



WARRNAMBOOL
CITY COUNCIL

Draft Open Space Strategy 2026-41

February 2026



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NGARIGO, MUWININA/PALAWA, WURUNDJERI, AND GADIGAL PEOPLES.



Glossary

Term	Definition
Council	Warrnambool City Council
Encumbered land	Is land in which the primary purpose is not open space; however, it may provide some supplementary access. However, this is not always granted or available. Generally, the primary purposes for this land are transport, drainage, and utilities.
Local Government Area (LGA)	Warrnambool Local Government Area
Net Developable Area (NDA)	Land that is available for development. This excludes encumbered land, arterial roads, railway corridors, significant heritage, schools and community facilities and public open space. It includes lots, local streets and connector streets. Net Developable Area may be expressed in terms of hectare units (i.e. NDHa).
Precinct	The Warrnambool LGA is divided into 11 Precincts. These Precincts support local area planning for a range of services, including open space.
Precinct Structure Plan (PSP)	A Precinct Structure Plan is a Victorian Planning Authority term for a long-term plan for urban development. It describes how the land is expected to be developed and how and where services and infrastructure are planned to support the development of new communities at a precinct scale.
Public open space	Is publicly owned and accessible land in which the primary purpose is recreation, leisure, and outdoor enjoyment. It includes parks, gardens, sport reserves, and natural areas. It is protected for open space uses by the zoning Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ).
Restricted open space	The primary purpose of restricted open space is for open space, however, there is limited access due to use. This might be a result of lease agreements (such as schools), specialised sporting infrastructure (such as elite facilities, golf courses, racecourses) or conservation protection.



Warrnambool Art Gallery

Contents

Acknowledgement of Country	4	Precinct 2: Botanic	21
Mayor's Message	5	Precinct 3: East- Racecourse	22
Introduction and background	6	Precinct 4: South East- Hopkins	23
Benefits of open space	8	Precinct 5: North East	24
Challenges and opportunities	9	Precinct 6: West	25
What we heard	10	Precinct 7: South	26
Open Space Strategy	11	Precinct 8: Dennington	27
Types of open space	12	Precinct 9: North Merri	28
Open space services standards	12	Precinct 10: Bushfield – Woodford	29
Warrnambool open space network	15	Precinct 11: Allansford	30
Improving the open space network	18	Implementation	31
Precinct summaries	19	Action Plan	32
Precinct 1: Central	20	Monitoring and evaluation	37

Moyjil /Point Rictchie



Acknowledgement of Country

Council acknowledges the Peek Whurrong and Kirrae Whurrung Peoples of the Maar Nation, their land, waterways and skies within the Warrnambool municipality.
We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



Jubilee Park/ Wurrumbit Birrng Yaar

Mayor's Message

Warrnambool is home to some amazing open spaces, and I hope you agree.

From Lady Bay to the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens and Lake Pertobe, these well-known places help to attract over 700,000 visitors to our city each year.

But as this Draft Open Space Strategy outlines, Warrnambool is home to 169 open spaces, including many smaller neighbourhood parks.

Our open spaces are where we spend time with family, get active, relax and connect with nature. This Strategy looks at the full network of local parks, reserves and green spaces across our city.

Big or small, they all have a role to play in the health and wellbeing of our community and our natural environment.

This Draft Strategy sets a clear direction to protect our valued natural areas, optimise the open space we already have, and grow the network alongside new communities, all while keeping long-term maintenance and financial sustainability front of mind.

As we grow, it won't just be a question of how much open space we have, but whether it's in the right places, and how we can make the most of it.

I encourage you to read the Draft Open Space Strategy and share your feedback. We've already received input from over 100 people to get us to this stage, and your feedback will help shape a network of open spaces that works for families, young people, older residents and for everyone lucky enough to live in or visit Warrnambool.



