for children to enjoy active and social play and recreation.

Disability Action Plan 2013-2017

The Plan presents a range of themes, goals and actions designed to enhance the participation and wellbeing of people with a disability. Of most importance to this Open Space Plan, the Disability Action Plan recommends actions to establish sporting facilities, open space, playgrounds, walking and cycle trails that encourage people with a disability and carers to be physically active.

3.3 Council consultation

Focussed consultation was undertaken with relevant Council officers to understand current and future open space planning considerations and demand.

Land considerations

- It is perceived that Council has achieved a quality open space network in newer communities through the PSP processes. However, it is important that the Open Space Plan is prescriptive (rather than restrictive) and allows flexibility in ongoing open space development and embellishment
- It is important to recognise the role that small passive open space parcels can play in dense residential areas. While, in general terms, Council's preference will be for a minimum of 0.5ha for local passive open space, it is acknowledged that small parks (down to 0.2ha) can provide important recreation opportunities when developed in a fit-for-purpose manner
- The future regional active open spaces proposed (Warrensbrook and Rockbank South) can begin to address any under-supply at a district level but will also be the preferred sites for hosting state championships and other similar high-level carnivals
- While environmental open space will be recognised within the Open Space Plan, it needs to be highlighted that, depending on the sensitivity of the individual reserves, not all environmental areas will be open for public access. It will remain important that Environmental Services, Leisure and Recreation, Open Space and Strategic Planning continue to liaise closely when future areas are planned. This will ensure a rational approach to land development that considers both environmental and recreation functions.

Embellishment and management considerations

- There is a perception, that the existing network provides limited variety in amenity nor embellishment. To ensure the provision of a diverse, flexible and well-used open space network, Council requires an indicative embellishment list for each open space type. This list will be used by Council to guide development of future new parks and to avoid unnecessary like-for-like infrastructure replacement at the end of asset useful life
- Council's Open Space Asset Management Plan provides for varying levels of service with maintenance practices aligning with open space usage.

3.4 Open space planning approaches

The way in which councils plan open space varies depending on their geographic location, population, council organisational structure and resourcing. The two most common planning approaches within the industry are discussed below.

Needs-based approach

The needs-based approach to open space provision considers the social, demographic and environmental characteristics of an area for which open space is needed or the type of embellishments required in the open space. Not only does the needs-based approach consider the number of people living in the area, but importantly it also takes into account their recreation preferences and cultural differences.

Potential limitations

Unfortunately, the needs-based approach is often costly and time consuming as the information must be obtained through various consultation methods such as community surveys, observations, focus groups and other community interaction. Additionally, the needs of a community can change over time. Further, this approach is not practical in greenfield situations. Hence, this approach is often considered merely a point-in-time approach and is often used as a foundation in master planning activities.

Standards-based approach

Clearly, it is important to develop open spaces that meet the needs of the community. It is also important to have desired standards of service (DSS) for open space by which Council strives to provide a 'minimum' to all residents across the LGA. DSS can be categorised under four broad measures:

- quantity of land for open space
- access to open space
- land characteristics
- level of embellishment.

Quantity standard

The quantity standard identifies the recommended minimum standards for the provision of land for open space. Standards are generally presented as hectares/1,000 (population). Council does not currently have a comprehensive quantity standard expressed in ha/1,000 across its network. (However, these have been established in this project). Alternatively, the Metropolitan Planning Authority (MPA) proposes a set proportion of the net developable area to be provided as open space.

For formal sport planning, Melton City Council considers a provision rate approach. Desired rates are provided for fourteen sports (see Section 4.5).

Accessibility standard

The accessibility standard is used to guide appropriate spatial distribution of open space in terms of the accessibility and distances of the open space to its visitors. The recommended spacing and distribution will vary depending on the hierarchy, and the population to be serviced.

It is hoped that all residents within urban areas are within easy walking distance to an embellished open space area. Best practice guidelines suggest no more than a five minute walk is preferred. Natural and man-made constraints (such as rivers, major highways and rail lines) must also be considered.

Land characteristics

These standards are used as a base in determining quality land characteristics. A range of land types are required to provide diversity within the open space network. These recommended minimum levels of provision will ensure a realistic and achievable quality urban open space network that is generous in accordance with the proposed vision. Land character standards include consideration of:

- size of the open space
- preferred shape of the open space
- flood immunity, topography and gradient
- road frontage
- other site features (creeks, outcrops etc).

Embellishment standard

Embellishment standards are very important in defining open spaces and are also important in making them attractive for a variety of people to use. Embellishments include consideration of:

- activity options - play/recreation opportunities irrespective of age and ability
- furniture (e.g. tables, seats and bins), picnicking infrastructure, public amenities (toilets and showers), sports infrastructure
- buildings, signage, landscaping, car parking, fencing and lighting.

Potential limitations

Standards-based approaches to park provision have received some criticism from both the industry and academia. Potential limitations of the standards approach may include:

- does not consider changing demographics over time
- changes in sport and recreation participation trends are not considered
- does not reflect geographic and climatic influences
- assesses park typology in isolation, without reference to how other park typologies may fill local need/demand (for example higher order park also serve the function of lower order parks in the same typology)
- the standards-based approach focuses on land for open space rather than the activities and opportunities the parks provide.

3.5 Preferred open space planning approach

For future planned communities, Council currently calculates open space requirements using the Metropolitan Planning Authority's net developable area (NDA) model. Using this model, 6% of NDA is required for active open space and 4% of NDA is required for passive open space). This model can be converted to a population-based approach by including 16.5 dwellings per hectare and 2.8 people per dwelling targets.

In light of significant future population growth, Council is in need of a comprehensive and defendable open space planning approach. Given that the majority of this growth will occur in greenfield areas, it is proposed that a standards approach will provide the Melton community with the best outcomes for open space land provision, including clear direction for its future PSPs.

A needs-based approach (to lead the on-ground provision and embellishment) is an important tool to be implemented by Council once the required land has been secured.

The desired land quantity standards presented in the Open Space Strategy have been expressed as hectares: 1,000 residents. Additional standards are also presented for each open space type for accessibility, land characteristics and embellishments.

4. City of Melton's open space network

4.1 Melton City geographic planning areas

In order to assess the current demand for open space across the City, eleven geographic areas have been established. For ease of reference and to ensure data is presented in a logical manner, the existing supply of open space is discussed using these geographic areas. These areas are illustrated in the figure below, while the localities and PSPs included in these areas are highlighted in the adjoining table.

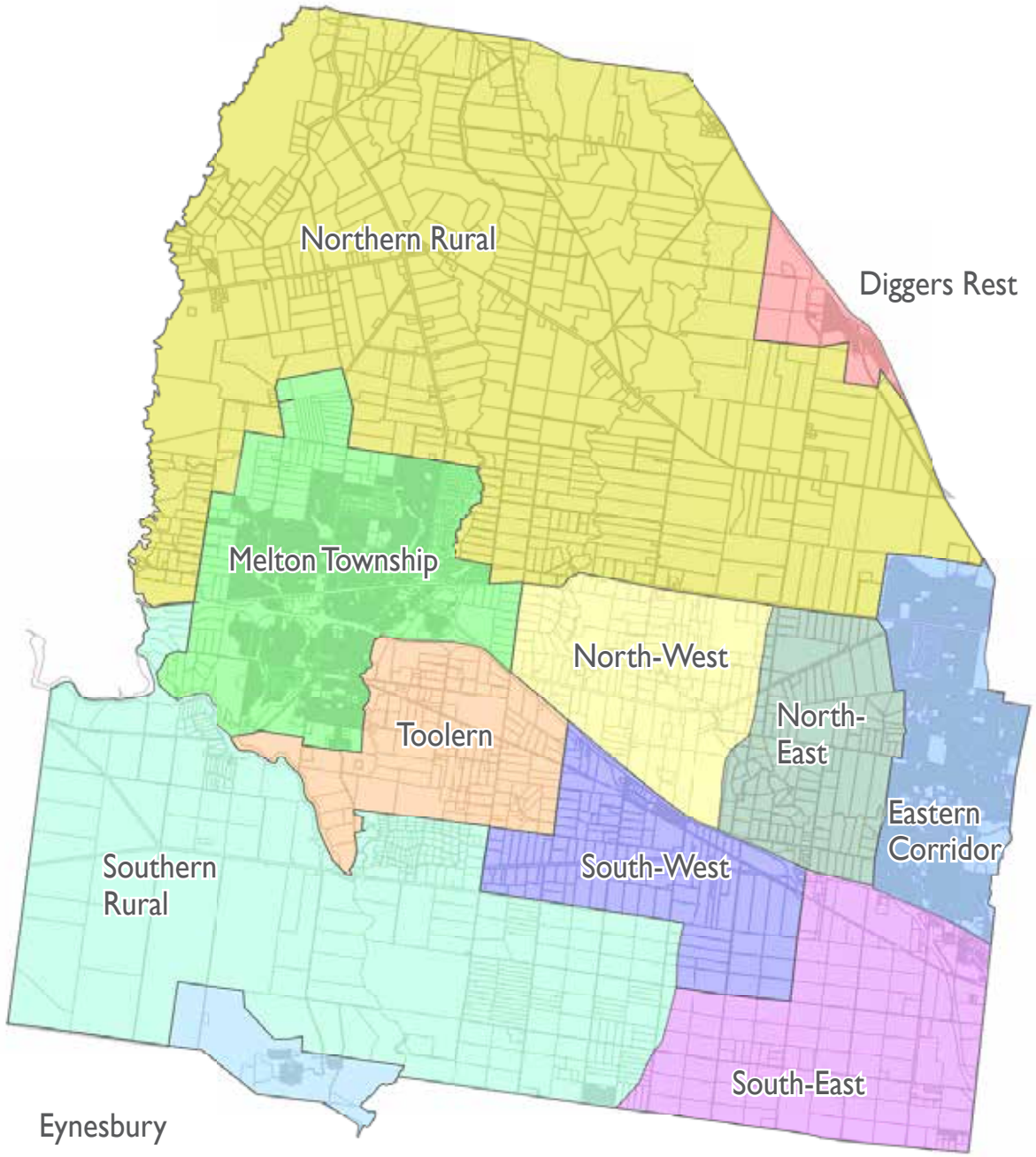


Table 6. Localities and PSPs within planning areas

Geographic planning area	Included localities	Precinct structure plans
Northern Rural	☐ Toolern Vale ☐ Rural balance	
Diggers Rest	☐ Diggers Rest	☐ Diggers Rest (approved)
Melton Township	☐ Brookfield ☐ Kurunjang ☐ Melton ☐ Melton North ☐ Melton South ☐ Melton West	☐ Melton North (approved) ☐ Minns Road (yet to be planned) ☐ Bulmans Road (yet to be planned) ☐ Melton West (yet to be planned)
North-West	☐ Melton East ☐ Rockbank North ☐ Warrensbrook	☐ Melton East (yet to be planned) ☐ Rockbank North (approved) ☐ Warrensbrook (yet to be planned)
North-East	☐ Kororoit ☐ Plumpton ☐ Taylors Hill West	☐ Kororoit (under development) ☐ Plumpton (under development) ☐ Taylors Hill West (approved)
Eastern Corridor	☐ Burnside ☐ Burnside Heights ☐ Caroline Springs ☐ Hillside ☐ Taylors Hill	
Toolern	☐ Toolern ☐ Toolern Park	☐ Toolern (approved) ☐ Toolern Park (approved) ☐ Paynes Road (under development)
South-West	☐ Rockbank ☐ Rockbank South ☐ Mount Atkinson	☐ Rockbank (under development) ☐ Rockbank South (under development) ☐ Mount Atkinson (underdevelopment)
South-East	☐ Chartwell East ☐ Derrimut Fields ☐ Ravenhall ☐ Robinsons Road ☐ Tarneit Plains ☐ Warrawee	☐ Chartwell East (yet to be planned) ☐ Derrimut Fields (yet to be planned) ☐ Ravenhall (yet to be planned) ☐ Robinsons Road Employment Area North (approved) ☐ Robinsons Road Employment Area South (approved) ☐ Tarneit Plains (under development) ☐ Warrawee (yet to be developed)
Southern Rural	☐ Mount Cottrell ☐ Rural balance	
Eynesbury	☐ Eynesbury	☐ Eynesbury Township Development Plan (approved)

4.2 Open space classification framework

Underpinning the Open Space Plan is the classification framework for the open space network. The open space framework is an agreed system that classifies and allocates open space, based on land and activity use.

Various open space types possess different values, functions and settings. Open space needs to be assessed in terms of its existing and likely future function (classification) and its role (hierarchy) within that function.

Table 7. Open space classification system

Core function and purpose	Classification	Hierarchy	Description
Passive recreation *Provides a setting for informal play and physical activity, relaxation and social interaction*	Passive recreation open space	☐ Local ☐ District ☐ Regional	Provide a range of activities in a predominately informal setting. The sites can also contribute to the amenity and environmental values of the City
		☐ Linear[1]	Long and narrow interconnected open space that can contain natural creek lines and associated riparian vegetation. Linear reserves can also play an important secondary role providing cycle and pedestrian pathways, and values consistent with other open space categories
		☐ Encumbered[2]	Encumbered open space is often associated with areas for stormwater, drainage and utility infrastructure. However, it can also add value to the core open space network through provision of pedestrian connections and enhancing visual amenity
Active recreation *Provides a setting for formal structured sporting activities*	Active recreation open space	☐ District ☐ Regional	Sites predominately used for active or competitive recreation including grassed or synthetic playing fields and courts
		☐ Specialised active	Open space provided for sporting activities where the nature of the sport precludes the easy transfer of use to an alternative sport, or the nature of the activity precludes free, unrestricted access to members of the public, or where the land and facility requirements result in provision of high level provision of sport (e.g. large stadia, shooting facilities, golf courses)
Environmental protection *Provides a setting where biodiversity is the primary purpose of the reserve*	Environmental open space	☐ Environmental	Reserves that contain biodiversity features of local, regional, state or federal significance. As the primary use of the open space is for environmental protection, the area is likely to be significantly encumbered and may preclude unrestricted public access. The reserve may provide a natural backdrop to a neighbourhood and/or recreation opportunities as a secondary function

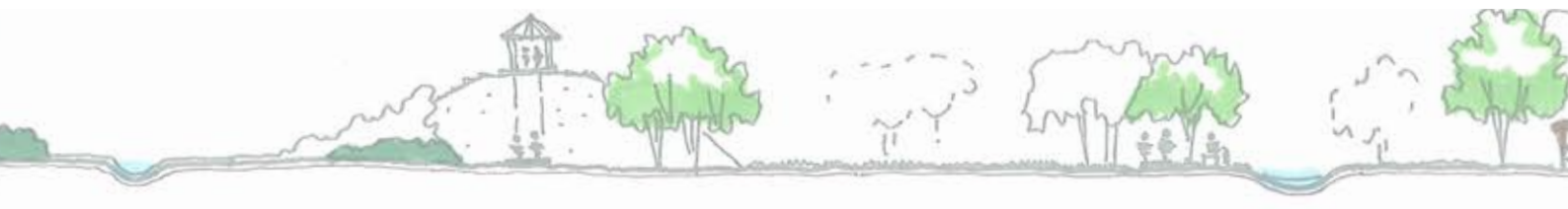
1,2 - While linear reserves and encumbered open space have been classified as examples of passive recreation, they have not been included within the core open space analysis. However, where linear reserves play an important recreation role this has been acknowledged.

Functional breakdown of the open space classification

The classification of an open space element is determined by the site's primary function, even if there are multiple functions, or sub-functions. The classification is based on the function that makes up the greatest percentage of the site (and/or represents the most heavily used endeavour). An open space element may also have multiple secondary functions.

Table 8. Examples of multi-function open space

Open space	Primary function	Secondary function
Burnside Heights Recreation Reserve	District Active	District Passive
West Melton Recreation Reserve	District Active	Linear
Lake Caroline Reserve	Encumbered	District Passive
Navan Park	Regional Passive	Linear
Kororoit Creek Linear Reserve	Linear	Local Passive



4.3 Desired standards of service

Desired standards of service (DSS) are the level of open space that Council strives to provide as a minimum to all residents across the local government area. As previously noted, DSS are often categorised under four broad measures - quantity of land for open space, access to open space, land characteristics and embellishments.

The access and quantity standards are, traditionally, the two primary measures used to assess and plan for open space land demands. Land characteristics and the level of embellishment provide additional information that should be used as a guide in developing open space. Recognising that it is equally important to provide a diverse range of open space opportunities must also be considered in this process.

Unfortunately, it is not always possible to apply these standards for each different classification of open space as many of them are opportunistic, dependant on site-specific attributes (e.g. topographical or geographical) and/or are intrinsically linked to social or environmental descriptors. As such, it is commonplace that DSS are only set for core open space (formal parks (passive open space) and outdoor sporting facilities (active open space)).

The Metropolitan Planning Authority's preferred net developable area (NDA) rates of 6% of NDA for active open space and 4% of NDA for passive open space has been converted to a ha:1,000 population provision rate.

New residential developments are projected to have an average of 16.5 dwellings per hectare and 2.8 people per dwelling.

- ☐ This results in 46.2 people per hectare (e.g. 16.5 x 2.8)
- ☐ This would result in 1,000 people requiring 21.65ha (e.g. 1,000/46.2)
- ☐ If the preferred provision rate for active open space is 6%, this equates to 1.3ha of active open space per 1,000 people (e.g. 21.65 x .06)
- ☐ If the preferred provision rate for passive open space is 4%, this equates to 0.9ha of passive open space per 1,000 people (e.g. 21.65 x .04).

In terms of passive open space, the Metropolitan Planning Authority Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines only call for the development of local-level facilities (rather than also acknowledging district-level). As a result, Council has determined that a higher proportion of the 0.9ha/1,000 people for passive open space is designated for local-level facilities. However, Council also recognises the importance of higher-level facilities that provide for a greater range of recreation opportunities. Thus, Council has included a DSS for district-level passive open space to ensure variety across the open space network.

Table 9. DSS for core open space

Classification	Hierarchy	Size	Accessibility	Provision rate
Passive open space	Local	0.2-2ha (min. 0.5ha generally preferred, unless smaller is considered fit-for-purpose)	400m	0.6ha/1,000 people
	District	2ha+	2km	0.3ha/1,000 people
	Regional[1]	20ha+	n/a	n/a
Active open space	District	6-15ha	1km	1.3ha/1,000 people
	Regional[1]	15ha+	n/a	n/a

1 - Council has determined that it will not set a desired standard of service for the provision of regional-level open space.The provision of this form of open space is considered to be on a site- and time-specific basis. Parks Victoria has taken a lead role in providing regional passive open space.

Note: these DSS are repeated under the relevant individual open space types detailed in Section 4.4. Additionally, the land characteristics and embellishment DSS are also highlighted where relevant.

4.4 Open space types

This section provides detailed information relating to the different open space types within the City of Melton.

This section helps to inform the future embellishment and upgrade of existing open space and the planning and delivery of future open space. Further influencing embellishment considerations, is the need to provide a range of different recreation opportunities in smaller individual catchments (e.g. suburbs and precincts). Importantly, Council's Landscape Design Guidelines should be consulted for further detail regarding open space design and embellishment.

Local passive

Description and intent

Local passive recreation open space (parks) provide a range of recreation opportunities for local residents. These parks contain limited infrastructure, yet offer local community benefits.

Local passive recreation parks are intended to offer residents a complementary open space to their backyards. They are likely to attract users from a small catchment area (about 400m radius) and generally cater for short visits by small groups.

Local passive recreation parks will be centrally located to the catchment or as hubs along recreation corridors where such corridors exist. There are many cost and land efficiencies (such as from dual use of land and consolidation of embellishments) that can be gained by developing hubs along pathways that connect key community areas such as: residents to schools, retails hubs etc.

Where a number of parks are to be provided, or are to receive embellishment upgrades within an area or community, planning studies could be developed. These plans will ensure that the park embellishment suitably and collectively meets the needs and demands of the community. Furthermore, each park should complement nearby open space and be relevant to the local area, its character and demographic.

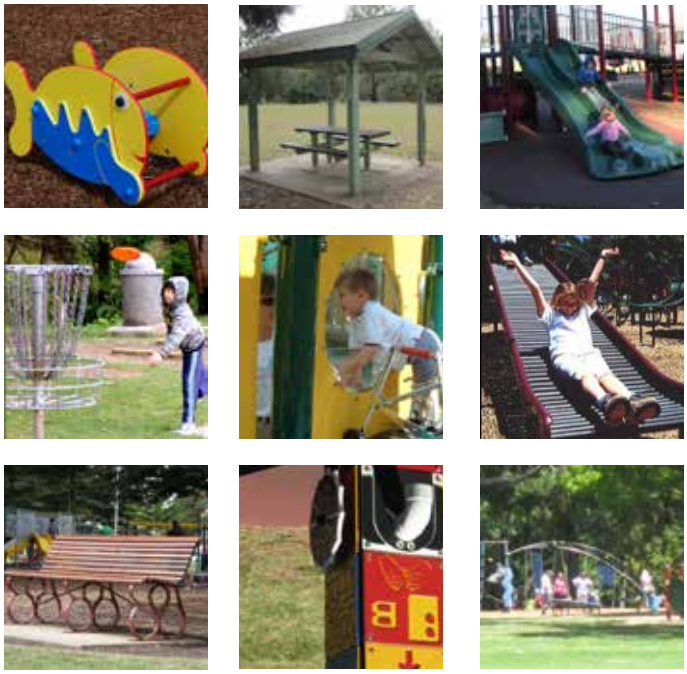


Table 10. Local passive open space - DSS

DSS	Description	Standard
Quantity	Based on a hectare/1,000 people measurement	0.6ha/1,000 population for all planning catchments except Northern Rural, Southern Rural and South-East where minimal ultimate population bases are predicted
Accessibility	Distance between urban residents and open space (metres)	400m for 95% of dwellings
Land characteristics	Size	0.2-2.0ha of usable space for stand-alone local passive open space. While a minimum of 0.5ha of usable space is preferred, it is acknowledged that smaller parcels can be fit-for-purpose in some instances
	Shape	Broadly square to rectangular (or round) with the sides no greater than 2:1
	Road frontage	Minimum 50% of the park perimeter to have direct road frontage
	Gradient	Maximum grade of 1:10 for 80% of the area of the park (i.e. a maximum of 20% of the land may have a greater grade than 1:10)
	Flood immunity	100 year ARI for play node infrastructure 20 year ARI for remainder

District passive

Description and intent

District passive recreation open space parcels are larger sized parks providing a range of facilities and activity spaces for recreation. These parks have facilities to cater for large groups and are appealing to a wide range of users. District passive recreation parks can service several suburbs depending on population density, and are well known destinations for those people living within their catchment. Ideally, district passive recreation parks are located near social infrastructure such as schools, community centres and halls.








Table 11. District passive open space - DSS

DSS	Description	Standard
Quantity	Based on a hectare/1,000 people measurement	0.3ha/1,000 population for all planning catchments except Northern Rural, Southern Rural and South-East where minimal ultimate population bases are predicted
Accessibility	Distance between urban residents and open space (metres)	2km for 95% of dwellings
Land characteristics	Size	2ha+ (at least 1ha of usable space - free from encumbrances)
	Shape	Broadly square to rectangular (or round) with the sides no greater than 3:1
	Road frontage	50% of the park perimeter to have direct road frontage
	Gradient	Average grade of 1:10 for 80% of the area of the park
	Flood immunity	100 year ARI for play node infrastructure 20 year ARI for remainder

Regional passive

Description and intent

These open spaces are major recreation parks that offer a wide variety of opportunities to a broad cross-section of the City's population and visitors. They are large, embellished for recreation, are well known amongst residents and are major destinations.

People are usually content spending several hours in these parks. Regional passive parks offer unique experiences. They are often used to host large community events such as carols in the park, Australia Day celebrations and other festivals. Regional passive parks offer exciting and no cost activities for residents and visitors.

Table 12. Regional passive open space - DSS

DSS	Description	Standard
Quantity	Given specific nuances of regional passive open space (e.g. site - and time-specific, potentially developed by others) no quantity standard is provided	
Accessibility	As regional passive open space is site-specific no accessibility standard is provided	
Land characteristics	Size	20ha+ (at least 10ha of usable space - free from encumbrances)
	Shape	Broadly square to rectangular (or round) with the sides no greater than 3:1
	Road frontage	30-50% of the park perimeter to have direct road frontage
	Gradient	Average grade of 1:20 for main use areas, 1:50 for kick-about area, variable topography for remainder
	Flood immunity	100 year ARI for play node infrastructure and main use areas 20 year ARI for kick-about 5 year ARI for remainder

Linear passive

Description and intent

Linear passive recreation open space provides pedestrian connectivity and can link open spaces, local residences, community infrastructure and commercial areas. The land contains infrastructure to facilitate recreation use, including a formed path, signage and seating and offers an attractive recreation setting.

In areas like Melton City where the potential benefits of linear open space have been embraced, these open space types have the potential to create a 'green web' across the community. A large portion of the network is often located along riparian areas, drainage corridors and other easements (rail, telecommunications). Subsequently, the land usually has dual-functionality.

Linear open space provides health and environmental benefits. Walking and cycling continue to be the preferred physical activity options for all areas of Australia, with no trend to support a shift. Linear parks can encourage more (off-road and tree lined) walking, cycling and other wheel-based movement experiences.

Linear parks should link and be located so they are easily accessed. As such, consideration must be given to where people live and where they are most likely going to walk and/or cycle. Linking residential areas to retail/commercial hubs and social hubs (schools, sporting facilities, shops, pools etc) can provide important green pedestrian and cycle corridors. It is also beneficial to create a series of circuits rather than up-and-back paths. A number of interconnecting circuits can offer an array of options for users of different abilities, from short, easy circuits to longer and more-challenging ones.

Linear parks must link with the on-road path network, however, to keep the feel of the linear park, the development of 'Park Streets' should be considered where possible. The 'Park Street' concept takes advantage of wide streets that have sufficient space to accommodate a pedestrian path (and other park-like embellishments such as seating).

Linear parks may also aid in providing ecological corridors and links for flora and fauna due to the provision of green inter-connectivity (e.g. Toolern Creek Park).

Table 13. Linear passive open space - DSS

DSS	Description	Standard
Quantity	n/a	
Accessibility	n/a (site-specific)	
Land characteristics	Size	Minimum 15m width
	Road frontage	Minimum 30% of the park perimeter to have direct road frontage. However, maximum 80m without direct road access (to enhance pedestrian safety)
	Gradient	Flat areas required to encourage walking and cycling
	Flood immunity	5 year ARI for pathways

Encumbered passive

Description and intent

Encumbered passive open space is land that can be classified for the following purposes: water bodies, utility infrastructure (e.g. electricity transmissions, telecommunications, water and sewerage); waterway or drainage corridors; and easements.

These parcels may enable pedestrian access between the road network and other land uses and may provide areas of visual amenity.

Standards

The standards employed for encumbered land (that may offer some open space function or purpose) will be determined by input from engineers and transport planners. To ensure best practice community outcomes and to maximise the recreation and amenity potential of the spaces, it is important that Parks, Open Space and Leisure and Recreation are involved in pre-planning discussions.

District active

Description and intent

District active open space provides the vast majority of the venues for the City's training and club fixtures. A range of sports are catered for in these multi-use facilities including both field and court sports. Supporting facilities provided at district active open space allow clubs to effectively operate and include amenities, pavilion, storage, lighting and car parking.

Table 14. District active open space - DSS

DSS	Description	Standard
Quantity	Based on a hectare/1,000 people measurement	1.3ha/1,000 population for all planning catchments except Northern Rural, Southern Rural and South-East where minimal ultimate population bases are predicted
Accessibility	Distance between urban residents and open space (metres)	1km for 95% of all dwellings
Land characteristics	Size	6-15ha
	Shape	Broadly square to rectangular. Fields and courts to be aligned north-south
	Road frontage	Minimum 25% of the park perimeter to have direct road frontage
	Gradient	Minimum 1:80 for all playing surfaces
	Flood immunity	100 year ARI for infrastructure (pavilions, lighting) 50 year ARI for playing fields

Regional active

Description and intent

Regional active open space (sportsgrounds and courts) are larger parks providing a greater number of fields/ovals and multi-purpose courts for formal sporting purposes. Facilities include a range of training and competition infrastructure as well as supporting facilities including pavilions, amenities, car parking, lighting and passive recreation nodes.

The level and quality of infrastructure at regional active open space facilities enable clubs (or associations) to host higher-level competitions and/or multi-day carnivals.

Regional active open space provides free, unrestricted access to the public when formal sport is not being undertaken. Public access may also include special and community events being hosted at these larger facilities including exhibitions, shows and festivals.

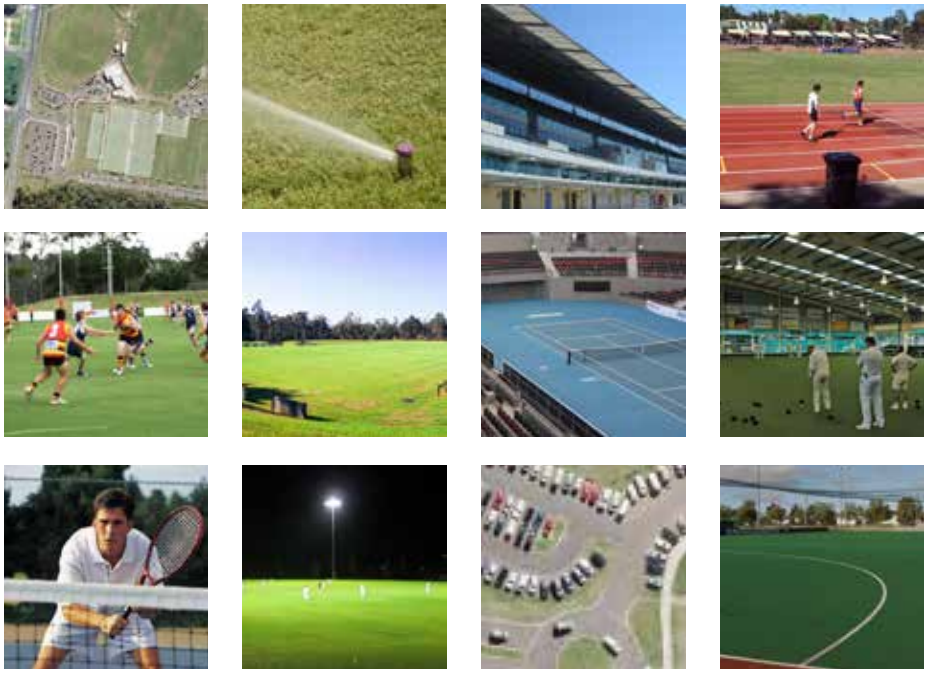


Table 15. Regional active open space - DSS

DSS	Description	Standard
Quantity	Given specific nuances of regional active open space (e.g. site and time-specific, potentially developed by others) no quantity standard is provided	
Accessibility	As regional active open space is site-specific no accessibility standard is provided	
Land characteristics	Size	15ha+
	Shape	Broadly square to rectangular. Fields and courts to be aligned north-south
	Road frontage	Minimum 25% of the park perimeter to have direct road frontage
	Gradient	Minimum 1:80 for all playing surfaces
	Flood immunity	100 year ARI for infrastructure (pavilions, lighting) 50 year ARI for playing fields

Specialised active

Description and intent

Specialised active open space provides for sporting activities where the nature of the sport precludes the easy transfer of use to an alternative sport; or the nature of the activity precludes free, unrestricted access to members of the public; or where the land and facility requirements result in provision of high level provision of sport (e.g. large stadia).

Specialised sports include (amongst others):

- ☐ indoor sport
- ☐ aquatics
- ☐ motocross/motorcycling
- ☐ equestrian
- ☐ golf
- ☐ shooting
- ☐ car racing
- ☐ model aeroplanes
- ☐ lawn bowls
- ☐ croquet
- ☐ field archery/bow hunting.









Environmental

Description and intent

These areas could be considered as environmental protection or conservation areas that contain biodiversity features of significance. The sites may vary from large sites with a diversity of vegetation communities and extensive connectivity to smaller isolated sites that, although fragmented, provide or have potential to provide habitat for significant plants, animals or vegetation communities or protect an intact section of riparian habitat. Although these sites are of ecological value, they may contain some cleared or degraded areas requiring rehabilitation.

Standards

No standards exist for environmental open space as they are opportunistic in nature.

4.5 Open space assessment by planning area

Northern Rural planning area

Location

The Northern Rural geographic planning area is comprised of rural areas north of the Urban Growth Boundary and a section west of Melton Township (to the north of the Western Highway). The Diggers Rest PSP has been excluded from Northern Rural.

Population projections

As noted in the table below, this planning area is sparsely populated and not expected to see significant increases in coming years (forecast.id).

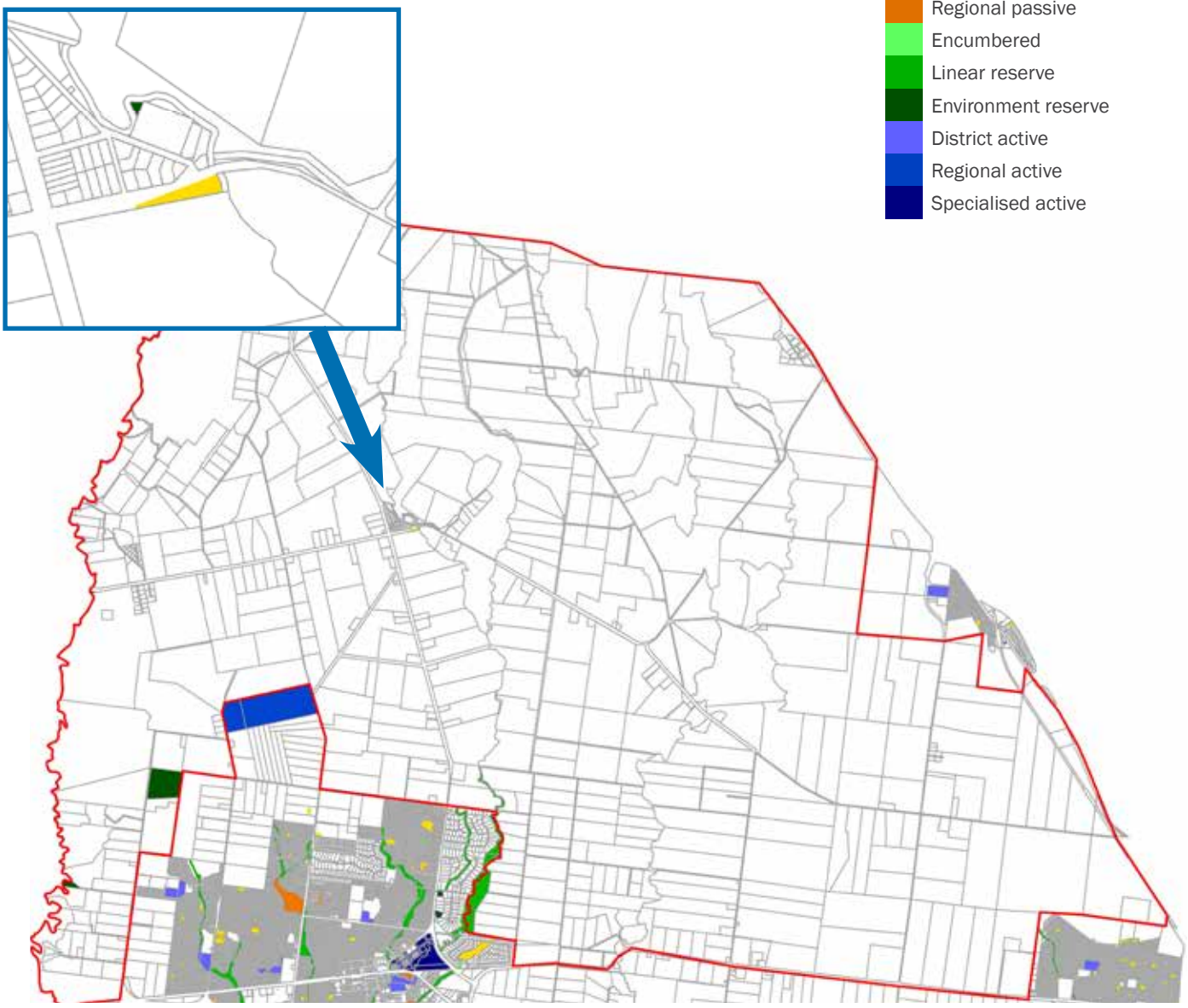
Table 16. Northern Rural population projections

Year	Planning area population	Citywide population	Percentage of City's population
2016	879	134,967	0.7%
2026	920	207,256	0.4%
Ultimate build out	1,016	441,000	0.2%

Toolern Vale Recreation Reserve

Current supply[1,2]

Given the limited population, it is not surprising that there is only one core open space parcel in the area - Toolern Vale Recreation Reserve. There are additional areas (6.4ha) of environmental reserve in the southern end of the planning area.

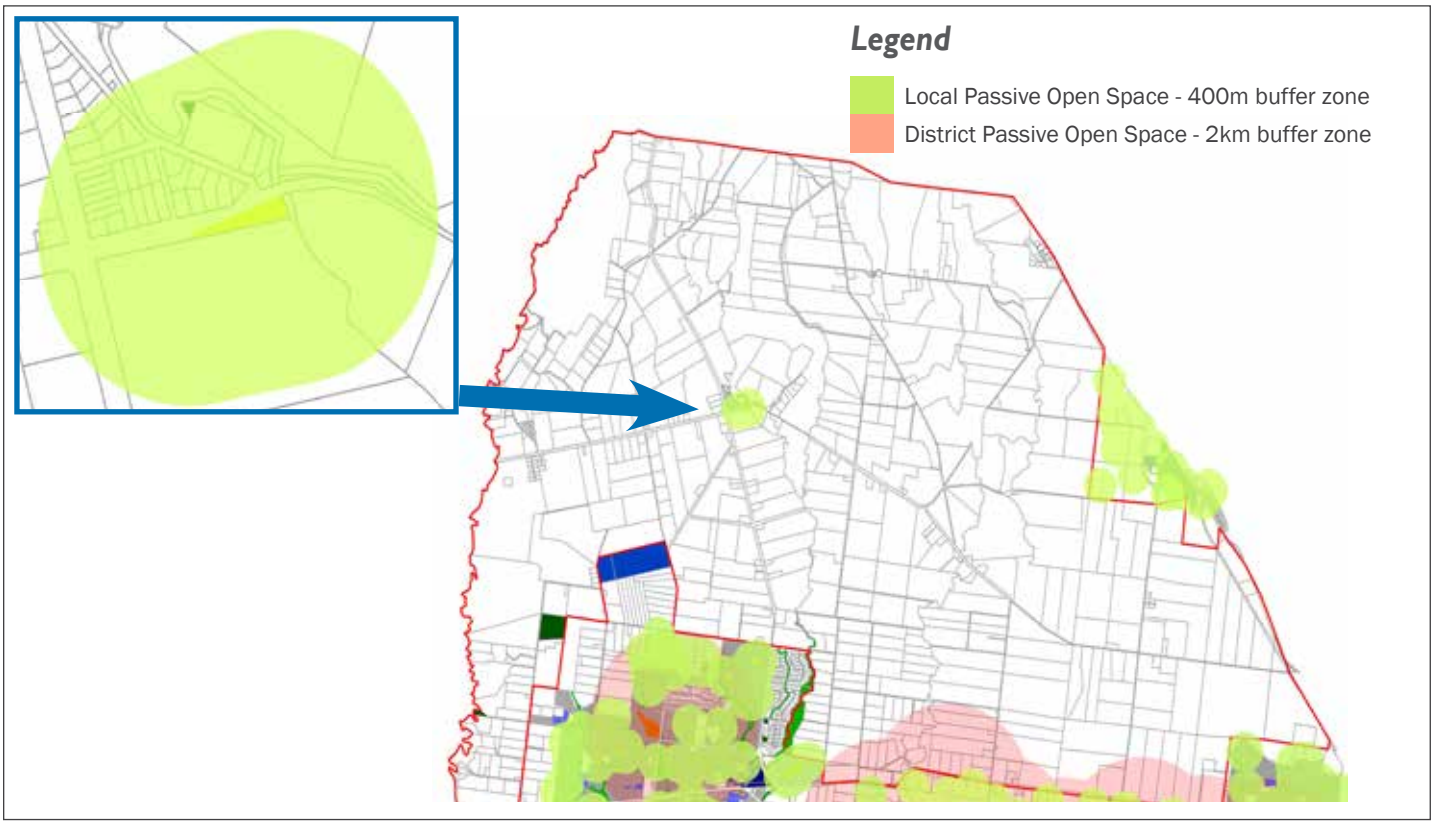


1 *Open space available at education facilities and private providers has not been included in quantifying supply in any of the planning areas*

2 *It is important to note that regional-level open space can also function as district-level. Similarly, district-level open space can also function as local-level*

Planned supply and open space accessibility

There is no future open space planned for the Northern Rural planning area. As such, the map below indicates accessibility to the current open space network. Toolern Vale Recreation Reserve is shown with a local-level catchment (400m buffer).



Toolern Vale Recreation Reserve

Demand and gap assessment

Using the desired standard of service for land supply of 2.2ha/1,000 (being 0.6ha for local passive, 0.3ha for district passive and 1.3ha for district active), the likely demand for open space and any gaps in the planned provision are detailed in the table below. This demand assessment is based on the land standard and population projections only.

Table 17. Northern Rural open space demand and supply assessment

Classification	Applicable hierarchy	Current supply (ha)	Total supply (ha)[1]	Desired supply (ha)[2]	Ultimate gap (ha)[3]
Passive open space	Local Passive	0.96	0.96	0.61	0.35
	District Passive	0	0	0.30	-0.3
Active open space	District Active	0	0	1.32	-1.32

1 - Total supply = current supply
2 - Desired supply = ultimate build out population projection x desired standards of service
3 - Ultimate gap = total supply - desired supply (Note - positive numbers reflect an over-supply, negative numbers reflect an under-supply)

Analysis

The demand and gap assessment suggests that the Northern Rural area requires a small amount of both district passive open space and active open space. Additionally, the accessibility map highlights that there are large sections of the area without ready access to core open space. However, given the limited population base and the rural nature of this area (where residents are likely to have access to 'open space' on their large properties), this area is considered appropriately catered for now and into the future.

In addition, those residents at the western and southern ends of the Northern Rural area have access to sport and recreation opportunities in the Melton Township planning area, while those in the east will have access to quality opportunities at Diggers Rest as it continues to develop.

Diggers Rest planning area

Location

The Diggers Rest geographic planning area is comprised largely of the township of Diggers Rest. While the area appears somewhat geographically isolated when considered in the terms of the remainder of the City of Melton, the town of Sunbury is located directly to the north of the Diggers Rest area.

Population projections

Significant urban growth is predicted for Diggers Rest. In fact, the population is expected to increase more than seven-fold between 2016 and ultimate build out. This growth is predicted to be from many young families moving to the area - resulting in marked increases in the proportion of young people and those aged 30-39 years residing in the area (forecast.id).

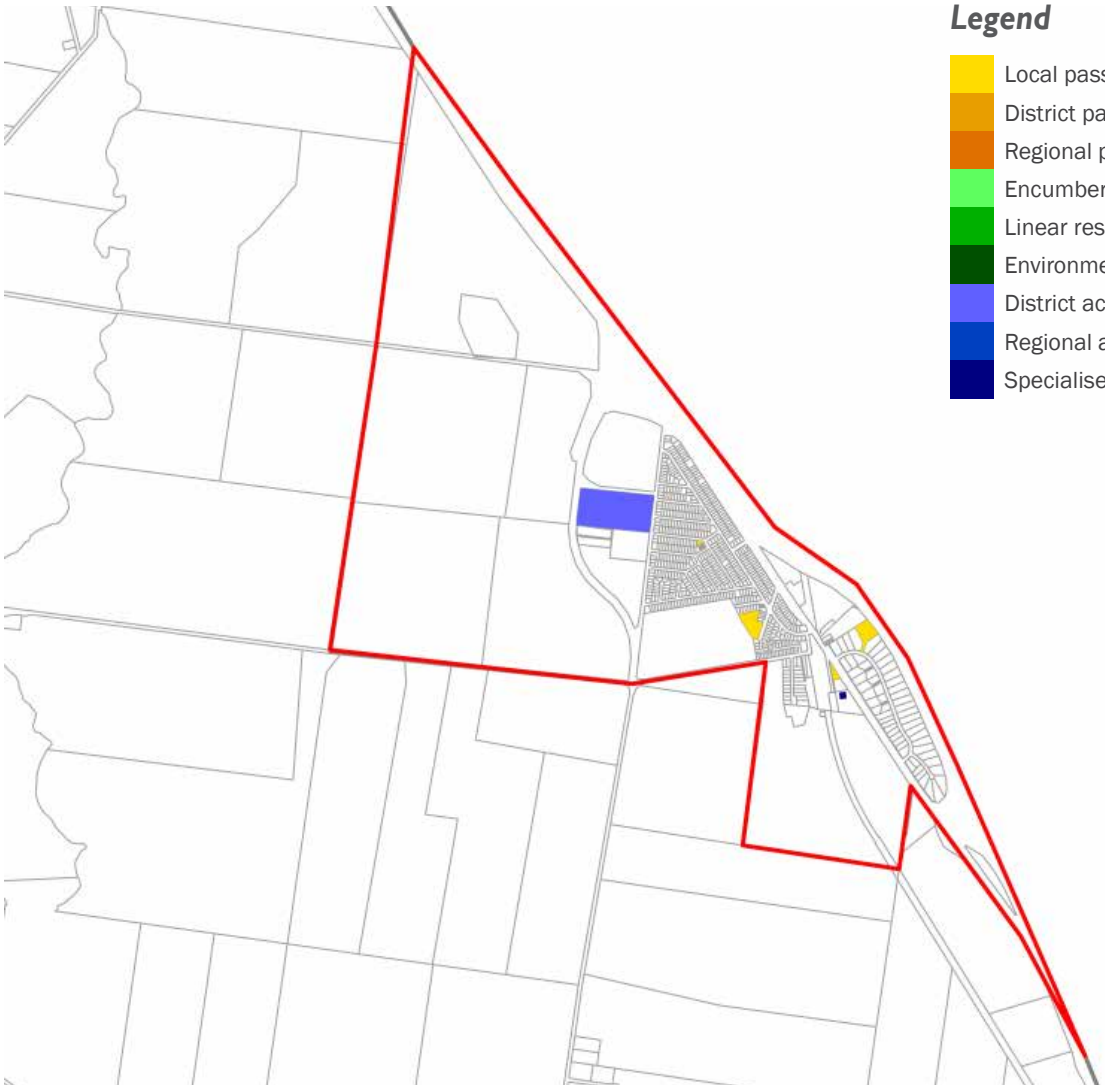
Table 18. Diggers Rest population projections

Year	Planning area population	Citywide population	Percentage of City's population
2016	1,952	134,967	1.5%
2026	6,442	207,256	3.1%
Ultimate build out	13,922	441,000	3.2%

Diggers Rest Recreation Reserve

Current supply

There are a number of open space parcels within the Diggers Rest planning area, despite the limited existing population base. The area is currently serviced by four local parks and a district-level active open space - Diggers Rest Recreation Reserve. Indeed, this provision results in a current slight over-supply of passive open space and a significant over-supply in active open space. The 8ha (approx.) of current active open space will service a population of more than 6,000 residents (before the need for additional land is triggered).