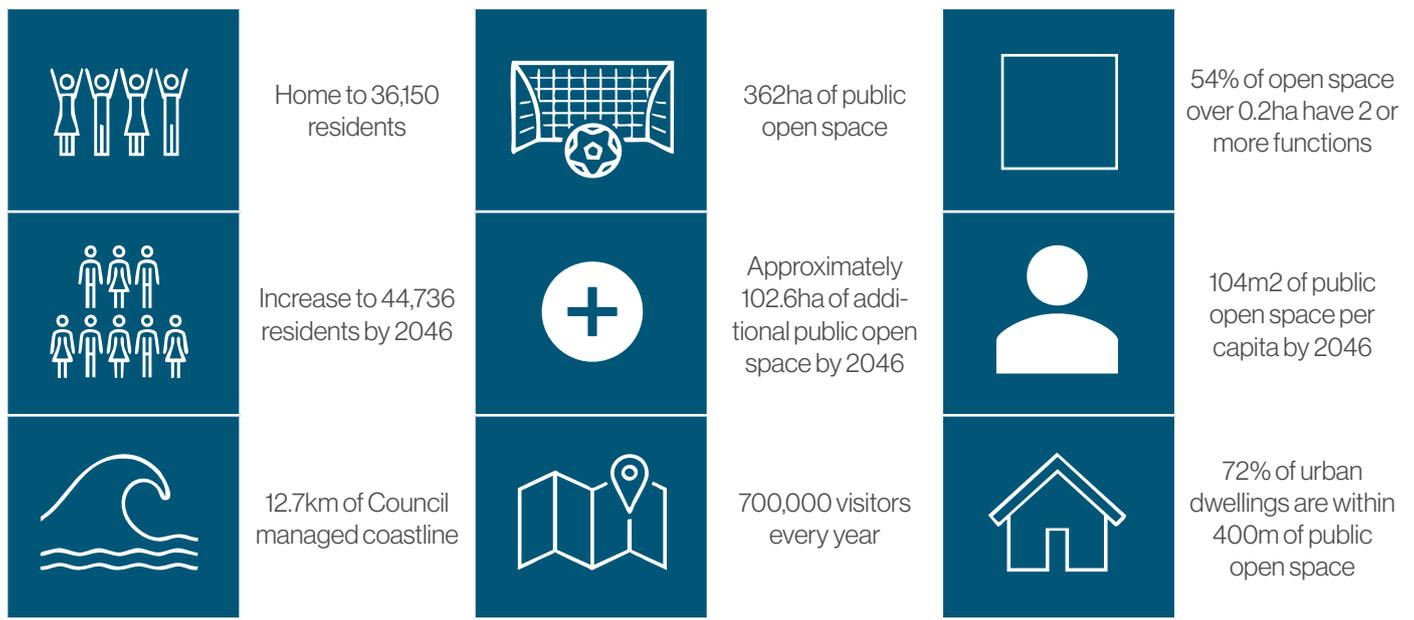
Introduction and background

The City of Warrnambool is a prominent regional centre located along the south-west coast of Victoria. It is Victoria's largest coastal regional city beyond Port Phillip Bay. The city will experience moderate growth, from a population of 36,150 in 2024 to 44,736 by 2046.

The purpose of this Strategy is to provide Council and the community with a clear direction and priority for open space planning and delivery until 2041.

Open space is essential infrastructure. A high quality, well connected network of open space provides health and wellbeing, environmental, and economic benefits to a community. Open space supports not only local residents but also those that work, study, and visit the city.

The city is supported by a significant amount of public open space as well as conservation land and the foreshore which provides access to a diverse range of experiences. As the city continues to grow over the next 15 years the capacity and useability of the existing open space assets, along with additional open space provided through the growth areas will need to be integrated into a high quality and financial sustainable network.



Grannys Grave





Strategic context

The Open Space Strategy sits within a broader strategic context, influenced by state and local directions, as well as informing design, funding, and maintenance requirements. The State Government has set high level guidance for the role of Warrnambool as well as open space planning, both of which have informed the development of this Strategy.