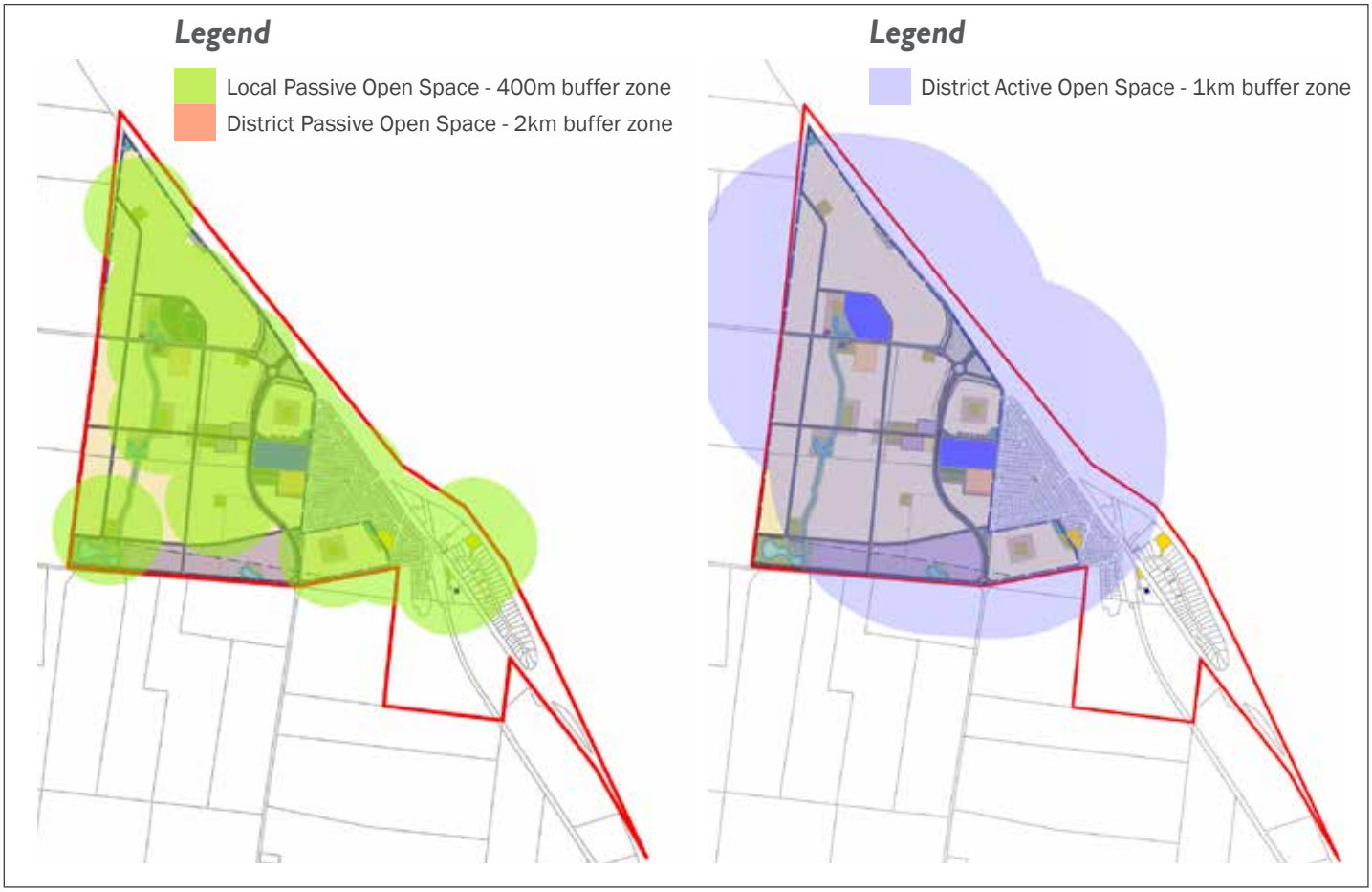
Planned supply (approved PSP)

The approved Diggers Rest PSP includes 16.64ha of unencumbered active open space and 9.56ha of unencumbered passive open space. The active open space is to be spread across two sites. The first site, Diggers Rest Recreation Reserve, has been constructed and includes two full-size ovals, four tennis courts, netball court and pavilion. The second facility is proposed to include two full-sized ovals, two netball courts, pavilion and car parking. The passive open space is to be distributed amongst twelve parcels with linear open space providing linkages in the western portion of the PSP.

Diggers Rest Recreation Reserve

Open space accessibility

The maps below indicate accessibility to the current and planned open space network. Importantly, the exact location of the future open spaces will be determined at detailed design stage. However, these maps do provide an overall indication of accessibility to the network. In addition to local-level passive open space, 400m buffer zones have also been highlighted for district- and regional-level passive open space and district-level active open space given that they can also function as local-level passive open space for nearby residents.



Demand and gap assessment

Using the desired standard of service for land supply of 2.2ha/1,000 (being 0.6ha for local passive, 0.3ha for district passive and 1.3ha for district active), the likely demand for open space and any gaps in the planned provision are detailed in the table below. This demand assessment is based on the land standard and population projections only.

Table 19. Diggers Rest open space demand and supply assessment

Classification	Applicable hierarchy	Current supply (ha)	Approved PSP (ha)	Total supply (ha)[1]	Desired supply (ha)[2]	Ultimate gap (ha)[3]
Passive open space	Local Passive	2.36	9.56	11.92	8.35	3.57
	District Passive	0	0	0	4.18	-4.18
Active open space	District Active	8.09	8.64	16.73	18.10	-1.37

1 - Total supply = current supply + approved PSP
2 - Desired supply = ultimate build out population projection x desired standards of service
3 - Ultimate gap = total supply - desired supply (Note - positive numbers reflect an over-supply, negative numbers reflect an under-supply)

Analysis

As a young and growing community, the approved Diggers Rest PSP will provide much of the open space for the planning area.

Passive open space

The 9.56ha of passive open space identified in the Diggers Rest PSP is all local-level given that, to date, none of the approved PSPs include district-level provision. As a result, the demand and gap assessment highlights a slight over-supply in local-level passive open space and a reflective under-supply of district-level open space.

Potentially, Council may look to develop one of the proposed local parks as a higher-level district park (or to establish a significant passive recreation node within the northern playing fields development commensurate with a district passive park). This will be important to ensure diversity in recreation opportunities across the open space network for Diggers Rest.

Active open space

With approximately 8ha of district-level active open space identified in the PSP already developed and an additional 8.5ha (approximately) to be developed as growth is achieved, the planning area will be relatively well serviced for this form of open space. The slight under-supply (of less than 1.5ha) is insignificant and does not require additional land acquisition.

Melton Township planning area

Location

The Melton Township geographic planning area is comprised of Brookfield, Kurunjang, Melton, Melton North PSP, Melton South and Melton West. The Melton Township forms the western population base for the City of Melton.

Population projections

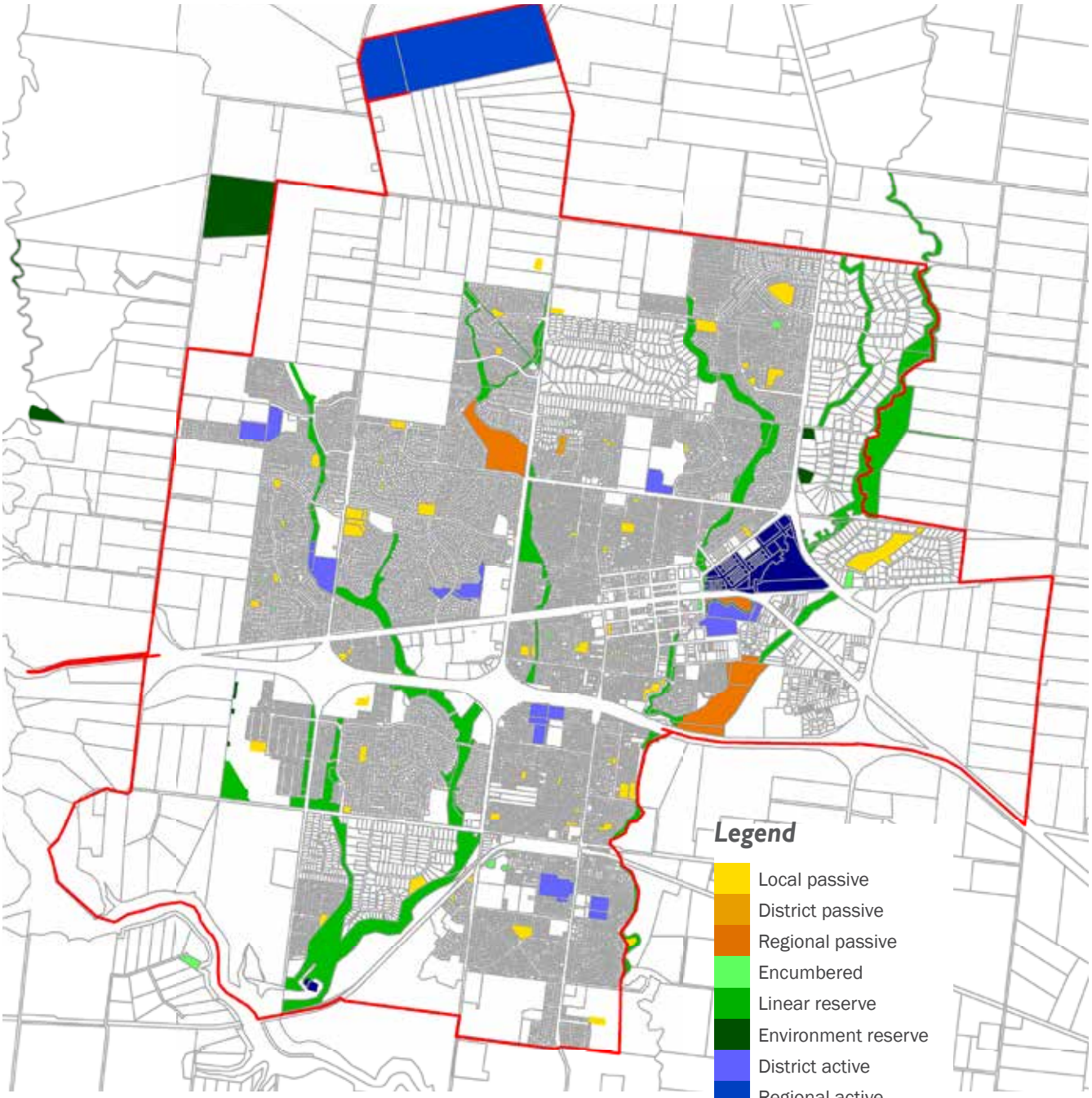
Whilst Melton Township is already heavily developed, opportunity remains for infill development and for greenfield development associated with the Melton North PSP. As a result, forecast.id project that the population in this planning area is expected to grow by 59% (more than 30,000 residents) between 2016and 2036. By 2036, a slight aging of the population is forecast.

Table 20. Melton Township population projections

Year	Planning area population	Citywide population	Percentage of City's population
2016	58,618	134,967	43.8%
2026	71,540	207,256	34.5%
Ultimate build out	84,818	441,000	19.2%

Current supply

As a long-established residential community, residents and visitors to the Melton Township planning area have access to a wide range of core open space opportunities. This planning area is the only one within the City of Melton with current access to all forms of core open space - from small local parks through to well-establish regional passive open spaces, from single field sporting venues through to the only regional-level multi-field sporting complex in the LGA. In addition, this area has vast tracts of linear open space that link residential areas, community hubs, parks and sporting facilities.



Planned supply (approved PSP)

The approved Melton North PSP includes 5.82ha of unencumbered active open space and 3.37ha of unencumbered passive open space. The active open space is proposed to include one full-sized oval, tennis courts, pavilion and car parking. The passive open space is to be distributed amongst three primary parcels with a small section also included within the Little Blind Creek linear reserve.


Kurunjang Recreation Reserve


Melton South Recreation Reserve

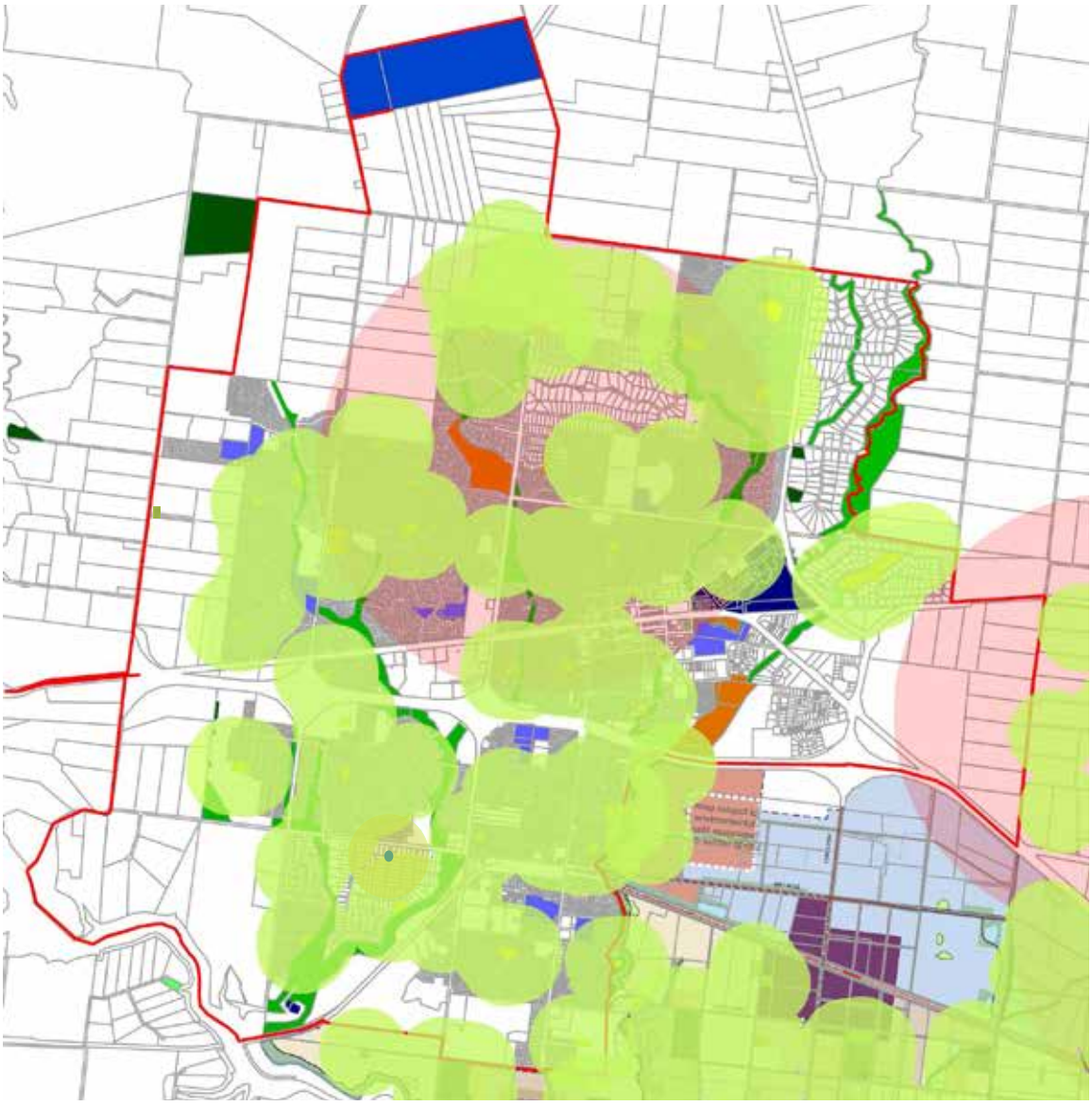
Open space accessibility

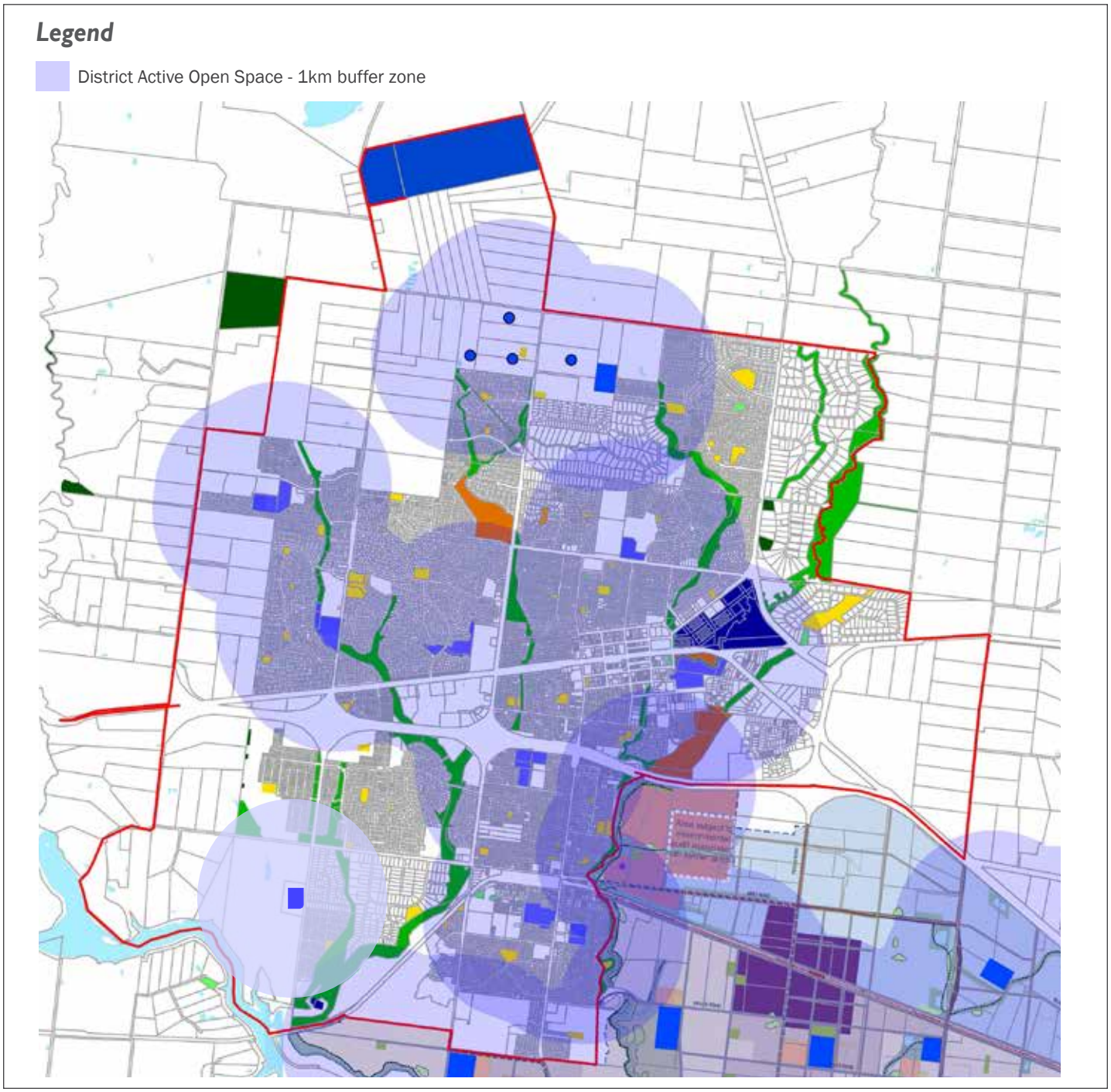
The following two maps indicate accessibility to the current and planned open space network. Importantly, the exact location of the future open spaces will be determined at detailed design stage. However, these maps do provide an overall indication of accessibility to the network. In addition to local-level passive open space, 400m buffer zones have also been highlighted for district- and regional-level passive open space and district-level active open space given that they can also function as local-level passive open space for nearby residents. Similarly, the district-level function of Council's only regional-level active open space (Macpherson Park) is acknowledged by the district active 1km buffer area.

Legend

Local Passive Open Space - 400m buffer zone

District Passive Open Space - 2km buffer zone




Legend
District Active Open Space - 1km buffer zone

Demand and gap assessment

Using the desired standard of service for land supply of 2.2ha/1,000 (being 0.6ha for local passive, 0.3ha for district passive and 1.3ha for district active), the likely demand for open space and any gaps in the planned provision are detailed in the table below. This demand assessment is based on the land standard and population projections only.

Table 21. Melton Township open space demand and supply assessment

Classification	Applicable hierarchy	Current supply (ha)	Approved PSP (ha)	Proposed PSP (ha)[1]	Total supply (ha)[2]	Desired supply (ha)[3]	Ultimate gap (ha)[4]
Passive open space	Local Passive	27.69	3.37	13.56	44.62	50.89	-6.27
	District Passive	31.54	0	6.78	38.32	24.44	13.88
Active open space	District Active	56.01	5.82	29.38	91.21	110.26	-19.05

1 - Proposed PSP - where draft PSPs are yet to be developed, the DSS has been used to project open space development given population projections
2 - Total supply = current supply + approved PSP
3 - Desired supply = ultimate build out population projection x desired standards of service
4 - Ultimate gap = total supply - desired supply (Note - positive numbers reflect an over-supply, negative numbers reflect an under-supply)

Analysis

Passive open space

This assessment highlights some interesting findings. There is an under-supply of local passive open space forecast. However, this under-supply appears somewhat reduced by an over-supply of district passive open space. Those areas that are not within 400m of a local park, are all well-serviced by district parks. Further, residents and visitors to Melton Township also have access to the City's three regional-level passive open spaces - Hannah Watts Park, Navan Park and the Botanic Garden.

Looking ahead, the current supply of district passive open space more than meets demand for this type of open space through until ultimate build out. This will help to offset some of the 19.22ha under-supply predicted for local passive open space. Finally, with residents also having access to regional-level passive open space and quality linear open space, no additional local-level facilities (outside the 3.37ha planned for in the Melton North PSP) are considered necessary.

Active open space

District active open space is identified as having an under-supply of more than 19ha at ultimate build out. However, MacPherson Park (Council's only regional-level active open space) is a 97.9ha multi-sport facility on the northern boundary of the planning area. This facility will largely make up for the district-level shortfall.

North-West planning area

Location

The North-West geographic planning area is comprised of Melton East, Warrensbrook, and Rockbank North PSPs. The Western Freeway forms the southern boundary while the Melton Highway is the planning area boundary to the north.

Population projections

At present, this area is typified by rural living with a very small population base. However, significant growth is projected for this planning area with residential development associated with the Rockbank North, Melton East and Warrensbrook PSPs. A substantial ultimate build out of 62,400 is forecast. (The third largest planning area population base behind Melton Township and Eastern Corridor).

The bulk of this new population is predicted to result from young families moving to the area (forecast.id).

Table 22. North-West population projections

Year	Planning area population	Citywide population	Percentage of City's population
2016	282	134,967	0.2%
2026	8,499	207,256	4.1%
Ultimate build out	62,400	441,000	14.1%

Current supply

As a rural area with limited population, there are currently no open space parcels within the North-West planning area.

Planned supply

Approved PSP

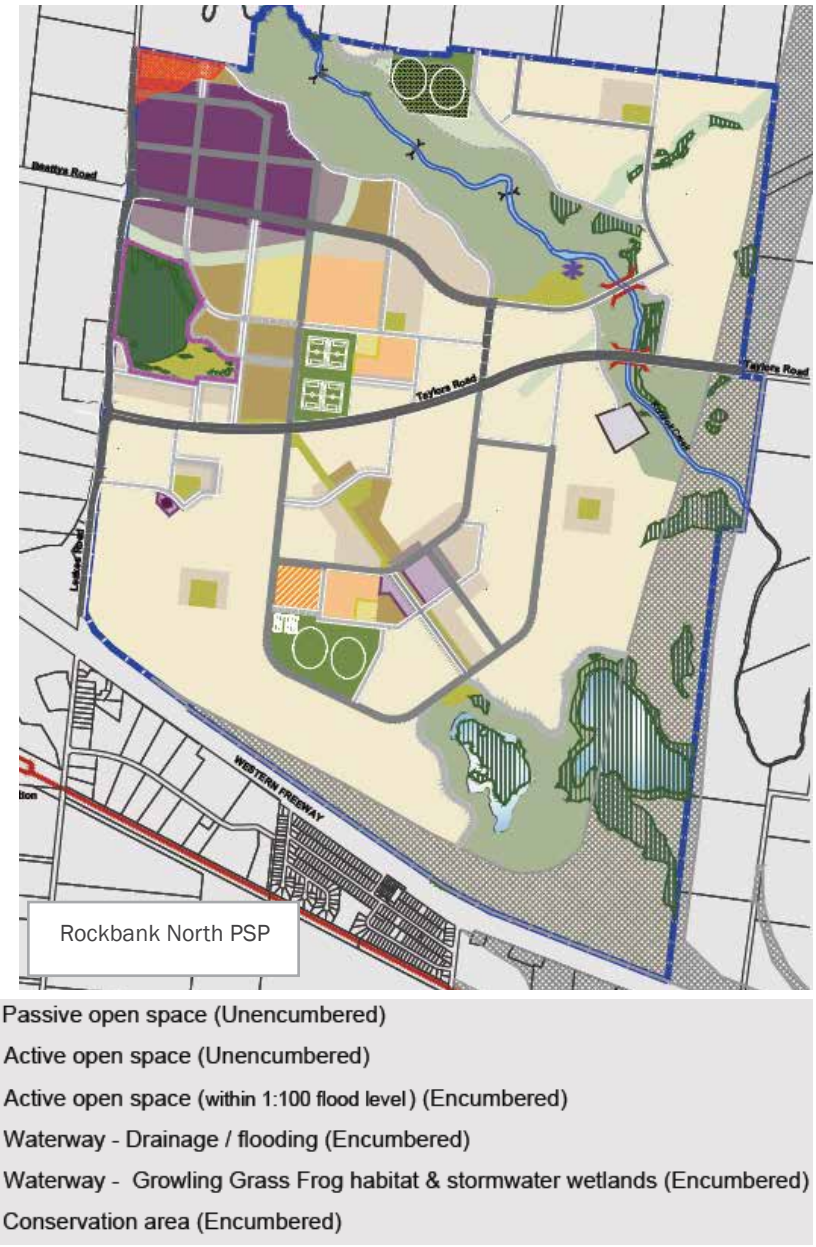
The approved Rockbank North PSP includes 19.53ha of unencumbered active open space, 6.47ha of encumbered active open space (within the 1:100 year flood level) and 16.19ha of unencumbered passive open space. The active open space is proposed to be spread across three facilities - southern facility (two full-size ovals, twelve tennis courts, pavilion and car parking), central facility (four soccer fields, pavilion and car parking) and northern facility (two full-size ovals, pavilion and car parking). The passive open space is to be distributed amongst a range of local parks, a town square open space and recreation trails. Significant encumbered open space (waterways and conservation areas) is also planned across the PSP.

Proposed PSPs

The Warrensbrook and Melton East PSPs are yet to be completed. However, it is proposed that the open space provision rates in these PSPs will reflect the DSS included in the Open Space Plan.

Table 23. Proposed core open space in Warrensbrook and Melton East PSPs

Classification	Applicable hierarchy	Ultimate build out	
		Warrensbrook PSP (ha)	Melton East PSP (ha)
Passive open space	Local Passive	9.6	15.6
	District Passive	4.8	7.8
Active open space	District Active	20.8	33.8

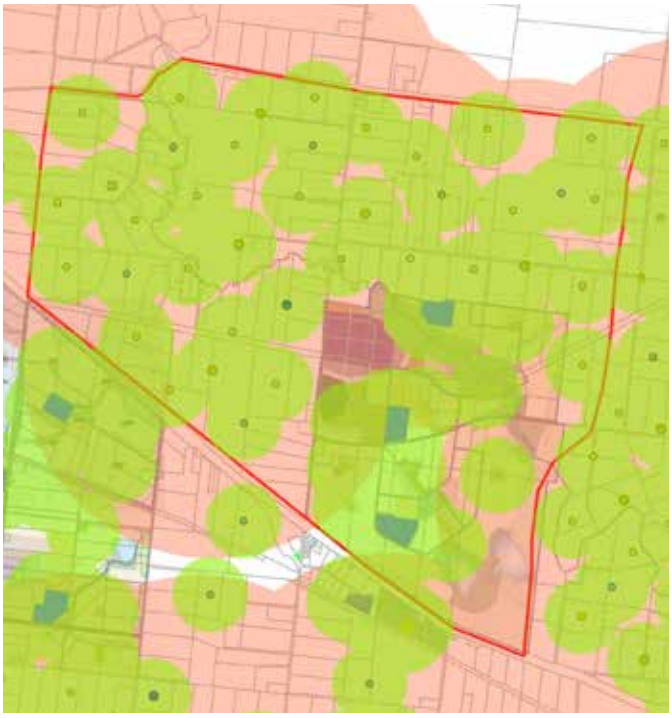


Open space accessibility

The maps below indicate accessibility to the current and planned open space network. Importantly, the exact location of the future open spaces will be determined at detailed design stage. However, these maps do provide an overall indication of accessibility to the network. In addition to local-level passive open space, 400m buffer zones have also been highlighted for district- and regional-level passive open space and district-level active open space given that they can also function as local-level passive open space for nearby residents. Similarly, a 1km buffer has been included for the proposed regional-level active space given it will also function as a district-level facility.

Legend

- Local Passive Open Space - 400m buffer zone
- District Passive Open Space - 2km buffer zone

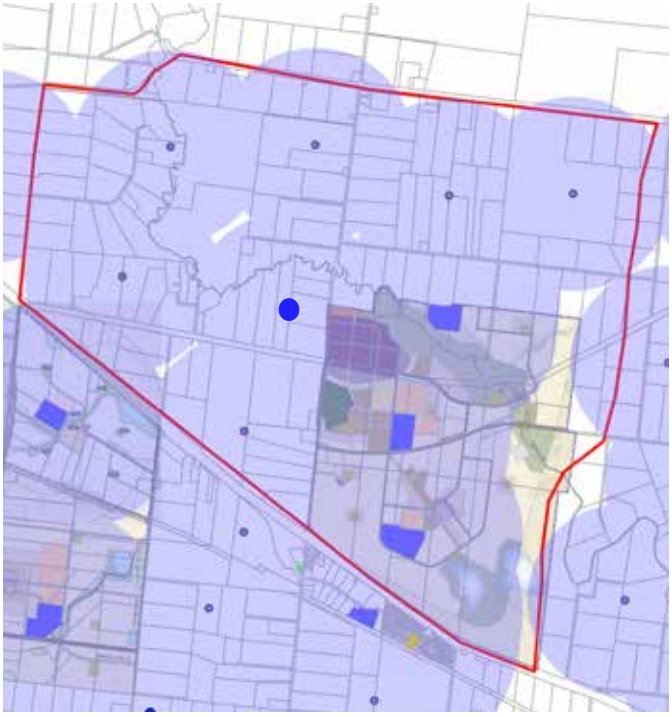


- Indicative location of future local-level passive open space
- Indicative location of future district-level passive open space

Council has begun to estimate local-level passive open space provision in proposed PSPs using the population forecasts and DSS. These are represented by small orange dots. The six larger orange dots are indicative locations for the proposed district-level passive open space.

Legend

- District Active Open Space - 1km buffer zone



- Indicative location of future district-level active open space
- Indicative location of future regional-level active open space

Council has begun to estimate district-level active open space provision in proposed PSPs using the population forecasts and DSS. These are represented by small purple dots. The central large purple dot is an indicative location for the proposed regional-level active open space.

Demand and gap assessment

Using the desired standard of service for land supply of 2.2ha/1,000 (being 0.6ha for local passive, 0.3ha for district passive and 1.3ha for district active), the likely demand for open space and any gaps in the planned provision are detailed in the table below. This demand assessment is based on the land standard and population projections only.

Table 24. North-West open space demand and supply assessment

Classification	Applicable hierarchy	Current supply (ha)	Approved PSP (ha)	Proposed PSP (ha)[1]	Total supply (ha)[2]	Desired supply (ha)[3]	Ultimate gap (ha)[4]
Passive open space	Local Passive	0	16.19	25.2	41.39	37.44	3.95
	District Passive	0	0	12.6	12.6	18.72	-6.12
Active open space	District Active	0	26	54.6	80.6	81.12	-0.52

1 - Proposed PSP - where draft PSPs are yet to be developed, the DSS has been used to project open space development given population projections
2 - Total supply = current supply + approved PSP + proposed PSP
3 - Desired supply = ultimate build out population projection x desired standards of service
4 - Ultimate gap = total supply - desired supply (Note: positive numbers reflect an over-supply, negative numbers reflect an under-supply)

Analysis

Understandably, as the population grows so does the demand for open space development. At ultimate build out the desired supply is predicted to be more than 137ha of core open space.

Passive open space

The Rockbank North PSP identifies 16.19ha of passive open space. This passive open space is identified as all local-level given that, to date, none of the approved PSPs include district-level provision. With the DSS used to calculate future provision for the proposed PSPs (Warrensbrook and Melton East), district passive open space has been included for these areas.

This differing provision breakdown is reflected in the ultimate gap. The forecast over-supply in local passive open space (almost 4ha) almost balances the under-supply (slightly more than 6ha) of district passive open space. It should also be noted that the Rockbank North PSP also includes almost 150ha of additional encumbered open space (in the form of waterways and conservation areas) that also assists to address the passive open space shortfall somewhat.

Active open space

With 26ha of district active open space identified in the Rockbank North PSP and an additional 54.6ha in the proposed PSPs, an ultimate gap of only 0.52ha is forecast. However, it is important to note that a 30ha regional active open space site is proposed to be included in the Warrensbrook PSP. While this will be a regional-level facility, it will also serve a district-level function and assist to address the slight district-level shortfall.

North-East planning area

Location

The North-East geographic planning area is located between the Eastern Corridor planning area (to the east) and North-West planning area (to the west). It comprises of Plumpton, Taylors Hill West and Kororoit PSPs. Of these, only the Taylors Hill West PSP has been approved.

Population projections

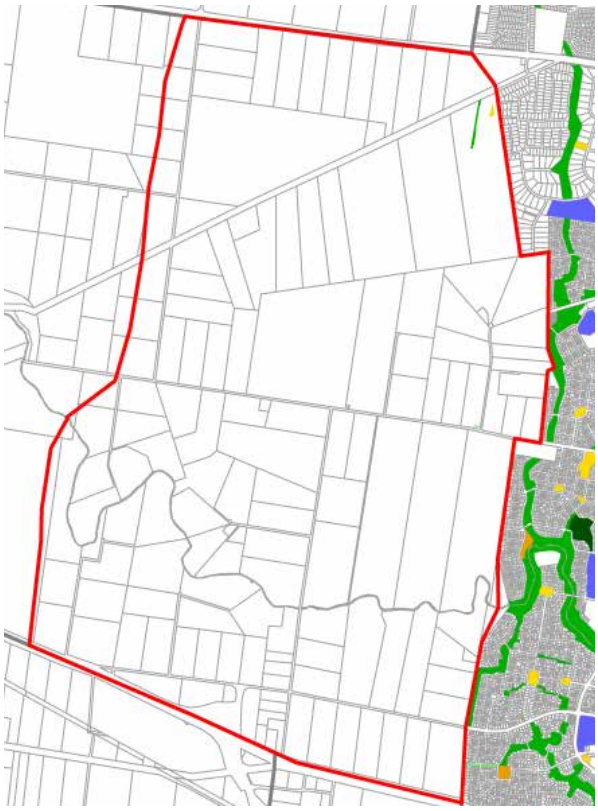
Significant growth is forecast for the North-East planning area. The predicted population at ultimate build out is more than fourteen times the current population base. Young families are expected to make up the bulk of this population expansion (forecast.id).

Table 25. North-East population projections

Year	Planning area population	Citywide population	Percentage of City's population
2016	3,879	134,967	2.9%
2026	19,524	207,256	9.4%
Ultimate build out	56,300	441,000	12.8%

Current supply

While this planning area is largely typified by rural properties, with a current population of almost 4,000, there is little open space provision - only one small local passive open space. In addition to this single core open space parcel there is a small linear passive open space and an encumbered drainage reserve. However, between these three parcels there is barely 1ha of open space, resulting in an existing under-supply in both passive and active open space.



Planned supply

Approved PSP

The approved Taylors Hill West PSP includes 8.71ha of unencumbered active open space and 5.02ha of unencumbered passive open space. The passive open space is to be distributed amongst five local parks.

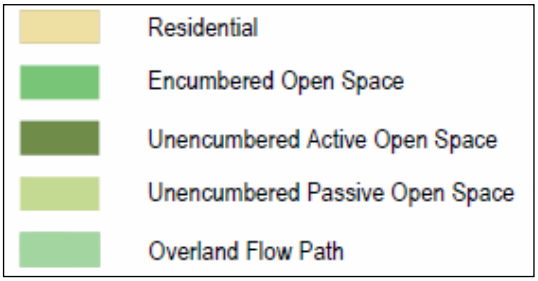
Proposed PSPs

The Plumpton and Kororoit PSPs are yet to be completed. However, it is proposed that the open space provision rates in these PSPs will reflect the DSS included in the Open Space Plan.

Table 26. Proposed core open space in Plumpton and Kororoit PSPs

Classification	Applicable hierarchy	Ultimate build out	
		Plumpton PSP (ha)	Kororoit PSP (ha)
Passive open space	Local Passive	15.96	13.92
	District Passive	7.98	6.96
Active open space	District Active	34.58	30.16

Taylors Hill West approved PSP

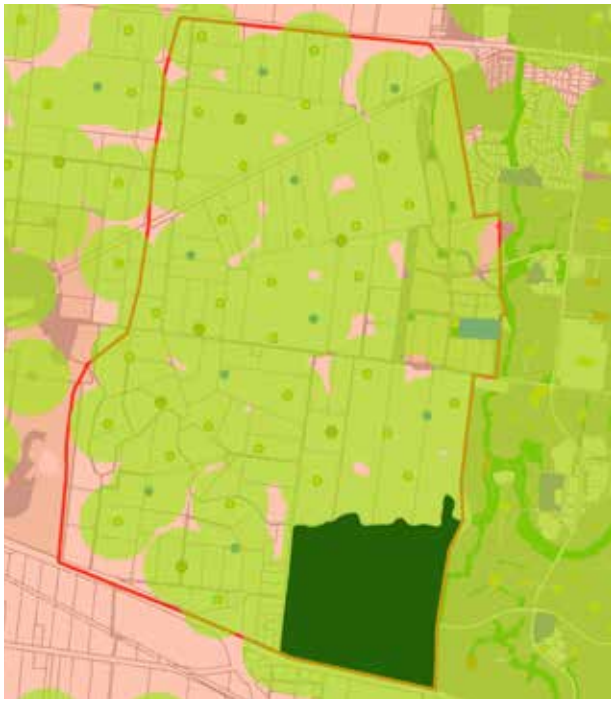


Open space accessibility

The maps below indicate accessibility to the current and planned open space network. Importantly, the exact location of the future open spaces will be determined at detailed design stage. However, these maps do provide an overall indication of accessibility to the network. In addition to local-level passive open space, 400m buffer zones have also been highlighted for district- and regional-level passive open space and district-level active open space given that they can also function as local-level passive open space for nearby residents.

Legend

- Local Passive Open Space - 400m buffer zone
- District Passive Open Space - 2km buffer zone



- Indicative location of future local-level passive open space
- Indicative location of future district-level passive open space

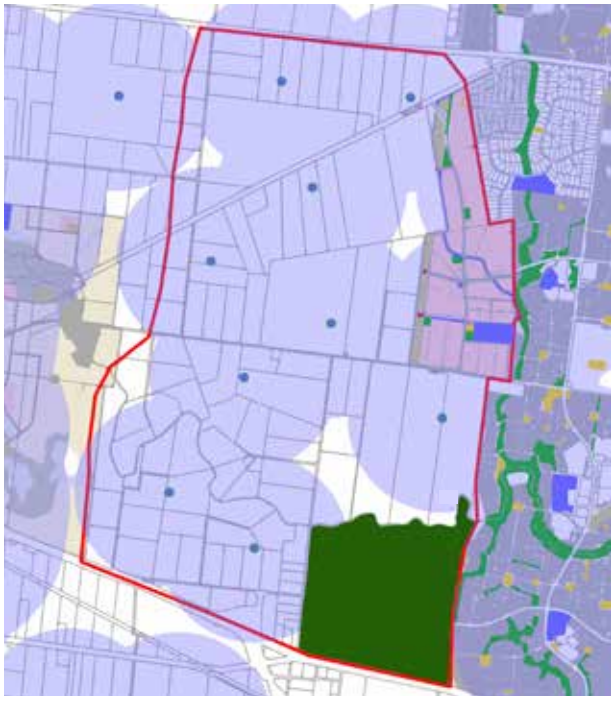
Council has begun to estimate local-level passive open space provision in proposed PSPs using the population forecasts and DSS. These are represented by small orange dots. The seven larger orange dots are indicative locations for the proposed district-level passive open space.

A large regional-level passive open space is proposed for the south-east corner of the planning area.

- Proposed Regional Park

Legend

- District Active Open Space - 1km buffer zone



- Indicative location of future district-level active open space
- Indicative location of future regional-level active open space

Council has begun to estimate district-level active open space provision in proposed PSPs using the population forecasts and DSS. These are represented by small purple dots.

Demand and gap assessment

Using the desired standard of service for land supply of 2.2ha/1,000 (being 0.6ha for local passive, 0.3ha for district passive and 1.3ha for district active), the likely demand for open space and any gaps in the planned provision are detailed in the table below. This demand assessment is based on the land standard and population projections only.

Table 27. North-East open space demand and supply assessment

Classification	Applicable hierarchy	Current supply (ha)	Approved PSP (ha)	Proposed PSP (ha)[1]	Total supply (ha)[2]	Desired supply (ha)[3]	Ultimate gap (ha)[4]
Passive open space	Local Passive	0.29	5.02	29.88	35.19	33.78	1.41
	District Passive	0	0	14.94	14.94	16.89	-1.95
Active open space	District Active	0	8.71	64.74	73.45	73.19	-0.26

1 - Proposed PSP - where draft PSPs are yet to be developed, the DSS has been used to project open space development given population projections
2 - Total supply = current supply + approved PSP + proposed PSP
3 - Desired supply = ultimate build out population projection x desired standards of service
4 - Ultimate gap = total supply - desired supply (Note - positive numbers reflect an over-supply, negative numbers reflect an under-supply)

Analysis

As a planning area growing from a 2016 population base of less than 4,000 through to an ultimate population of more than 56,000, much of the open space network is yet to be planned. Assuming the proposed open space DSS are achieved for the Kororoit and Plumpton PSPs, the demand and gap assessment indicates that the ultimate provision will be appropriate for both passive and active open space. The slight over-supply in proposed local-level passive open space will go much of the way to meeting an under-supply of district-level passive open space while, at 0.26ha, the proposed under-supply of active open space is negligible.

Eastern Corridor planning area

Location

The Eastern Corridor geographic planning area is comprised of Caroline Springs, Burnside, Burnside Heights, Hillside and Taylors Hill. The area has been heavily developed and, as can be seen in the population table below, is beginning to approach ultimate build out.

Population projections

As can be expected from a heavily developed area, the population is forecast to age considerably between 2016 and 2036 (forecast.id). This is highlighted with the proportion of residents 60 years+ almost doubling across this time while the proportion of younger residents 0-14 years decreases by more than a quarter.

Table 28. Eastern Corridor population projections

Year	Planning area population	Citywide population	Percentage of City's population
2016	63,056	134,967	47.1%
2026	66,408	207,256	32.0%
Ultimate build out	79,849	441,000	18.1%

Brookside Recreation Reserve

Banchory Green

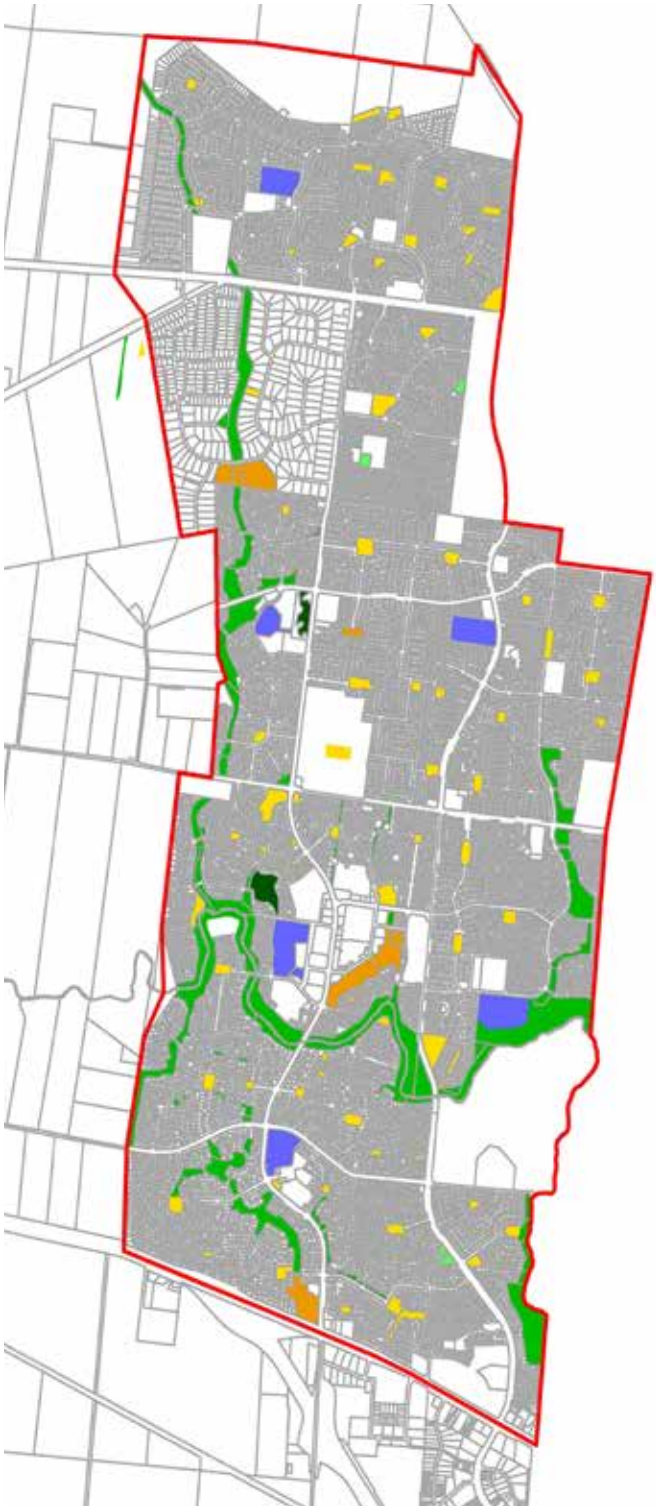
Burnside Heights Recreation Reserve

Current supply

Eighty-three separate core open space parcels are distributed across the Eastern Corridor planning area. More than 80% of these are local passive parks. Interestingly, a notable proportion of the local passive parks in the Eastern Corridor are heavily embellished. Indeed, some include embellishments such as a tennis court, full-size basketball court, large public art installations, barbecues and multiple play nodes.

Legend

- Local passive
- District passive
- Regional passive
- Encumbered
- Linear reserve
- Environment reserve
- District active
- Regional active
- Specialised active



Planned supply

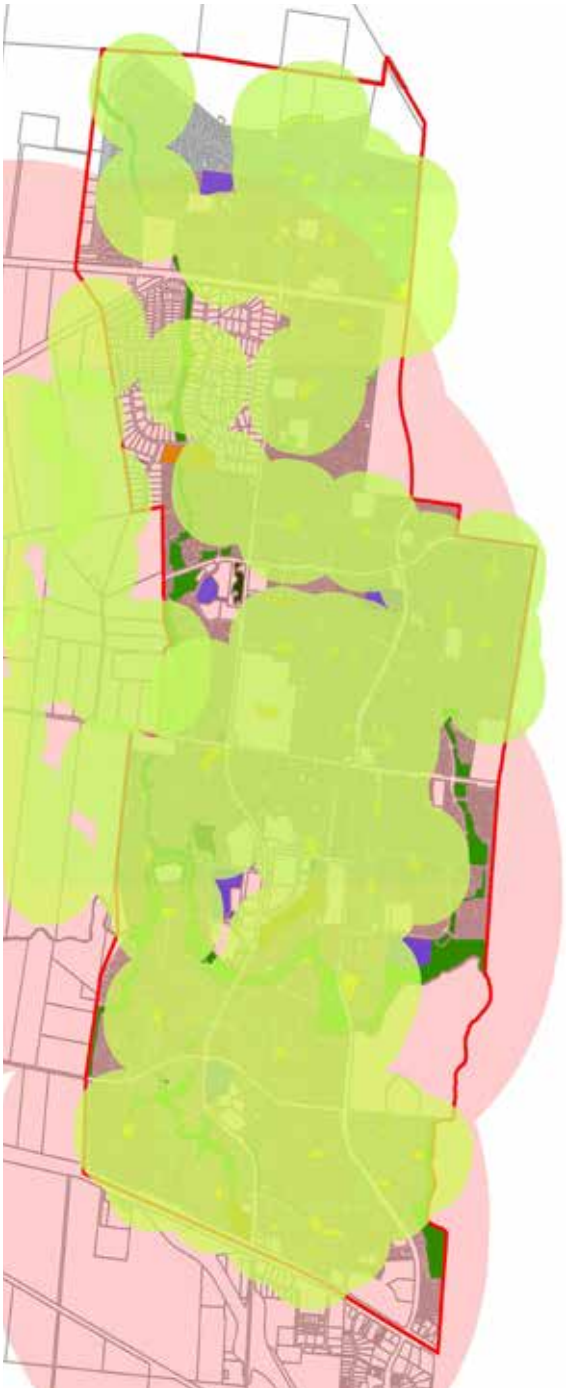
As a largely established residential area, there are no additional open space areas planned for development.

Open space accessibility

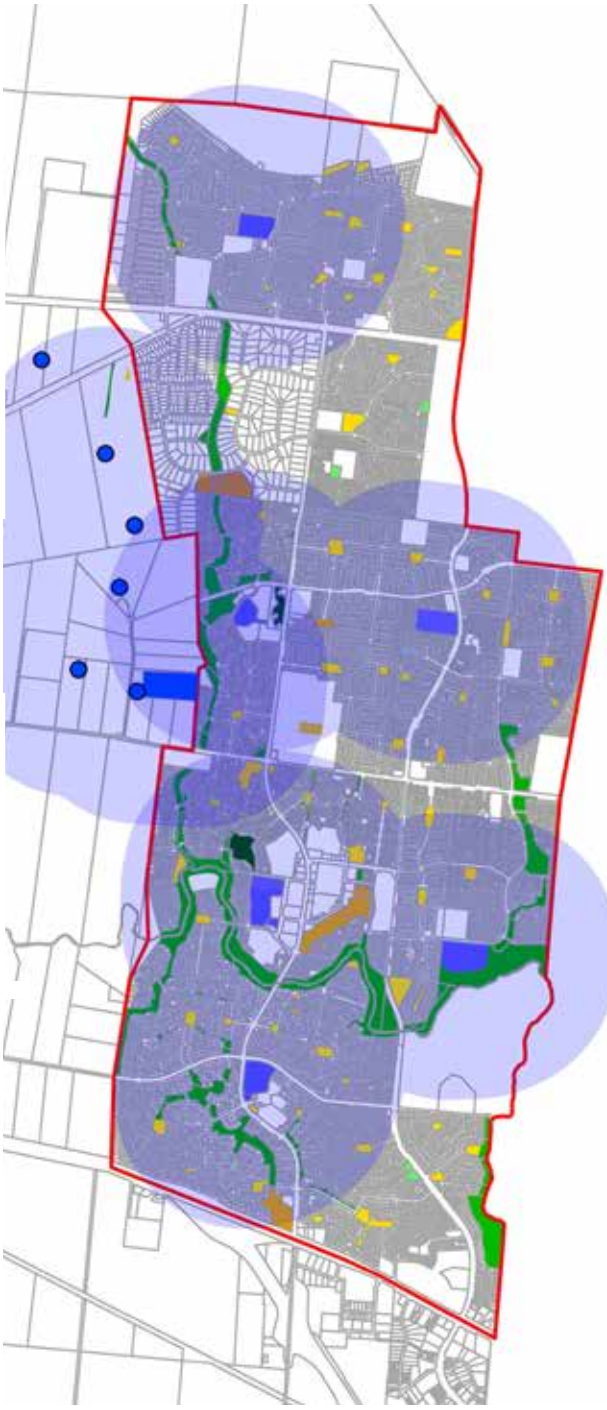
The maps below indicate accessibility to the current and planned open space network. These maps provide an overall indication of accessibility. In addition to local-level passive open space, 400m buffer zones have also been highlighted for district- and regional-level passive open space and district-level active open space given that they also function as local-level passive open space for nearby residents.

Local Passive Open Space - 400m buffer zone

District Passive Open Space - 2km buffer zone



District Active Open Space - 1km buffer zone



Demand and gap assessment

Using the desired standard of service for land supply of 2.2ha/1,000 (being 0.6ha for local passive, 0.3ha for district passive and 1.3ha for district active), the likely demand for open space and any gaps in the planned provision are detailed in the table below. This demand assessment is based on the land standard and population projections only.

Table 29. Eastern Corridor open space demand and supply assessment

Classification	Applicable hierarchy	Current supply (ha)	Total supply (ha)[1]	Desired supply (ha)[2]	Ultimate gap (ha)[3]
Passive open space	Local Passive	48.46	48.46	47.91	0.55
	District Passive	25.29	25.29	23.95	1.34
Active open space	District Active	35.67	35.67	103.8	-68.13

1 - Total supply = current supply (as there are no additional open spaces planned)
2 - Desired supply = ultimate build out population projection x desired standards of service
3 - Ultimate gap = total supply - desired supply (Note - positive numbers reflect an over-supply, negative numbers reflect an under-supply)

Analysis

Passive open space

A cursory glance at the Eastern Corridor open space map or the accessibility map highlights the large number of local passive parks provided in this planning area. This is supported by the demand and gap assessment that indicates a suitable supply of this form of open space through until ultimate build out.

Further, the supply of district passive open space also appears appropriate. However, there is an area in the far north-west corner of the planning area without suitable accessibility to district passive open space. Council could consider further upgrade and development of Hillcrest Drive Reserve, or simply accept the recreation role that Hillside Recreation Reserve plays (as an alternate to a district passive open space) and look to this site as a hub for passive recreation (as well as active recreation) for nearby residents.

It is also worth noting that the Eastern Corridor includes 155ha of linear passive open space. Much of this network has been developed and offers connectivity and a range of recreation opportunities.

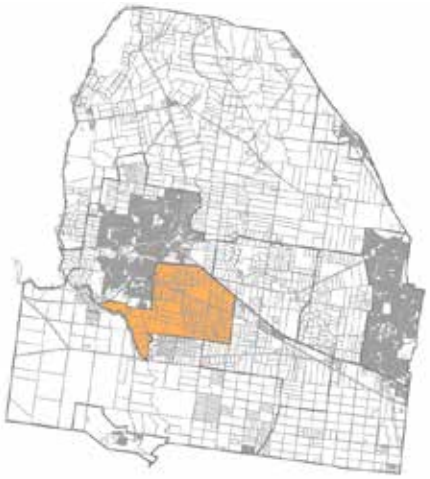
Active open space

While the provision of passive open space in the Eastern Corridor is sufficient, a significant under-supply in active open space has been highlighted. In fact, with a preferred size of between 6ha and 15ha for district active open spaces, and a predicted deficit of more than 68ha, the planning area is between 5 and 12 sporting facilities short of demand.

With the Eastern Corridor largely developed, there is little scope within the planning area to begin to address this under-supply. Rather, Council will have to rely on residents having access to the proposed 30ha regional-level facility within the Warrenbrook PSP to the west.


Golding Park

Toolern planning area



Location

The Toolern geographic planning area is located to the south and east of Melton Township and south of the Western Freeway. It includes the Toolern, Toolern Park and Paynes Road PSPs.

Population projections

While the area is currently sparsely populated, this planning area is expected to see significant growth. Like the other key growth areas in the City of Melton, much of this growth is expected to be attributed to young families (forecast.id).

Table 30. Toolern population projections

Year	Planning area population	Citywide population	Percentage of City's population
2016	1,360	134,967	1.0%
2026	15,204	207,256	7.3%
Ultimate build out	55,000	441,000	12.5%

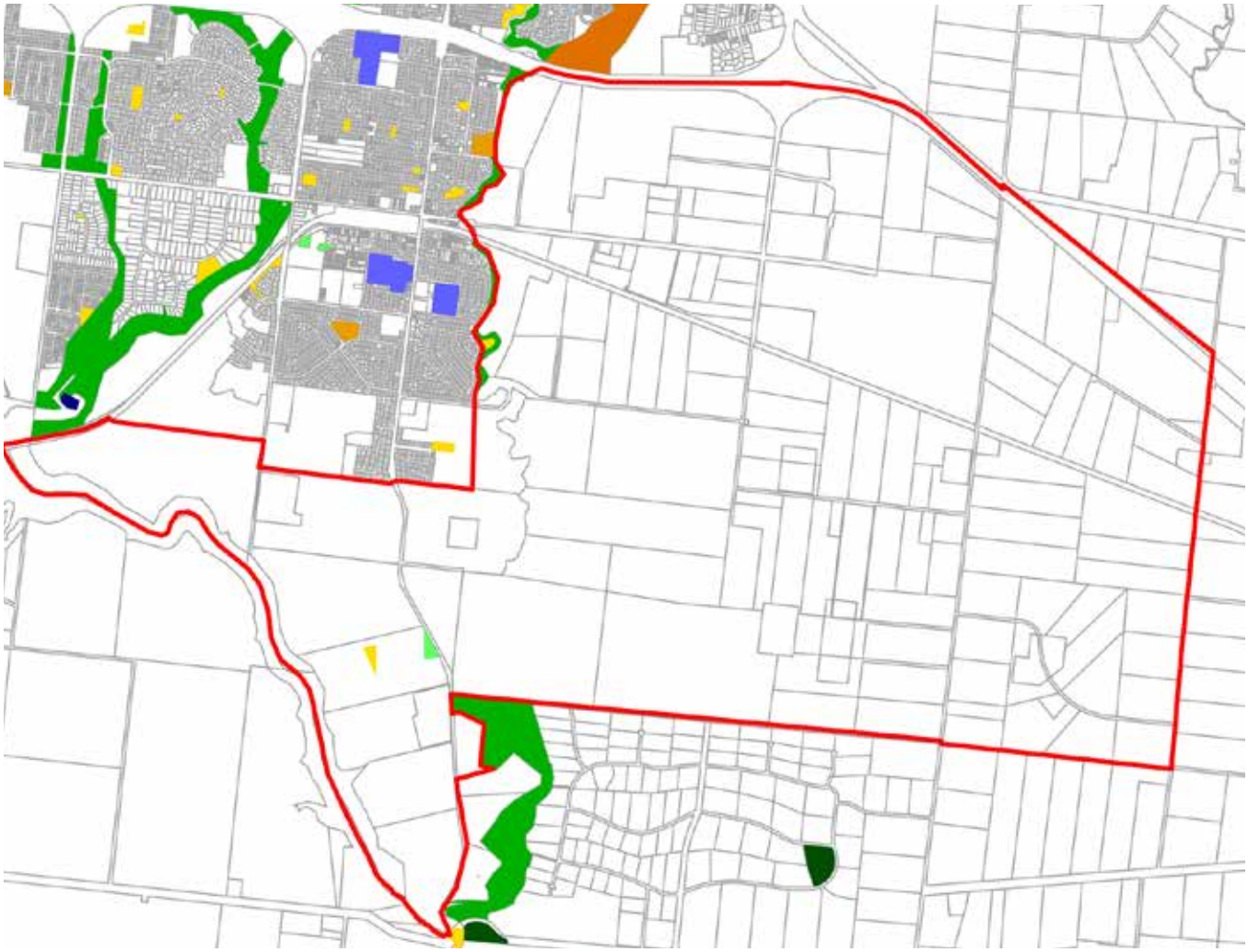
Bridge Road Recreation Reserve under construction

Current supply

As a largely rural area, the planning area has limited open space supply. There is currently only one local passive open space and one encumbered drainage open space area. Both of these parcels are located in a small residential development toward the south-western corner of the planning area.

Legend

- Local passive
- District passive
- Regional passive
- Encumbered
- Linear reserve
- Environment reserve
- District active
- Regional active
- Specialised active



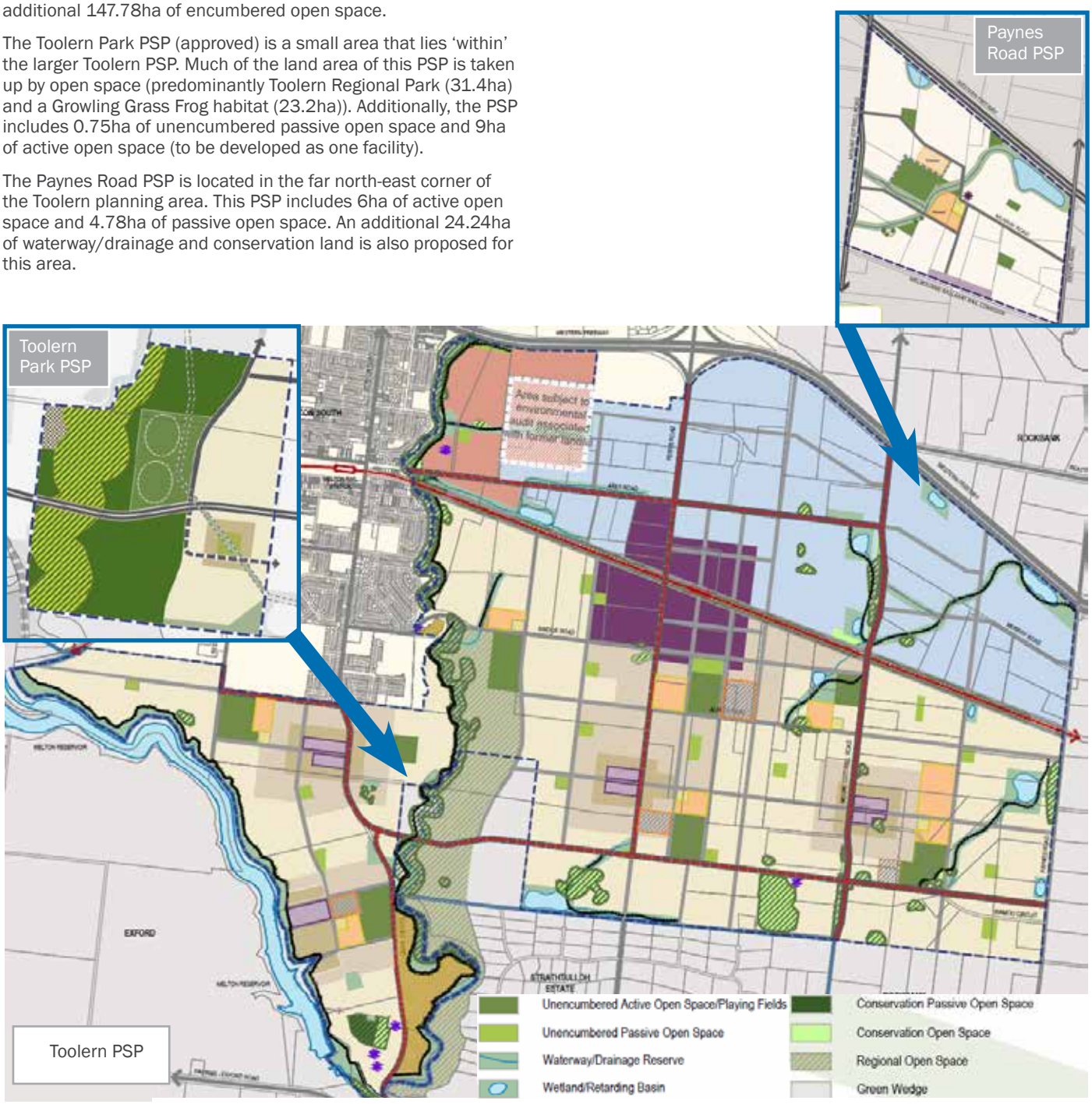
Planned supply

Approved PSP

The approved Toolern PSP provides for 48.29ha of unencumbered passive open space and 52.76ha of unencumbered active open space (shared between eight facilities). Additionally, the PSP includes 46.94ha for a portion of Toolern Regional Park and an additional 147.78ha of encumbered open space.

The Toolern Park PSP (approved) is a small area that lies 'within' the larger Toolern PSP. Much of the land area of this PSP is taken up by open space (predominantly Toolern Regional Park (31.4ha) and a Growling Grass Frog habitat (23.2ha)). Additionally, the PSP includes 0.75ha of unencumbered passive open space and 9ha of active open space (to be developed as one facility).

The Paynes Road PSP is located in the far north-east corner of the Toolern planning area. This PSP includes 6ha of active open space and 4.78ha of passive open space. An additional 24.24ha of waterway/drainage and conservation land is also proposed for this area.



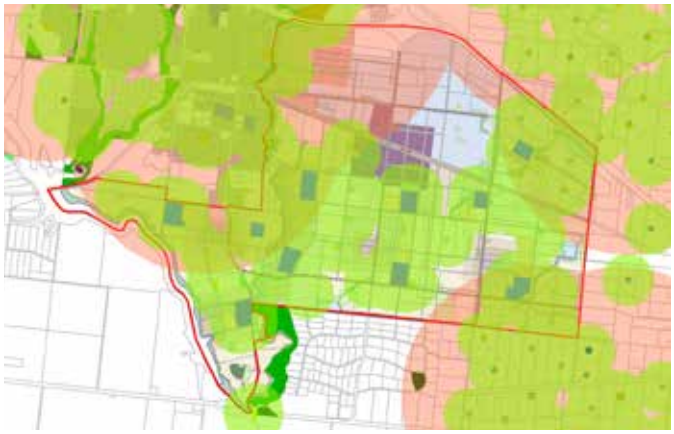
Open space accessibility

The maps below indicate accessibility to the current and planned open space network. Importantly, the exact location of the future open spaces will be determined at detailed design stage. However, these maps do provide an overall indication of accessibility to the network. In addition to local-level passive open space, 400m buffer zones have also been highlighted for district- and regional-level passive open space and district-level active open space given that they can also function as local-level passive open space for nearby residents.

Legend

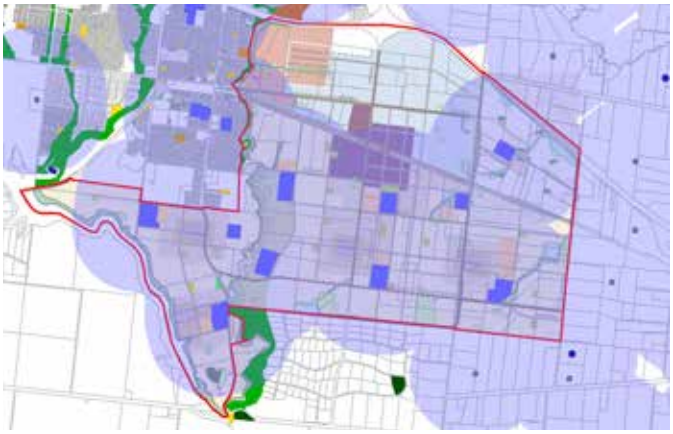
Local Passive Open Space - 400m buffer zone

District Passive Open Space - 2km buffer zone



Legend

District Active Open Space - 1km buffer zone



Demand and gap assessment

Using the desired standard of service for land supply of 2.2ha/1,000 (being 0.6ha for local passive, 0.3ha for district passive and 1.3ha for district active), the likely demand for open space and any gaps in the planned provision are detailed in the table below. This demand assessment is based on the land standard and population projections only.

Table 31.Toolern open space demand and supply assessment

Classification	Applicable hierarchy	Current supply (ha)	Approved PSP (ha)	Total supply (ha)[1]	Desired supply (ha)[2]	Ultimate gap (ha)[3]
Passive open space	Local Passive	1.04	49.04	50.08	33	17.08
	District Passive	0	0	0	16.5	-16.5
Active open space	District Active	0	61.76	61.76	71.5	-9.74

1 - Total supply = current supply + approved PSP

2 - Desired supply = ultimate build out population projection x desired standards of service

3 - Ultimate gap = total supply - desired supply (Note - positive numbers reflect an over-supply, negative numbers reflect an under-supply)

Analysis

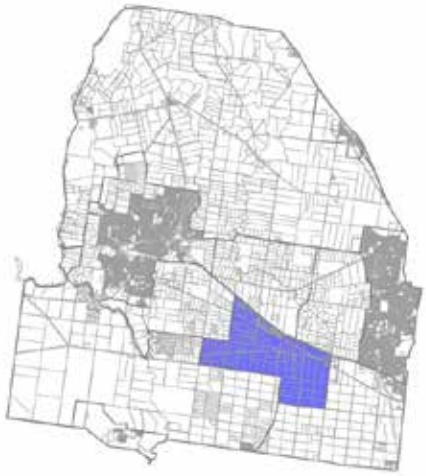
Passive open space

The forecast under-supply in district-level passive open space is somewhat balanced by an over-supply of local-level passive open space and the additional passive open space opportunities provided by Toolern Regional Park. However, Council may look to develop a small number (two to three) of the proposed local-level facilities as higher-level district facilities.

Active open space

The approved Toolern and Toolern Park PSPs appear to fall short in ultimate active open space provision by approximately one district-level facility. This under-supply will be somewhat addressed by the total of 16.6ha of regional-level active open space Council is set to develop in the South-West planning area directly to the east.

South-West planning area



Location

The South-West geographic planning area is located to the east of the Toolern planning precinct and south of the Western Freeway. It includes the existing Rockbank township, Rockbank, Rockbank South and Mount Atkinson PSPs.

Population projections

As highlighted in the table below, this is another of the City of Melton's key growth areas. With almost an additional 60,000 new residents expected by ultimate build out (forecast.id).

Table 32. South-West population projections

Year	Planning area population	Citywide population	Percentage of City's population
2016	1,065	134,967	0.8%
2026	11,098	207,256	5.4%
Ultimate build out	59,500	441,000	13.5%

Ian Cowie Recreation Reserve

Current supply

Other than a small residential development at Rockbank, the South-West planning area is a largely rural area. As such, it currently has a limited range of open space opportunities. A 1.4ha passive open space (Stewart Crescent Reserve), 4.2ha active open space (Ian Cowie Recreation Reserve) and a small encumbered drainage area are located within the Rockbank development at the far northern end of the planning area.

Planned supply

Proposed PSPs

The Rockbank, Rockbank South and Mt Atkinson PSPs are yet to be completed. However, it is proposed that the open space provision rates in these PSPs will reflect the DSS included in the Open Space Plan.

Table 33. Proposed core open space in Rockbank, Rockbank South and Mt Atkinson PSPs

Classification	Applicable hierarchy	Ultimate build out		
		Rockbank PSP (ha)	Rockbank South PSP (ha)	Mt Atkinson PSP (ha)
Passive open space	Local Passive	15.3	13.2	7.2
	District Passive	7.65	6.6	3.6
Active open space	District Active	33.15	28.6	15.6

Open space accessibility

The maps below indicate accessibility to the current and planned open space network. Importantly, the exact location of the future open spaces will be determined at detailed design stage. However, these maps do provide an overall indication of accessibility to the network. In addition to local-level passive open space, 400m buffer zones have also been highlighted for district- and regional-level passive open space and district-level active open space given that they can also function as local-level passive open space for nearby residents.

Legend

Local Passive Open Space - 400m buffer zone

District Passive Open Space - 2km buffer zone

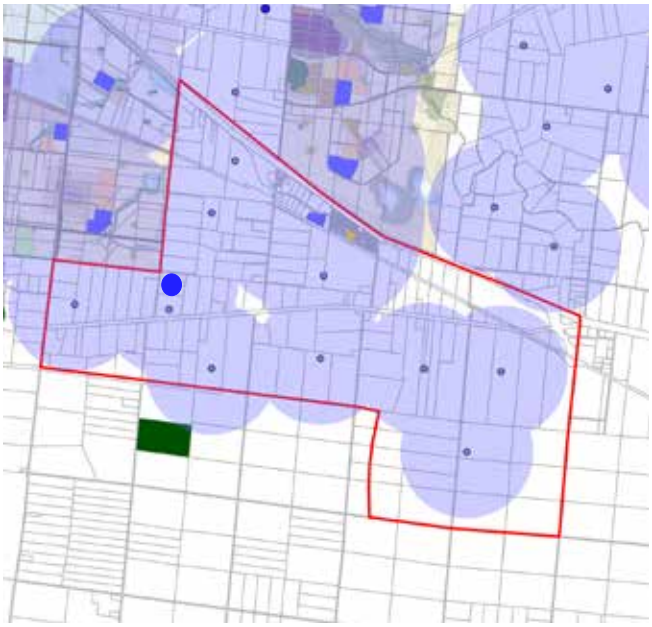
Indicative location of future local-level passive open space

Indicative location of future district-level passive open space

Council has begun to estimate local-level passive open space provision in proposed PSPs using the population forecasts and DSS. These are represented by small orange dots. The four large orange dots are an indicative location for the proposed district-level passive open space.

Legend

District Active Open Space - 1km buffer zone



Indicative location of future district-level active open space

Indicative location of future regional-level active open space

Council has begun to estimate district-level active open space provision in proposed PSPs using the population forecasts and DSS. These are represented by small purple dots. The large purple dot is an indicative location for the proposed regional-level active open space.

Demand and gap assessment

Using the desired standard of service for land supply of 2.2ha/1,000 (being 0.6ha for local passive, 0.3ha for district passive and 1.3 for district active), the likely demand for open space and any gaps in the planned provision are detailed in the table below. This demand assessment is based on the land standard and population projections only.

Table 34. South-West open space demand and supply assessment

Classification	Applicable hierarchy	Current supply (ha)	Proposed PSP (ha)[1]	Total supply (ha)[2]	Desired supply (ha)[3]	Ultimate gap (ha)[4]
Passive open space	Local Passive	1.4	35.7	37.1	35.7	1.4
	District Passive	0	17.85	17.85	17.85	0
Active open space	District Active	4.2	77.35	81.55	77.35	4.2

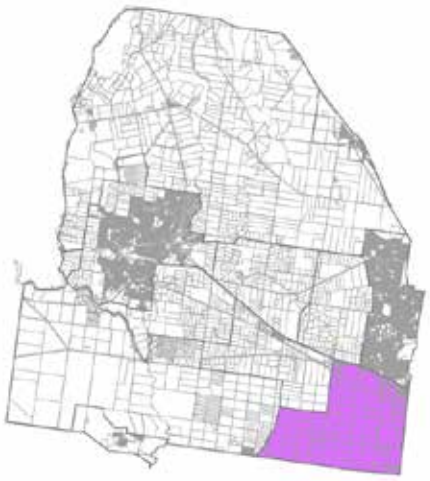
1 - Proposed PSP - where draft PSPs are yet to be developed, the DSS has been used to project open space development given population projections
2 - Total supply = current supply + proposed PSP
3 - Desired supply = ultimate build out population projection x desired standards of service
4 - Ultimate gap = total supply - desired supply (Note - positive numbers reflect an over-supply, negative numbers reflect an under-supply)

Analysis

The open space demand and gap assessment has shown that the proposed provision of open space obtained through the Rockbank, Rockbank South and Mt Atkinson PSPs will meet the needs of the ultimate population well (with slight over-supplies in local-level passive open space and district-level active open space). It is also important to note that Council has planned to develop a total of 16.6ha of regional-level active open space toward the south-west corner of the planning area.

Ian Cowie Recreation Reserve

South-East planning area



Location and population projection

The South-East geographic planning area is comprised of Tarneit Plains, Chartwell East, Derrimut Fields, Robinsons Road, Ravenhall and Warrawee PSPs (none of which are yet to be approved). This planning area is expected to be a key industrial precinct and a strong employment base. As a result, it has a negligible population now and into the planned future.

Current supply, planned supply, demand and gap assessment

As an undeveloped rural and industrial area with very limited population, there is no current core open space provision in the South-East planning area (as identified in the adjoining map).

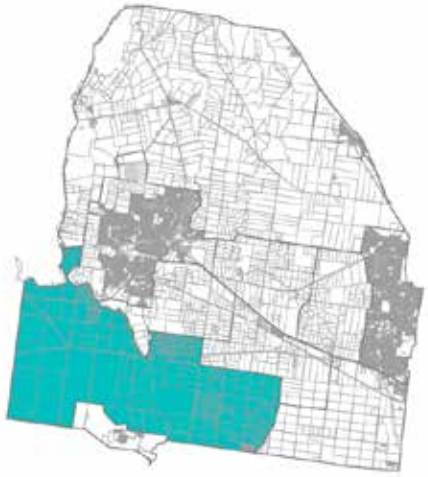
It should be recognised, however, that the planning area is predicted to have an employment base of approximately 35,000 at ultimate build out. In accord with Metropolitan Planning Authority guidelines, 2% of the net developable area will be provided as local-level passive open space. Location and quantity of these parcels will be determined once the net developable area of the employment PSPs has been calculated.

Current supply

Legend

- Local passive
- District passive
- Regional passive
- Encumbered
- Linear reserve
- Environment reserve
- District active
- Regional active
- Specialised active

Southern Rural planning area



Location and population projections

The Southern Rural geographic planning area is comprised of Mount Cottrell and the southern rural balance. This planning area is largely rural in nature. It has a small population base with limited growth forecast (forecast.id).

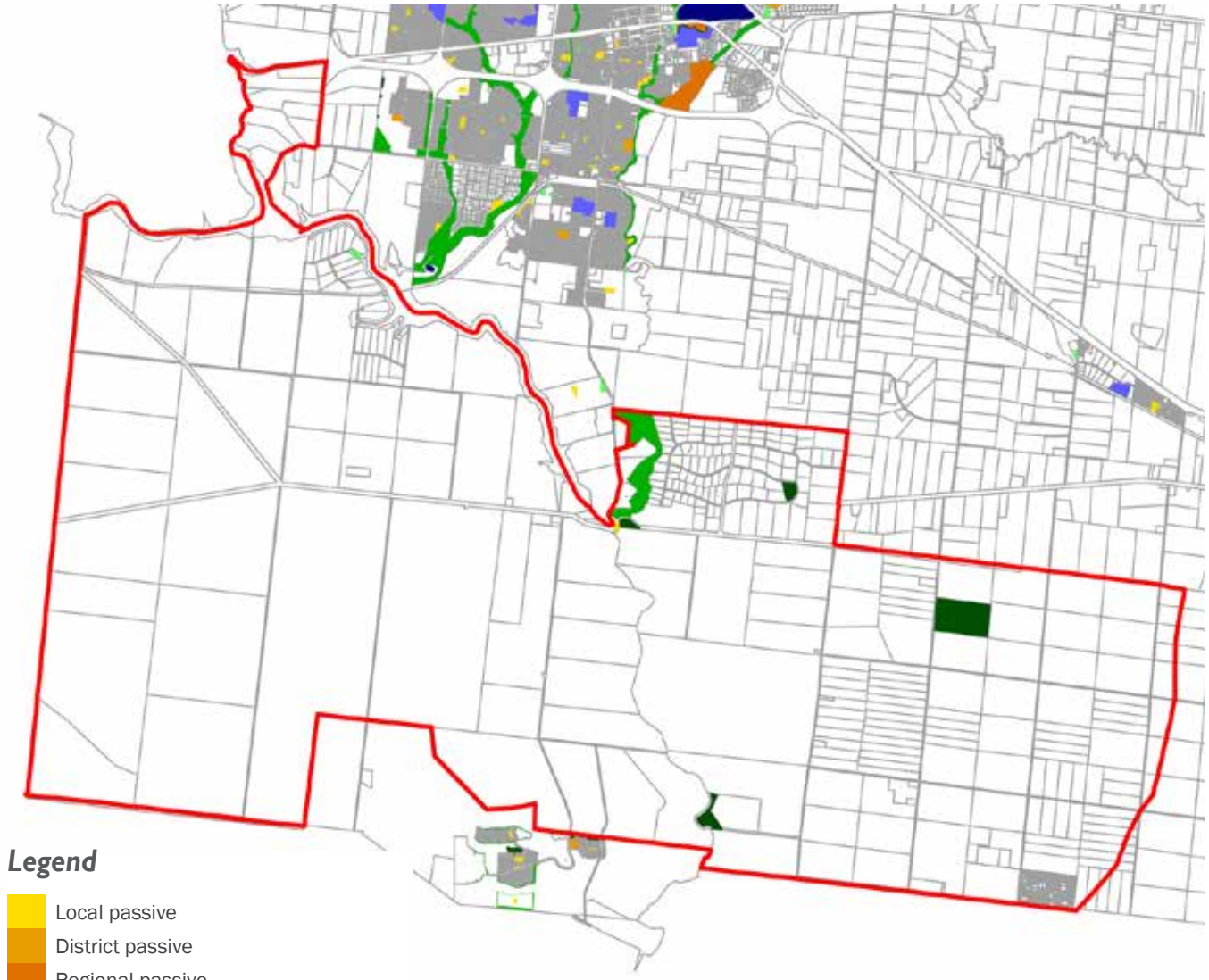
Table 35. Southern Rural population projections

Year	Planning area population	Citywide population	Percentage of City's population
2016	2,201	134,967	1.6%
2026	2,304	207,256	1.1%
Ultimate build out	2,544	441,000	0.6%

Mount Cottrell Environmental Reserve

Current supply

There is only one core open space parcel within this planning area - Exford Reserve is a 1.3ha local passive open space located on the bank of the Werribee River. Additional forms of open space within the Southern Rural planning area include 16.5ha of environmental passive open space and 45.8ha of linear passive open space (including a large parcel forming the southern end of the Toolern Creek Linear Reserve). Further, Mount Cottrell Recreation Reserve (38.2ha site) is an environmental reserve located toward the eastern boundary of the planning area.



Legend

- Local passive
- District passive
- Regional passive
- Encumbered
- Linear reserve
- Environment reserve
- District active
- Regional active
- Specialised active

Planned supply

There are no future core open space parcels proposed for development in the Southern Rural planning area.

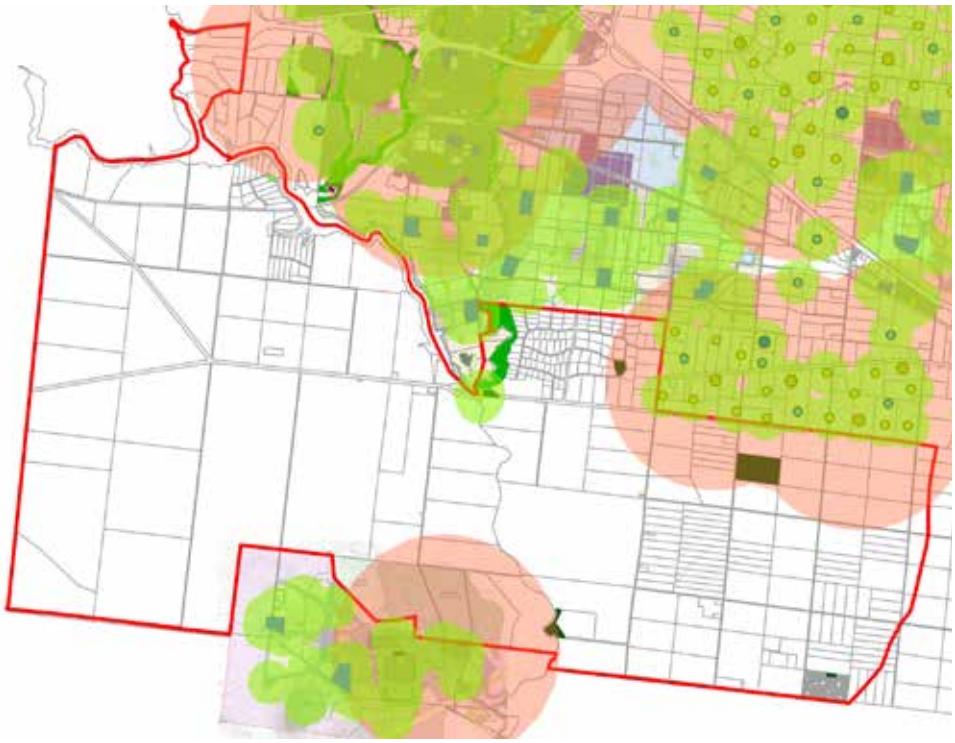
Open space accessibility

The map below indicates accessibility to the current (and planned) open space network. The map provides an overall indication of accessibility to the network. In addition to local-level passive open space, 400m buffer zones have also been highlighted for district- and regional-level passive open space and district-level active open space given that they can also function as local-level passive open space for nearby residents.

Legend

Local Passive Open Space - 400m buffer zone

District Passive Open Space - 2km buffer zone



Exford Reserve

Demand and gap assessment

Using the desired standard of service for land supply of 2.2ha/1,000 (being 0.6ha for local passive, 0.3ha for district passive and 1.3ha for district active), the likely demand for open space and any gaps in the planned provision are detailed in the table below. This demand assessment is based on the land standard and population projections only.

Table 36. Southern Rural open space demand and supply assessment

Classification	Applicable hierarchy	Current supply (ha)	Total supply (ha)[1]	Desired supply (ha)[2]	Ultimate gap (ha)[3]
Passive open space	Local Passive	1.31	1.31	1.53	-0.22
	District Passive	0	0	0.76	-0.76
Active open space	District Active	0	0	3.31	-3.31

1 - Total supply = current supply (as there is no additional open space proposed)
2 - Desired supply = ultimate build out population projection x desired standards of service
3 - Ultimate gap = total supply - desired supply (Note - positive numbers reflect an over-supply, negative numbers reflect an under-supply)

Analysis

With a limited population base and next to no growth forecast, the supply of passive open space is generally appropriate now and into the future. In contrast, there is an under-supply of active open space of more than 3ha. However, for a number of reasons, development of this nature is not considered necessary:

- given that the preferred minimum size of a district active open space facility is 6ha, any new facility developed has the potential to be beyond the needs of the local community (and thus under-utilised)
- access to existing active open space within Melton Township to the north
- future access to planned active open space in the Eynesbury planning area (to the south), Toolern planning area (to the north) and South-West planning area (to the north-east).

Eynesbury planning area

Location

The Eynesbury geographic planning area is located in the far south of the City's boundaries. It is comprised of the small township of Eynesbury with the existing layout designed around the Eynesbury Golf Course.

Population projections

Eynesbury is a growing community. Much of this growth will result from young families moving to the area (forecast.id).

Table 37. Eynesbury population projections

Year	Planning area population	Citywide population	Percentage of City's population
2016	1,721	134,967	1.3%
2026	5,860	207,256	2.8%
Ultimate build out	12,000	441,000	2.7%

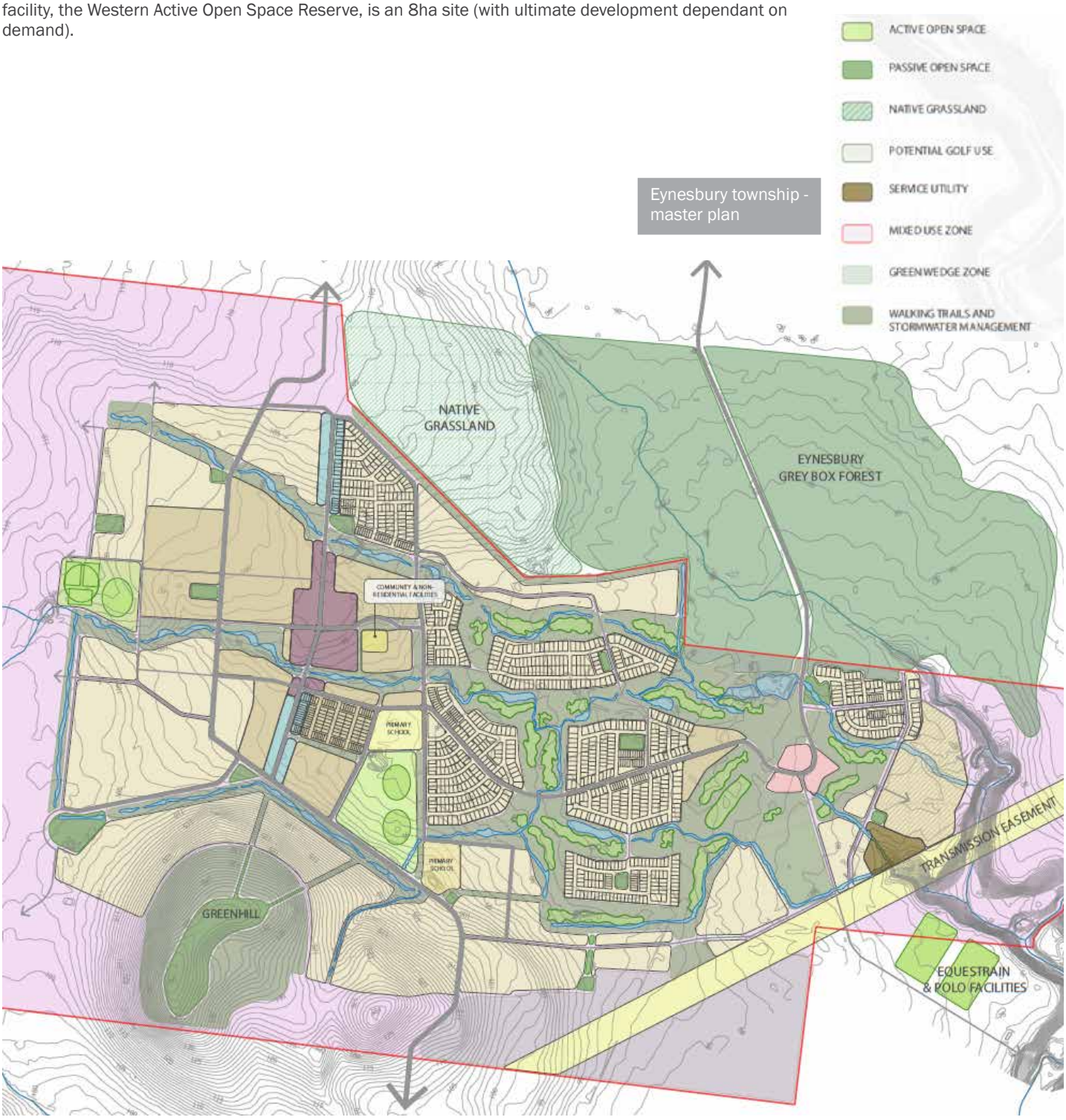
Current supply

The existing open space provision in Eynesbury is typified by relatively small local passive parks servicing clusters of homes set amongst golf fairways. A district passive open space park is located at the 'entry' to the development on Eynesbury Road. A number of environmental and linear open space parcels with stormwater and drainage functions are also spread across the planning area.

Planned supply (Approved Development Plan)

The approved Township Development Plan for Eynesbury includes 6ha of additional local passive open space spread across ten parks. Two active open space sites are also proposed. The 11.25ha Central Active Open Space Reserve will be developed first (the master plan is included on page 87). It will be delivered in stages and will ultimately include two full-size ovals, two netball courts and six tennis courts. The second facility, the Western Active Open Space Reserve, is an 8ha site (with ultimate development dependant on demand).

Eynesbury township - master plan

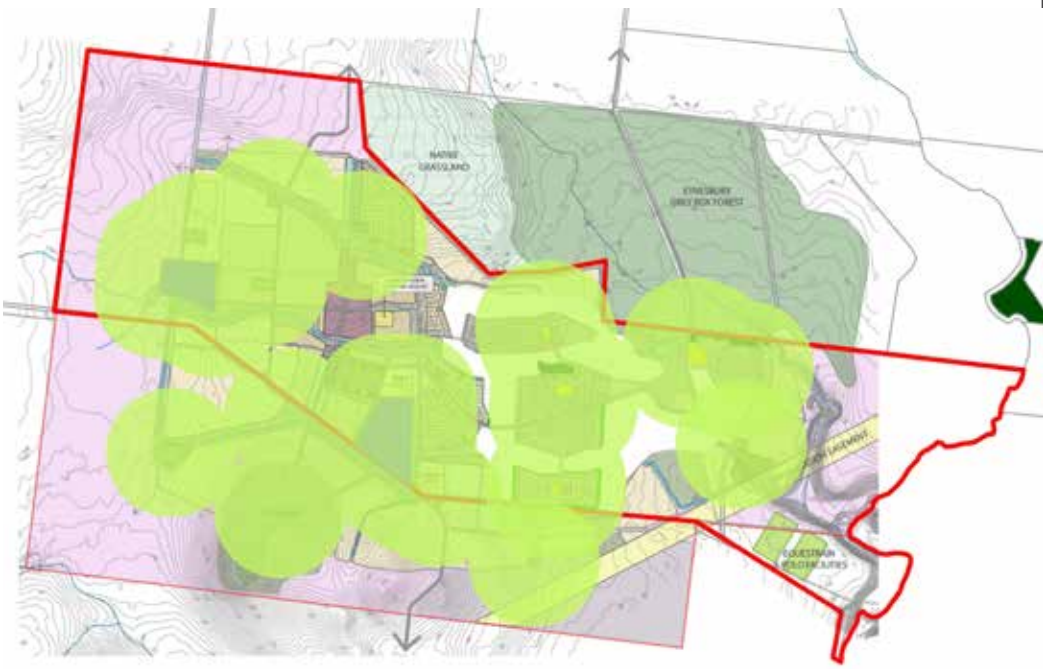


Open space accessibility

The maps below indicate accessibility to the current and planned open space network. Importantly, the exact location of the future open spaces will be determined at detailed design stage. However, these maps do provide an overall indication of accessibility to the network. In addition to local-level passive open space, 400m buffer zones have also been highlighted for district- and regional-level passive open space and district-level active open space given that they can also function as local-level passive open space for nearby residents.

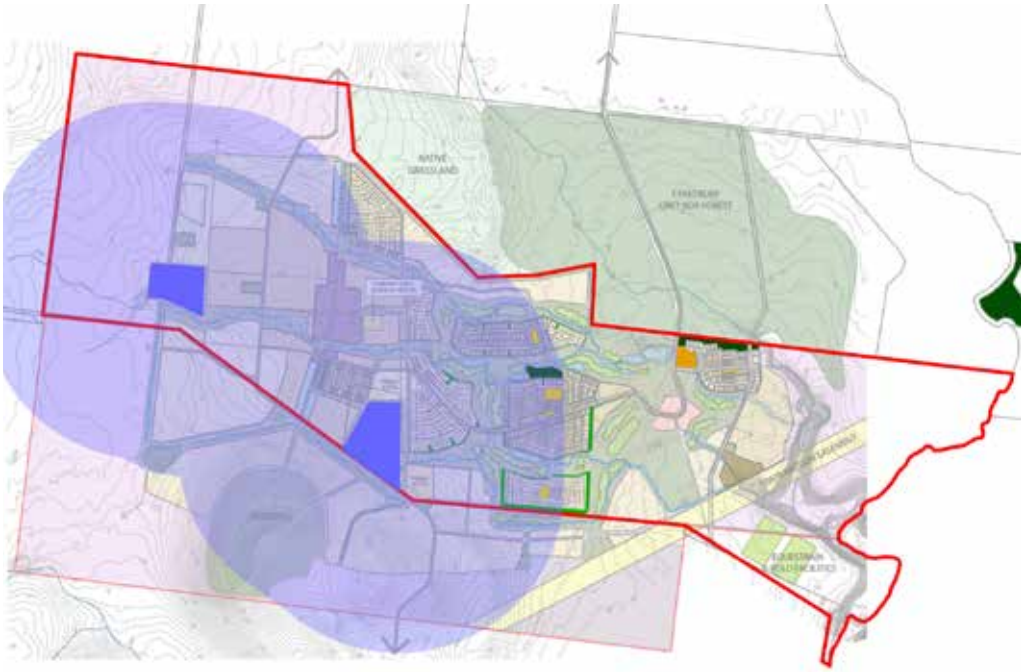
Legend

- Local Passive Open Space - 400m buffer zone
- District Passive Open Space - 2km buffer zone



Legend

- District Active Open Space - 1km buffer zone



Demand and gap assessment

Using the desired standard of service for land supply of 2.2ha/1,000 (being 0.6ha for local passive, 0.3ha for district passive and 1.3ha for district active), the likely demand for open space and any gaps in the planned provision are detailed in the table below. This demand assessment is based on the land standard and population projections only.

Table 38. Eynesbury open space demand and supply assessment

Classification	Applicable hierarchy	Current supply (ha)	S173 agreement (ha)	Total supply (ha)[1]	Desired supply (ha)[2]	Ultimate gap (ha)[3]
Passive open space	Local Passive	2.05	6	8.05	7.2	0.85
	District Passive	1.45	0	1.45	3.6	-2.15
Active open space	District Active	0	17.25	17.25	15.6	1.65

1 - Total supply = current supply + S173 agreement
2 - Desired supply = ultimate build out population projection x desired standards of service
3 - Ultimate gap = total supply - desired supply (Note - positive numbers reflect an over-supply, negative numbers reflect an under-supply)

Analysis

The open space demand and gap assessment has shown that the proposed provision of open space obtained through the Eynesbury Township Development Plan will largely meet the needs of the ultimate population.

A slight under-supply in district-level passive open space (approximately 2ha) could be somewhat addressed if one of the larger parcels of proposed local-level passive open space was developed to a district-level. Alternatively, a district-level passive open space node could be developed in either (or both) of the active open space facilities.

It is also important to note that the township of Eynesbury is split across the City of Melton and Wyndham City Council (to the south). While there is Eynesbury residential population located within the Wyndham LGA, all of the existing and proposed open space is located within the Melton City LGA.

Central Active Open Space Reserve (Eynesbury) - indicative master plan

5. Strategic directions

Broadening the scope of passive recreation opportunities

The Metropolitan Planning Authority does not include the development of district-level passive open space within its Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines. Comment is only provided on expected local-level facilities. In areas where significant residential growth will be framed by PSPs (like the City of Melton) this has the potential to limit the range of passive recreation pursuits that can be catered for across the passive open space network.

It is interesting to compare passive open space provision between an established community (such as Melton Township) with an area developing under PSP arrangements. The Melton Township planning area includes 11 district-level passive open spaces (total of 31.5ha) and the LGA's only 3 regional-level passive open spaces (total of 42.5ha). In contrast, the approved Rockbank North PSP provides for a forecast population of more than 20,000 yet contains no district- nor regional-level passive open space. This provision has the potential to see a vast number of 'duplication-style' local parks and limited 'destination' parks developed across the network.

Council has shown clear foresight in proposing the development of both local- and district-level passive open space in future PSPs. This will ensure a wide range of passive recreation opportunities are available (including larger parks suitable for groups (e.g. family gatherings), parks with a variety of activity nodes and activities that are appealing to all age groups). Further, this approach will limit the inappropriate over-embellishment of local-level passive open space that appears to have occurred in a number of parks throughout the Eastern Corridor planning area (presumably in an attempt by developers to provide higher-level 'feature' parks).

As more detailed design is undertaken for the open space network within a planning precinct, Council should undertake a needs-based approach to facility provision to ensure open space function, open space characteristics and range of activities across the precinct are considered.

Ensuring flexibility in active open space provision

Council faces an exciting time in outdoor sports planning and provision. Almost 325ha of district-level active open space is planned between approved and proposed PSPs. An additional 51ha of regional-level active open space is also forecast for development. As a result, Council has the opportunity to plan for an innovative, sustainable network of outdoor sports facilities.

Council and the MPA currently have a preference of developing district-level active open spaces with either two ovals or three rectangular playing fields (6ha or 10ha options). This has resulted in a significant number of facilities being developed and ensured nearby access to sporting facilities for residents. However, it has also seen a somewhat cookie-cutter approach to sports provision with a number of facilities having the same inclusions and 'feel'. As a result, Council's recent active open space developments reflect a move toward a more flexible approach to facility planning with more multi-use facilities being constructed. For example, the fields developed at the Taylors Hill Recreation Reserve have been designed so that they allow opportunities for AFL and cricket (oval sports) and rectangular sports as overlays.

Excitingly, the development of three regional-level facilities will provide more flexibility in design and the range of sports provided for. Additionally, these facilities will place Council and local sporting associations in a much better position to bid for larger state-level sporting events (that often require multiple fields in one location).

Development triggers and timing

While it would be ideal if the entire open space network within a planned community (PSP) could be developed in one stage, the reality is that development occurs in line with lot uptake triggers. While this approach may be appropriate for the development of passive open spaces, a more proactive approach should be undertaken for the development of active open space. It is important to understand the significant time required to develop quality sporting facilities. Timing issues associated with sporting organisation consultation, seeking grant funding, facility design and master planning, construction and establishment (for instance the time taken for new turf wicket blocks to become stabilised and available for play can be up to one year) can be beyond three years. If significant residential development is achieved in this time, residents will either be without suitable facilities and/or have created overuse and capacity issues for existing facilities.

Council will need to take a proactive approach to the development of district-level active open space. With a DSS of 1.3ha/1,000 for district-level active open space and a preferred facility design of between 6ha and 10ha, an appropriate trigger for the development of new facilities would be between 4,600 and 7,600 new residents. However, as noted above, given the time required to develop quality sports facilities, Council will be required to monitor residential growth and project growth forward (up to three years) to ascertain likely timing of commencement of sports facility planning and development.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - State sporting organisation planning considerations
Appendix 2 - Desired sport provision standards
Appendix 3 - Desired facility provision standards
Appendix 4 - Desired pavilion provision standards

Appendix 1 - State sporting organisation planning considerations

It is important that Council's planning for future active open space reflects expressed desires of the state sporting organisations (and vice versa) where possible. There is no sense in a particular sport noting the need (and planning) for dozens of additional fields to meet expected growth if Council has not planned for that quantum to be available. As a result, consultation was undertaken with state representatives from the key field and court sports undertaken in Melton. The information presented below is a summary of this consultation and does not necessarily reflect Council's direction or on-ground realities. For example, while Bowls Victoria may not have a vision for any additional facilities within the LGA, Council is overseeing the development of a 3-green facility at Taylors Hill West.

For ease of review, results have been presented in the following table by sporting organisation.

Table 39. State sporting organisation future planning considerations

State Sporting Organisation	Planning considerations	Considerations for Melton LGA
AFL Victoria	☐ Growing the Heartland (Football Facilities Development Strategy) leads facility development ☐ Preferred Facilities Guidelines indicate facility hierarchy ☐ Preferred provision rate: – 1: 4,000 residents	☐ Looking to develop a specific Football Facility Strategy for the Western Corridor ☐ Even if only 'medium' growth is achieved, expectation that Melton LGA will need approximately 13 additional fields by 2020 and 25 additional fields by 2030. ☐ (However, it is important to note that AFL Victoria have used population forecasts that are approximately half of most recent projections)
Athletics Victoria	☐ Yet to develop any facility planning documents ☐ Desire for at least one synthetic facility within each metropolitan council	☐ Excited that the synthetic facility in Melton is under construction (and will service the wider western region)
Baseball Victoria	☐ Facilities Development Plan includes a facility hierarchy ☐ Future planning will revolve around development of juniors and pathways to seniors ☐ Planning to develop 4 metropolitan district-level facilities and 3 regional district-level facilities across the State	☐ Melton LGA is recognised as a key future planning area ☐ Club growth is expected in Melton as junior opportunities and pathways are established
Basketball Victoria	☐ Facilities Master Plan leads planning and development. It includes a facility hierarchy, provision models and preferred provision rates ☐ Preferred provision rate (basketball only facility): – 1 indoor court: 300-500 players – 4 indoor courts: 25,000 residents	☐ Melton LGA is identified as a recognised growth area ☐ Keen to see additional court space developed in Caroline Springs and a new sub-regional facility (minimum 4 courts) developed in the Toolern growth area ☐ With a proposed participation rate of 5%, Melton LGA will have an ultimate 'demand' of 55 courts
Bowls Victoria	☐ No planning or forecasts required as Bowls Victoria has a simple vision - a bowls club in every suburb and every town	☐ The existing bowls club in Melton is functioning well and meeting demand from the area ☐ No additional facilities are planned for by Bowls Victoria in the LGA
Cricket Victoria	☐ Common Ground (A unified Plan for Victorian Cricket Facilities Development) notes the importance of planning for future facilities ☐ State-wide Facilities Development Guidelines currently under construction ☐ Preferred provision rate of 1: 3,000-5,000 (depending on age profile and demographics)	☐ Melton is an important growth area and will require many new fields ☐ Ultimate requirements to be developed in the Facilities Development Guidelines
Football Federation Victoria	☐ Currently developing a 15-year State Facilities Strategy ☐ Preferred club size is a maximum of 220 players with at least 2 full-size fields lit ☐ Keen to see additional synthetic pitches ☐ Prefer cricket and football to share field space with wickets designed between football fields	☐ Melton is performing above the State average in terms of football participation rates ☐ However, a number of clubs have become too large and additional clubs (with new facilities) are required

State Sporting Organisation	Planning considerations	Considerations for Melton LGA
Gridiron Victoria	☐ Over the last 30 years have struggled with haphazard development and growth in the sport - without a strategic vision ☐ Looking to develop a State Facilities Plan in coming years ☐ Ideally, seeking a central 2-field venue to host carnivals, marquee matches, state and national championships	☐ Given the expected growth in the Melton LGA, there is potential for the new central headquarters to be developed in this area
Hockey Victoria	☐ Strategic Facilities Master Plan leads future planning and development and includes a facility hierarchy ☐ Preferred provision rate: – 1 synthetic pitch: 100,000 residents – 1 synthetic pitch: 300 players	☐ High priority to provide ongoing support and advice regarding the establishment of a new facility at Bridge Road Reserve
Lacrosse Victoria	☐ A State Facilities Plan is currently under development	☐ The State Facilities Plan will guide future provision
Netball Victoria	☐ 2015 is an identified year for planning ☐ Will be developing a Regional Facility Strategy (2016-2025) to update the existing Facility Hierarchy and Preferred Facility Requirements Guide ☐ Preferred facility distribution: – Netball only indoor - 1 court: 10,000 residents – Multi-lined facilities - 3 courts: 10,000 residents – Country football/netball - 2nd court required when more than 60 players in a club	☐ Central Western Metropolitan Zone (including Melton LGA) is predicted to see the largest increase in netball participation ☐ With a preferred provision rate of at least 3 indoor courts for every 30,000 residents, Melton LGA will have an ultimate 'demand' of 44 indoor courts (or more than 130 multi-lined courts)
Victorian Rugby League	☐ Facility Development Plan notes rapid growth and includes a facility hierarchy	☐ A new club was established in Melton in 2014 and commenced with 160 members. Continued growth is predicted, with the club likely to be one of Melbourne's largest in the short-term ☐ With provision of lights and clubroom expansion, the facilities at Mt Carberry Reserve meet current and short-term future needs
Victorian Rugby Union	☐ Chasing funding to develop a State Facilities Plan in the near future ☐ No current facility planning provision rates	☐ Melton is a key growth area ☐ Existing club is small but expected to grow rapidly. It enjoys quality playing facilities but has a very poor pavilion
Softball Victoria	☐ While Facility Management and Field Development Guidelines exist, yet to commence any strategic facility planning	☐ Without a lead planning document, little development is forecast (and no interest has ever been raised from (or for) the Melton area)
Tennis Victoria	☐ Tennis Australia has developed Tennis 2020 (Facility development and management framework) ☐ Places to Play State Facility Strategy is currently being developed	☐ A Tennis Strategy was developed for Melton LGA in 2012. It identifies: – no current sub-regional (12-15 courts) or regional level (16+ courts) facilities – Council's desire for 1 court: 1,500 residents is considered appropriate ☐ Using this provision rate Council will have an ultimate 'demand' for 294 courts ☐ Interestingly, Tennis Victoria note that despite population increases, a number of the clubs in Melton are struggling (due to lack of development and business plans, limited provision of programs and tournaments and relationship issues between clubs).

Appendix 2 - Desired facility provision standards

Provision ratios

Council has developed desired facility provision ratios for sports facilities. These have been calculated using a number of factors including average participation rates from local Active Participation Survey's and Victorian ERASS data, number of participants in the LGA, number of participants per team, facility maximum usage, consideration of best practice and provision rates for other Victorian growth councils. These provision ratios are considered 'desired'. Factors such as participation rates, new and emerging sport opportunities, facility distribution and changes in facility requirements (e.g. synthetic surfaces) will influence demand. Further, Council and the community's ability to resource future facilities will also influence development patterns. It is important that these standards are considered 'fluid' and are reviewed regularly.

Table 40. Sport desired provision rates

Sport	Council's desired provision rate (facility: residents)	State Sporting Organisation (SSO) desired provision rate (facility: residents)
AFL	1 senior oval: 5,000	1 senior oval: 4,000 residents (approx)
Basketball	1 indoor court: 10,000 (indoor high ball sports)	4 indoor courts: 25,000 One 4-court sub-regional facility: >100,000 residents in 15km radius catchment One 3-court local facility: >50,000 residents in 15km radius catchment
Bowls	1 green: 40,000	No ratio
Cricket	1 senior oval: 5,000	1 senior oval: 3,000-5,000 (depending on age profile and demographics) 1: 4,000 to be used for calculation purposes
Football (soccer)[1]	1 senior pitch (grass): 6,000	No ratio
Hockey	1 synthetic pitch: 80,000	1 synthetic pitch: 100,000
Rugby League/ rugby union	1 senior field: 60,000	No ratio
Softball/baseball	1 diamond: 75,000	No ratio
Tennis	1 court: 2,500	1 court: 1,500 residents (for Melton LGA)

1 - Synthetic soccer pitches carry three times the carrying capacity of grass pitches.

'Potential' future sport demand - summary

There are areas of clear difference between Council's and the State Sporting Organisations' preferred provision rates. However, Council is confident that, if achieved, these rates will result in a quality network of sporting facilities that meets the needs of the community well.

Table 41. Potential sports facility requirements

Sport	Existing	Approved PSP	Ultimate build out	To be planned[1]
AFL	21	21	88	46
Bowls	4	3	11	4
Cricket	25	23	88	40
Hockey (synthetic)	1	0	6	5
Indoor highball courts	6	16	44	22
Rugby league/ rugby union	3	0	7	4
Soccer (grass)[2]	21	16	73	36
Softball/ baseball	2	0	6	4
Tennis	48	30	176	98

1 - To be planned = Ultimate - (Existing + Approved PSP)
2 - Council's 5 existing synthetic soccer pitches are counted as 15 existing grass pitches

Clearly, the extreme population growth will require significant development of sport facilities to meet demand. However, it is difficult to accurately predict the demand with regard to individual sports given potential change in trends between 2016 and ultimate build out. Almost every state sporting organisation notes that, as a growth area, Melton is a key focus for promotion and development. Yet commonsense suggests that not every sport can achieve significant participation rate increases at the same time given that they are often competing for the same participants.

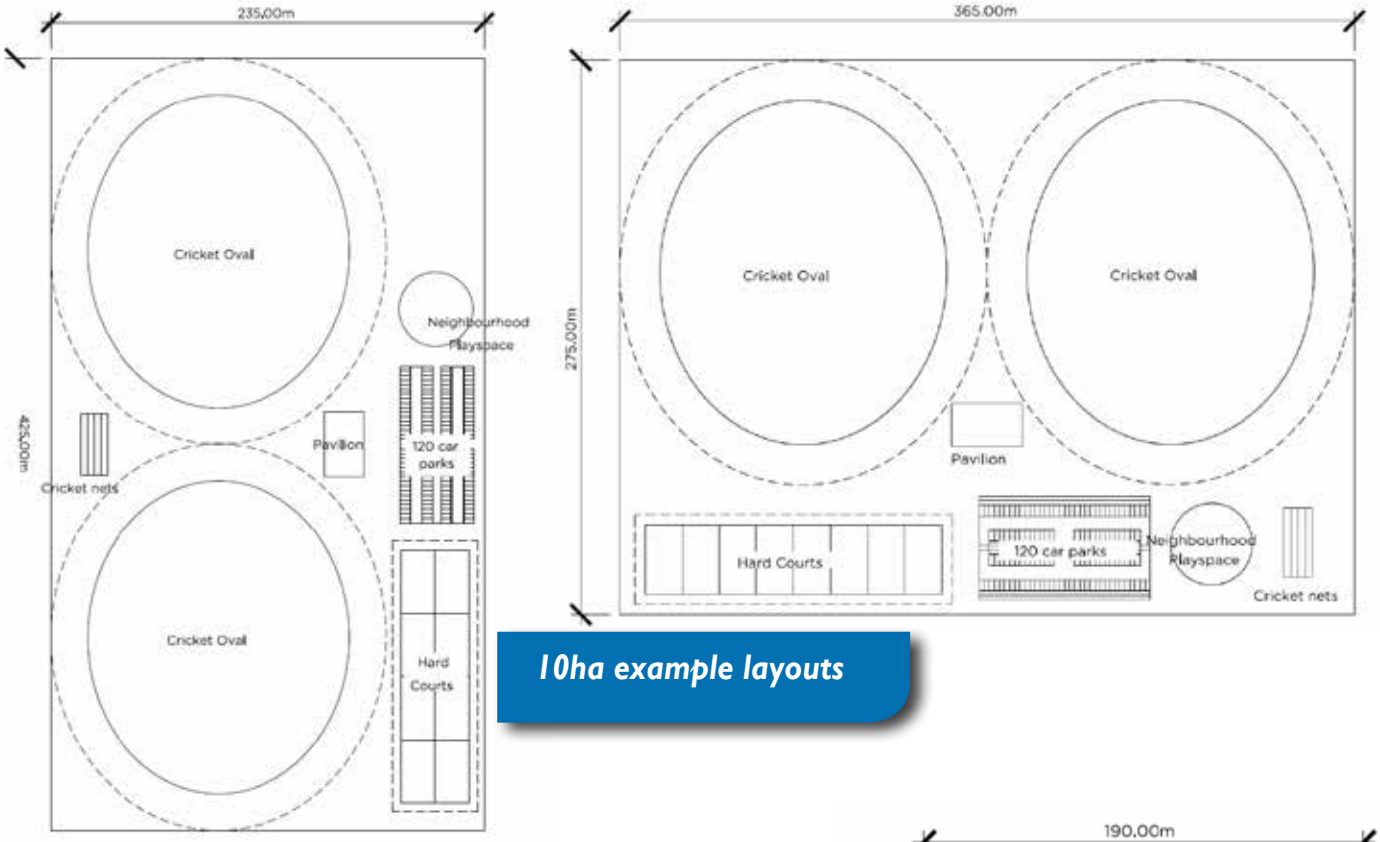
Regardless of how sport growth unfolds, the more than 370 new facilities that may potentially be required by ultimate build out will require careful planning, a keen sense of prioritisation, significant land and funding. The Open Space Plan has identified approximately 354ha of future district-level active open space to be developed (through approved and proposed PSPs). An additional 46.6ha of regional active open space is also planned for to address sport demand.

It is also important to recognise that the community may also look to local schools to address need. However, many schools tend to develop sport facilities (especially court sports) without meeting the layout and dimension expectations of the sporting code. This is particularly true for the provision of adequate run-offs and for ceiling heights for indoor sports. Wherever possible, Council should look to liaise with those schools known to be planning significant facilities to ensure suitable development that will be attractive to local clubs and associations.

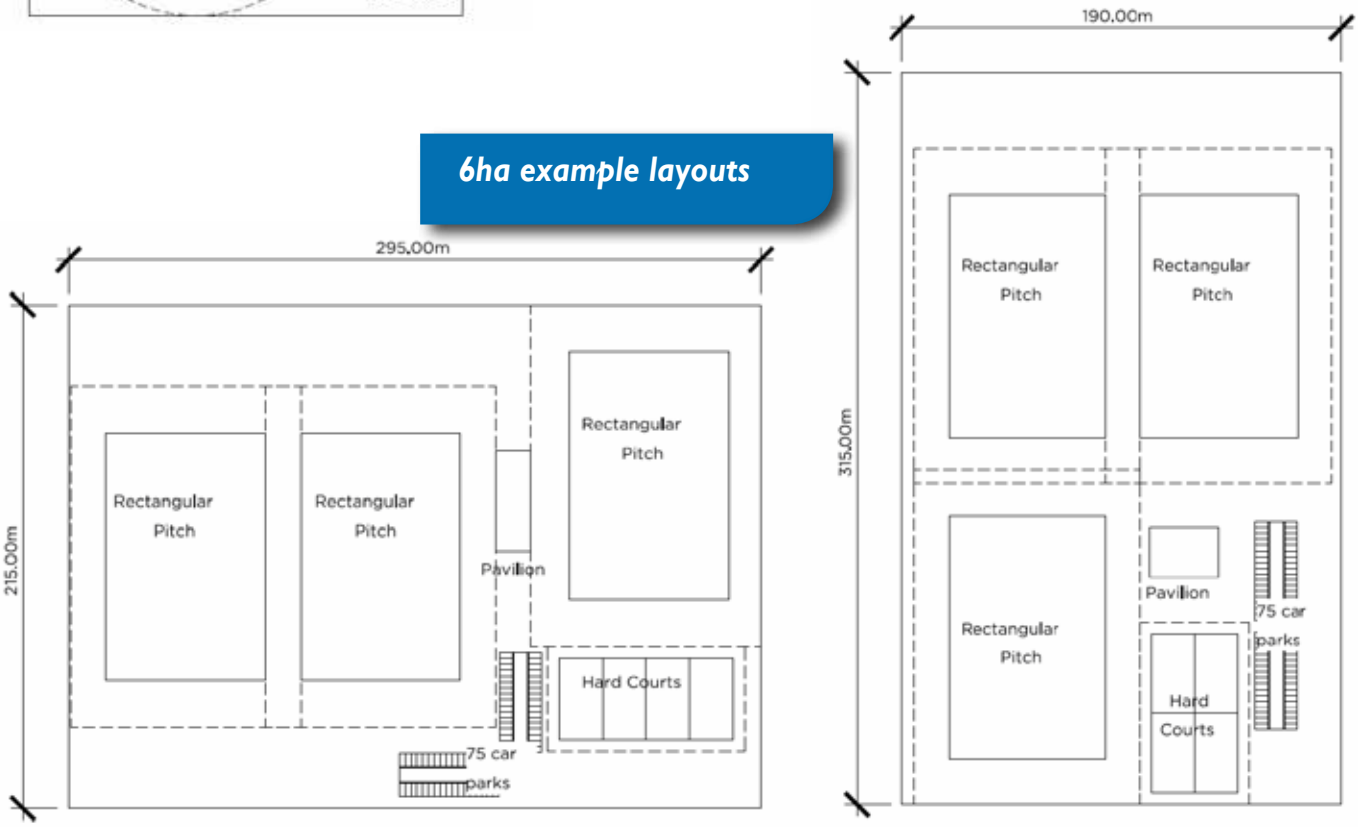
Council's Indoor Sports Strategy provides further detail on future planning initiatives regarding the provision of indoor sport facilities.

A range of indicative facility layouts are provided on the following pages.

Indicative facility layouts

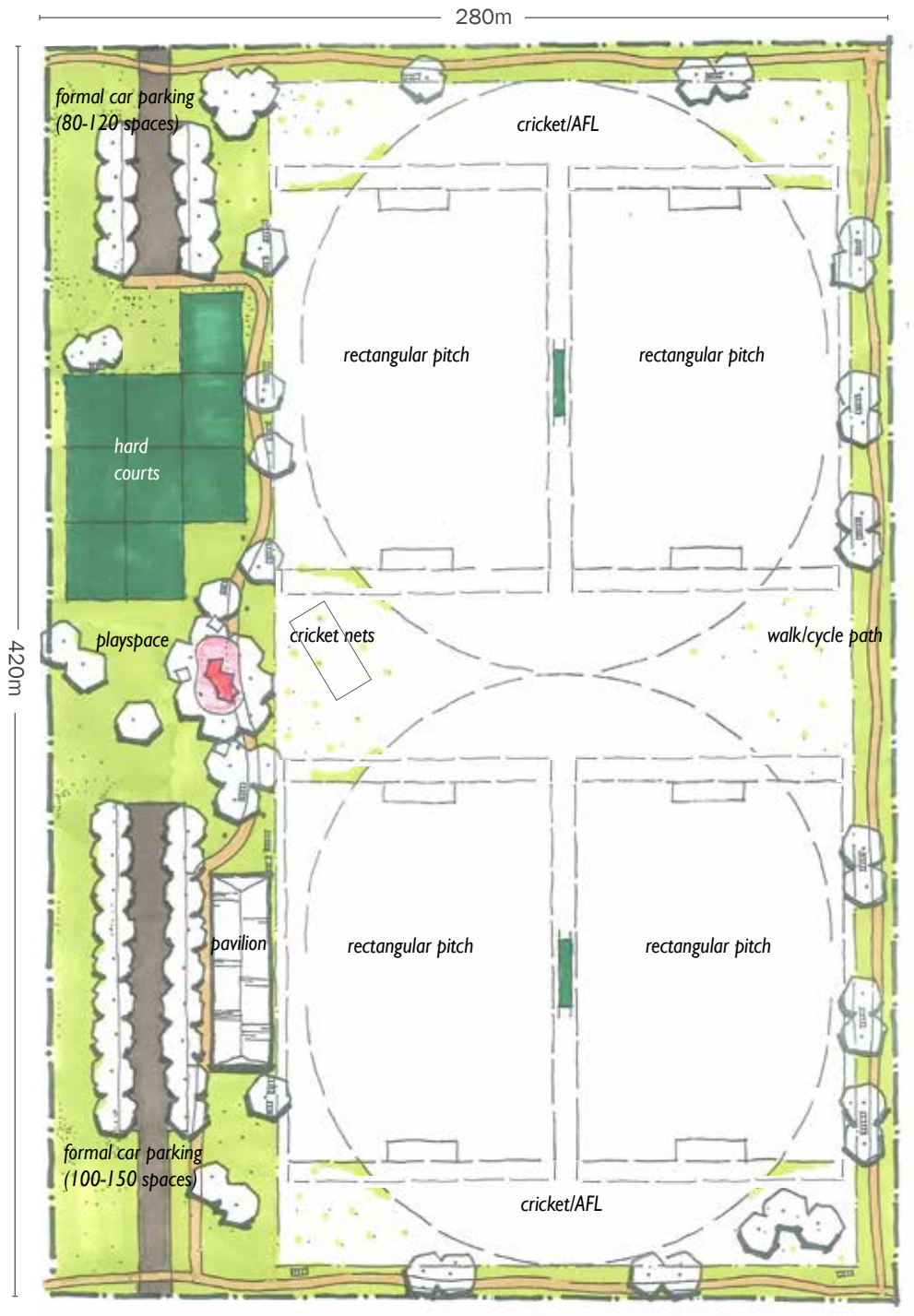


10ha example layouts



6ha example layouts

Flexible 10-12ha example layout



Appendix 3 - Desired facility provision standards

Background

District-level sporting facilities are currently developed by Council using Council funds, developer contributions and grant funding from State and Federal Government. In contrast, developer contributions cannot be collected or used for the development of regional-level facilities. As such, regional-level facilities are likely to require significant contributions from state (and national) sporting organisations, sporting user groups, state and federal government and Council.

The following pages present desired facility provision standards for the key sports at two levels - district and regional. Council will continue to be a key driver in the development of district-level facilities (largely through developer contributions and grants) and will strive to develop facilities according to the district-level provision standards. However, the development of regional-level facilities will require a collaborative approach where facilities may need to be staged in order to ultimately meet the regional-level provision standards. User groups and state (and national) sporting organisations will be expected to contribute to the development of these high-level facilities.

Athletics

Playing area[1]

Table 42. Athletics playing area considerations

Facility component	District	Regional
Orientation	North-south	
Track surface	Permanent synthetic track of 400m circumference with minimum 8 lanes, and 10 front straight lanes for 110m hurdles events. (Construction in accordance with guidelines as outlined in IAAF Track and Field Facilities Manual)	Permanent synthetic track of 400m circumference with minimum 8 lanes, and 10 lanes in front and back straights for 110m hurdles events. (Construction in accordance with guidelines as outlined in IAAF Track and Field Facilities Manual)
Steeplechase	Permanent water jump (inside or outside the track)	Permanent water jump (inside or outside the track)
Combined discus/hammer cage	Minimum of 1 permanent combined throwing cage	2 permanent combined throwing cages
Shot put circle	Minimum of 2 permanent throwing circles	Up to 3 permanent throwing circles
Javelin	Minimum of 1 synthetic approach	2 synthetic approaches
High jump	Minimum of 1 synthetic 'D'	2 synthetic 'Ds'
Long/triple jump	2 double-ended synthetic approaches with pits	Up to 4 double-ended synthetic approaches with pits
Pole vault	Minimum of 1 synthetic approach (across 'D' with vaulting box)	2 synthetic approaches with vaulting box (across 'D' and in one of the straights)
Irrigation	Automated system	Automated system

1 *Based on IAAF Track and Field Facilities Manual 2008 guidelines*

Associated infrastructure

Table 43. Athletics associated infrastructure considerations

Facility component	District	Regional
Pavilion	see Appendix 2	
Car parking	Assessment require for the site	Assessment required for the site
Drinking fountain	Minimum of 2	Minimum of 4
Fencing	Vehicle and pedestrian fencing around the facility	Vehicle and pedestrian fencing around the facility
Park furniture	6 bench seats	Minimum of 8 bench seats
Playspace	Local-level play node	Local- to district-level play node
Public toilets	Externally accessible at the pavilion	At the pavilion (and potential for additional standalone)
Rubbish bins	Minimum 1200 litres	Minimum 2400 litres
Shade	Consider spectator shade in key gathering areas	
Sportsfield lighting	Lighting to recreation and training standard	Lighting to club competition
Storage shed	75m^2 (minimum)	100m^2 (minimum)

AFL[1] and cricket[2]

Playing surface

Table 44. AFL and cricket playing surface considerations

Facility component	District	Regional
Playing field (includes 5m run-off)	AFL - Preferred 175m x 145m, Minimum 145m x 120m Cricket - Preferred 60m radius, Minimum 50m radius	AFL - Minimum 175m x 140m Cricket - Preferred 70m radius, minimum 65m radius
Orientation	North-south	North-south
Drainage (outside fencing)	Basic	Comprehensive system
Irrigation	Automated system	Automated system
Sight screens	n/a	One at each end of the main field
Number of ovals	Minimum 2	Minimum 1, 2 recommended and 3 desirable

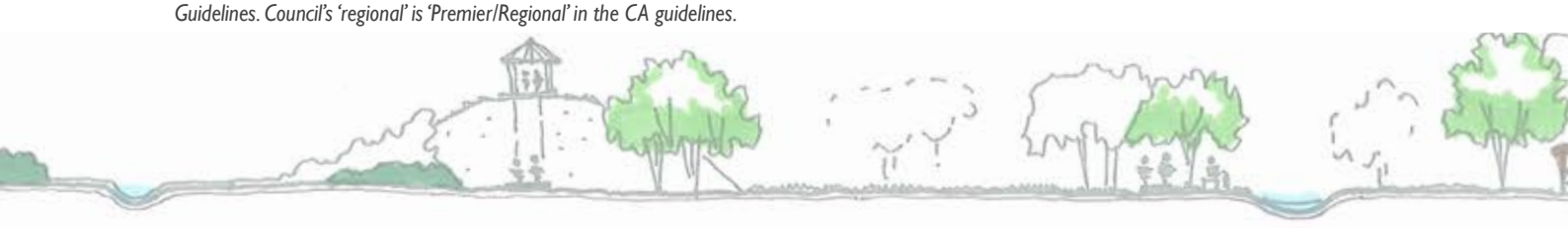
Associated infrastructure

Table 45. AFL and cricket associated infrastructure considerations

Facility component	District	Regional
Pavilion	see Appendix 2	
Ball protection fencing	Required if goals are within 10m of car parking, roads, buildings or footpaths	
Car parking	Off-street minimum 57 cars per oval	Off-street minimum 57 cars per oval
Cricket practice nets	2 synthetic practice nets per oval	Minimum 2 synthetic practice nets per oval (consideration of turf practice nets as an alternative or additional option)
Cricket wicket - turf	22.56m x 3.05m (5-6 pitches). Turf wickets require club contribution and require junior use	22.56m x 3.05m (8-10 pitches). Turf wickets require club contribution
Cricket wicket - synthetic	28m x 2.8m	
Drinking fountains	2 per oval	
Fencing	Vehicle and pedestrian fencing around the facility	Vehicle and pedestrian fencing around the facility
Goal posts	☐ Goals posts - 10m out of ground ☐ Point posts - 6.5m out of ground	☐ Goals posts - 12m out of ground ☐ Point posts - 8m out of ground
Oval fencing	Post and rail fencing around each oval	Cyclone wire mesh infill
Park furniture	6 bench seats per oval	
Player shelter	2 fixed shelters on western side of oval (8 seat capacity)	
Playspace	Local-level play node	Local-level play node
Public toilets	Externally accessible at the pavilion	Externally accessible at the pavilion
Rubbish bins	Minimum 1200 litres per oval	2400 litres for main oval, 960 litres for secondary ovals
Scoreboard	Scoreboard stand provided. Minimum 2m high and 2.6m wide	Elevated manual scoreboard with scorer's room. Storage below
Shade	Consider spectator shade in key gathering areas	
Sportsfield lighting	Ovals lit to training standard with capacity to expand the main oval to competition standard	Competition standard lighting on at least one oval, other ovals lit to training standard with capacity to expand to competition standard

1 *Desired standards are based on AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines, August 2012. Council's 'district' facility is 'local' in the AFL Guidelines. Council's 'regional' facility is 'regional' in the AFL guidelines*

2 *Desired standards are based on Cricket Australia's (CA) Community Cricket Facility Guidelines, September 2015. Council's 'district' is 'club (home)' in the CA Guidelines. Council's 'regional' is 'Premier/Regional' in the CA guidelines.*



Baseball[1] and softball

Playing surface

Table 46. Baseball and softball playing surface considerations

Facility component	District	Regional
Size	Baseball - 98m along foul lines and 114m to centre outfield from home plate Softball - 83.82m radius from home plate	
Backnet	Permanent backnet for 2 diamonds (minimum)	Permanent backnet for 2 diamonds (minimum) with at least one having fencing extensions between home plate and first base and home plate and third base
Outfield fencing	Full outfield fencing (portable)	Full outfield fencing (portable or permanent)
Number of fields	Minimum of two full-size diamonds with no outfield overlaps	
Infield	Grass with skinned running tracks	Grass (or skinned) with skinned running tracks
Outfield	Grass surface with automated irrigation and quality drainage	

Associated infrastructure

Table 47. Baseball and softball associated infrastructure considerations

Facility component	District	Regional
Pavilion	See Appendix 2	
Car parking	Off street minimum 36 cars per diamond	
Drinking fountain	1 per diamond	
Fencing	Vehicle and pedestrian fencing around the facility	Vehicle and pedestrian fencing around the facility
Park furniture	4 bench seats per diamond	
Player dugouts	Permanent dug outs for 2 fields minimum (located along run to first base and run to home plate)	
Playspace	Local-level play node	
Public toilets	Externally accessible at the pavilion	
Rubbish bins	720 litres per oval	
Scoreboard	Scoreboard stand provided. Minimum 2m high and 2.6m wide	
Shade	Consider spectator shade in key gathering areas between diamonds	
Sportsfield lighting	Diamonds lit to training standard with capacity to expand the main diamond to competition standard	Competition standard lighting on at least one diamond, other diamonds lit to training standard with capacity to expand to competition standard

1 *Desired standards are based on Baseball Victoria Regulations for New Baseball Fields (October 2014)*

Bowls

Playing surface

Table 48. Bowls playing surface considerations

Facility component	District	Regional
Size	Playing surface 37-40m x 37-40m	
Surface	Grass and/or synthetic turf	
No. of greens	Minimum 2 with capacity for a third	Three or more
Drainage	Comprehensive system	

Associated infrastructure

Table 49. Bowls associated infrastructure considerations

Facility component	District	Regional
Pavilion	See Appendix 2	
Car parking	Off street minimum 34 cars per green	
Drinking fountain	1 per green	
Fencing	Vehicle and pedestrian fencing around the facility	
Park furniture	12 bench seats per green	
Player shelters	Permanent shade structures (minimum 1 per 3 rinks)	
Public toilets	Externally accessible at the pavilion	
Rubbish bins	480 litres per green	
Scoring stands	1 for each rink on each green	
Shade	Consider spectator shade in key gathering areas	
Sportsfield lighting	Training standard on at least one green	Competition standard on at least one green, consider demand for training standard on others

Football (soccer)[1]

Playing surface

Table 50. Football (soccer) playing surface considerations

Facility component	District	Regional
Size (playing area and run-off)	Minimum 106m x 66m. Preferred 111m x 74m	
Orientation	North-south	
Drainage	Basic	Comprehensive system
Irrigation	Automated system	
Number of fields	Minimum 3 fields	Minimum 4 fields
Surface	Majority turf, consider demand for synthetic	

Associated infrastructure

Table 51. Football (soccer) associated infrastructure considerations

Facility component	District	Regional
Pavilion	See Appendix 2	
Ball protection fencing	Required if goals are within 10m of car parking, roads, buildings or footpaths	
Car parking	Off street minimum 40 cars per field	Preference for 200 car parks within 400m of the ground (minimum 40 cars per field)
Drinking fountain	1 per field	
Fencing	Vehicle and pedestrian fencing around the facility (spectator fencing around each field)	
Goals	Permanent and semi permanent goals must conform to Australian Standard AS 4866.1-2007 - Playing field equipment- Soccer goals Part 1: Safety aspects and be properly installed and secured. Moveable goals must be complaint with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commissions Consumer Protection notice no28. of 2010	
Park furniture	4 bench seats per field	
Pitch fencing	Post and rail preferred	Post and rail with chain mesh infill
Player shelters	2 shelters on western side of field (5-seat capacity)	2 shelters on western side of field (8-seat capacity)
Playspace	Local-level play node	
Public toilets	Externally accessible at the pavilion	
Rubbish bins	720 litres per field	1440 litres for main field and 720 litres for additional fields
Scoreboard	Scoreboard stand provided. Minimum 2m high and 2.6m wide	Elevated manual scoreboard on main field
Shade	Consider spectator shade in key gathering areas	
Sportsfield lighting	At least two fields lit to training standard with capacity to expand the main field to competition standard	Competition standard lighting on at least one field, other fields lit to training standard with capacity to expand to competition standard

1 *Desired standards are based on Football Federation Victoria (FFV) 2014 Rules of Competition. Council's 'District' is 'Class D' in the FFV Guidelines. Council's 'Regional' is 'Class B' in the FFV guidelines.*

Hockey[1] and Lacrosse

Playing surface

Table 52. Hockey and lacrosse playing surface considerations

Facility component	District	Regional
Size	Hockey - 101.44m x 63m (inclusive of run-offs) Lacrosse - 108.58m x 62.86m (inclusive of run-offs)	
Orientation	North-south	
Field surface	Synthetic turf	
Number of fields	Minimum one pitch with capacity to expand to two	Minimum two pitches

Associated infrastructure

Table 53. Hockey and lacrosse associated infrastructure considerations

Facility component	District	Regional
Pavilion	See Appendix 2	
Ball protection fencing	Required if goals are within 10m of car parking, roads, buildings or footpaths	
Car parking	Off street minimum 30 cars per pitch	
Drinking fountain	1 per pitch	
Fencing	Vehicle and pedestrian fencing around the facility	
Park furniture	4 bench seats per pitch	
Player shelters	2 shelters per pitch (6-seat capacity)	
Playspace	Local-level play node	
Public toilets	Externally accessible at the pavilion	
Rubbish bins	720 litres per oval	
Scoreboard	Scoreboard stand provided. Minimum 2m high and 2.6m wide	
Shade	Consider spectator shade in key gathering areas	
Sportsfield lighting	At least one pitch lit to training standard with capacity to expand the main pitch to competition standard	Competition standard lighting on at least one pitch, other pitches lit to training standard with capacity to expand to competition standard

1 *Desired standards are based on Hockey South Australia Statewide Facilities Strategy. Council's 'District' is 'Level E' in the HSA Guidelines. Council's 'Regional' is 'Level C' in the HSA guidelines*

Netball (outdoor)[1]

Playing surface

Table 54. Netball (outdoor) playing surface considerations

Facility component	District	Regional
Size	30.5m x 15.25m (run-off 3.05m outside sidelines and/or 3.65m between courts)	
Orientation	North-south	
Court surface	Hardcourt (asphalt, concrete or acrylic resin)	Hardcourt (acrylic resin preferred)
Number of courts	Minimum 1 court with capacity to expand to at least 2	Minimum 6 courts

Associated infrastructure

Table 55. Netball (outdoor) associated infrastructure considerations

Facility component	District	Regional
Pavilion	See Appendix 2	
Car parking	Off street minimum 30 cars per court	Off street minimum 30 cars per court (with overflow areas)
Drinking fountain	1 per court	
Fencing	Vehicle and pedestrian fencing around the facility (no fencing near court area)	
Park furniture	2 bench seats per court (not in run-off areas)	
Player shelters	2 shelters per court (not in run-off areas)	Opportunities for shelters dependent on court design
Playspace	Local-level play node	
Public toilets	Externally accessible at the pavilion	
Rubbish bins	240 litres per court	
Scoreboard	Scoreboard stand provided. Minimum 2m high and 2.6m wide	
Shade	Consider spectator shade in key gathering areas	
Sportsfield lighting	At least one court lit to training standard with capacity to expand the main court to competition standard	Competition standard lighting on at least one court, other courts lit to training standard with capacity to expand to competition standard

1 *Desired standards are based on SRV Netball Court Planning Guide*

Rugby league[1], rugby union[2] and gridiron

Playing surface

Table 56. Rugby league, rugby union and gridiron playing surface considerations

Facility component	District	Regional
Size (playing area and run-off)	Rugby league - Minimum 122m x 78m. Maximum 132m x 78m Rugby union - Minimum 120m x 78m. Maximum 144m x 80m Gridiron - 120m x 58.8m	
Orientation	North-south	
Drainage	Basic	Comprehensive system
Irrigation	Automated system	
Number of fields	2 fields	Minimum 2 fields

Associated infrastructure

Table 57. Rugby league, rugby union and gridiron associated infrastructure considerations

Facility component	District	Regional
Pavilion	See Appendix 2	
Ball protection fencing	Required if goals are within 10m of car parking, roads, buildings or footpaths	
Car parking	Off street minimum 50 cars per field	Off street minimum 50 cars per field (with overflow areas)
Drinking fountain	1 per field	
Fencing	Vehicle and pedestrian fencing around the facility (spectator fencing around each field)	
Park furniture	4 bench seats per field	
Player shelters	2 shelters on western side of field (4-seat capacity)	2 shelters on western side of field (6-seat capacity)
Playspace	Local-level play node	
Public toilets	Externally accessible at the pavilion	
Rubbish bins	720 litres per field	
Scoreboard	Scoreboard stand provided. Minimum 2m high and 2.6m wide	
Shade	Consider spectator shade in key gathering areas	
Sportsfield lighting	Fields lit to training standard with capacity to expand the main field to competition standard	Competition standard lighting on at least one field, other fields lit to training standard with capacity to expand to competition standard

1 *Desired standards are based on NRL Preferred Facility Guideline (2014). Council's 'District' is 'Local' in the NRL Guidelines. Council's 'Regional' is 'Regional' in the NRL Guidelines*

2 *Desired standards are based on Australian Rugby Union National Community Rugby Facilities Strategy (2012). Council's 'District' is 'Local' in the ARU Guidelines. Council's 'Regional' is 'State/Regional' in the ARU Guidelines. World Rugby Laws of the Game were referenced for ground dimensions*

Tennis[1]

Playing surface

Table 58. Tennis playing surface considerations

Facility component	District	Regional
Size (including run-off)	Minimum 34.77m x 17.07m. Preferred 36.6m x 18.3m	
Orientation	North-south	
Court surface	Hardcourt (acrylic resin)	Hardcourt
Number of courts	Minimum 4 courts	Minimum 16 courts

Associated infrastructure

Table 59. Tennis associated infrastructure considerations

Facility component	District	Regional
Pavilion	See Appendix 2	
Car parking	Off street minimum 4 cars per court	
Drinking fountain	1 per 4 courts	
Fencing	All courts fenced	
Park furniture	1 bench seats per 2 courts (outside fenced area)	
Playspace	Local-level play node	
Public toilets	Externally accessible at the pavilion	
Rubbish bins	240 litres per 2 courts	
Shade	Consider spectator shade in key gathering areas	
Sportsfield lighting	Competition standard on at least 4 courts	Competition standard on all courts

1 *Desired standards are based on SRV Tennis Facility Planning Guide*

Appendix 4 - Desired pavilion provision standards

Table 60. Desired pavilion provision standards

Sport	AFL[1]/Cricket[2]		Football (soccer)[3]		Netball (outdoor)[4]		Other field sports		Rugby league[5]		Rugby union[6]		Tennis[7]		Lawn bowls	
Hierarchy	Dist.	Reg.	Dist.	Reg.	Dist.	Reg.	Dist.	Reg.	Dist.	Reg.	Dist.	Reg.	Dist.	Reg.	Dist.	Reg.
Amenities	25	25	20	25	15	20	15	20	25	25	25	25	15	20	15	20
Change rooms	45	55	25	25	20	25	20	25	30	45	30	45	20	25	20	25
External covered viewing area	50	75	50	75	50	75	50	75	50	75	50	75	50	75	50	75
First aid room	10	15	10	15	10	15	10	15	10	15	10	15	10	15	10	15
Kitchen/kiosk	20	30	20	30	20	30	20	30	20	30	20	30	20	30	20	30
Massage/ strapping room[8]	0	15	0	15	0	15	0	15	0	15	0	15	0	15	0	0
Meeting room/ office[9]	10	15	10	15	10	15	10	15	10	15	10	15	10	15	10	15
Public toilets	25	35	25	35	25	35	25	35	25	35	25	35	25	35	25	35
Social/ community room	100	150	80	150	80	150	80	150	80	150	80	150	80	150	80	150
Storage (10m2 per tenant)	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Umpires rooms	20	30	20	20	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	0	15	0	0
Cleaners	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Utilities/plant	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Total core area - 2 change	395	575	345	505	320	490	320	490	360	540	360	540	305	490	305	460
Total core area - 4 change[10]	535	715	415	585	370	560	370	560	450	660	450	660	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Circulation space - 2 change	79	115	69	101	64	98	64	98	72	108	72	108	61	98	61	92
Circulation space - 4 change	107	143	83	117	74	112	74	112	90	132	90	132	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total footprint - 2 change	474	690	414	606	384	588	384	588	432	648	432	648	366	588	366	552
Total footprint - 4 change	642	858	498	702	444	672	444	672	540	792	540	792	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Desired pavilion provision standards - notes

1. Desired standards are based on AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines, August 2012. Council's 'District' facility is 'Local' in the AFL Guidelines. Council's 'Regional' facility is 'Regional' in the AFL Guidelines
2. Desired standards are based on Cricket Australia's (CA) Community Cricket Facility Guidelines, September 2015. Council's 'District' is 'Club (Home)' in the CA Guidelines. Council's 'Regional' is 'Premier/Regional' in the CA Guidelines
3. Desired standards are based on Football Federation Victoria (FFV) 2014 Rules of Competition. Council's 'District' is 'Class D' in the FFV Guidelines. Council's 'Regional' is 'Class B' in the FFV Guidelines
4. Desired standards are based on Sport and Recreation Victoria Netball Court Planning Guide
5. Desired standards are based on NRL Preferred Facility Guideline (2014). Council's 'District' is 'Local' in the NRL Guidelines. Council's 'Regional' is 'Regional' in the NRL Guidelines
6. Desired standards are based on Australian Rugby Union National Community Rugby Facilities Strategy (2012). Council's 'District' is 'Local' in the ARU Guidelines. Council's 'Regional' is 'State/Regional' in the ARU Guidelines. World Rugby Laws of the Game were referenced for ground dimensions
7. Desired standards are based on Sport and Recreation Victoria Tennis Facility Planning Guide
8. Massage/strapping room in not required for district-level pavilions
9. Meeting room/office is optional for district-level facilities
10. Male and female change rooms/amenities are provided rather than 'home and away'

Additional notes:

- ☐ Where there are concurrent activities (i.e. AFL and netball), change rooms and amenities will aim to provide for both activities
- ☐ Where there are simultaneous licence agreements in the one pavilion, a larger kitchen may be required. This will be considered on a case-by-case basis
- ☐ As state sporting organisation preferred provision standards are altered, Council will consider potential changes to these desired standards

ross planning

recreation
open space
and sport
specialists

CITY OF MELTON