At a local level, the Community Vision for Warrnambool is to be “a thriving regional leader, rich in opportunities and committed to fostering a sustainable and inclusive lifestyle.” This vision, along with long term asset management and financial capacity of Council has informed the scope of the Strategy. Furthermore, this Strategy sits alongside a range of other interconnected documents which provide direct guidance on active recreation, playgrounds, and greening the city.

The Open Space Strategy will directly provide guidance on how the open space network can deliver on the broader Council strategic direction and where specific focus and resourcing across the network should be directed over the next 15 years. This will further support the development and delivery of new master plans, prioritisation of funding, and maintenance standards.

Figure 1: Strategic context

State Government					
Strategic Documents	Plans for Victoria	Open Space For Everyones 2021	Warrnambool Planning Scheme		
Guidelines	Guide for Open Space Strategy 2025	Precinct Structure Plan Guidelines : New Communities in Victoria 2021			
Warrnambool City Council*					
Planning	Community Vision	Council Plan 2025-29	Asset Management Plan	Warrnambool Futures*	Healthy Warrnambool 2025-29
	Open Space Strategy 2026	Active Warrnambool 2025-35	Play Space Strategic Framework 2025	Green Warrnambool	
Design	Master Plans	Concept Plans	Detailed landscape plans		
Funding	Annual and Long Term Budget	Open Space Contributions Policy			
Delivery & Maintenance	Maintenance Standards				

#This is a list of the key planning, design, funding, and delivery & Maintenance documents for Council.

* Warrnambool Futures is underdevelopment. It will set the city-wide strategic land use plan and identify where and how future growth and development will take place. The Plan will identify key issues such as employment, tourism, housing supply, infrastructure provision and environmental challenges holistically and strategically.

Benefits of open space

Open space is essential infrastructure. A well connected, accessible and high quality network of open space provides health and wellbeing, environmental and economic benefits for those who live, work, visit and recreate in the city.

Open space provides opportunities for people to be active, socialise, relax and spend time in nature. It builds connections across communities and encourages active lifestyles. Open space also provides a range of environmental benefits including supporting urban cooling, improving air quality, and providing a network of spaces for habitat protection and biodiversity. Furthermore, open space supports economic benefits through activating precincts and activity centres and providing spaces for events and tourism opportunities. It provides outdoor spaces for workers, improving employee wellbeing and productivity, and increases property values through increasing the amenity of local areas.

Figure 2: Benefits of open space

Benefits of open space		
Health and wellbeing	Environment	Economic
 Physical Wellbeing	 Improved air quality	 Tourism and visitors
 Mental wellbeing	 Reduced emissions	 Worker productivity
 Cultural connection	 Improved biodiversity	 Property values
 Social connection	 Water management	 Climate resilience
 Volunteerism	 Urban cooling	 Urban amenity



Warrnambool Botanic Gardens

Challenges and opportunities

Open space is faced with both internal (Council) and external challenges that need to be considered when planning open space to support current and future community needs.

Challenges/ opportunities	Description
Multi-functional and integrated open space	<p>Community needs are changing due to demographic shifts, lifestyles, and trends in sport and recreation. These changes are impacting how people want to access open space, types of sports, and participation levels.</p> <p>To cater for a variety of community needs, as well as increase utilisation of open space – including across seasons and different times of the day, each piece of open space should have multiple functions. In addition, where possible, open space should be co-located or integrated with other community uses. This includes community infrastructure (including schools), employment precincts, and retail and civic precincts. Co-location and integration support in activating these precincts, as well as improving the utilisation of open space.</p>
Tourism and events	<p>Open space is a significant driver of economic activity for Warrnambool, particularly visitation to natural assets along the coastline and events utilising open space. While tourism and economic stimulus are a positive contribution, the attraction of tourism comes with a compounding demand for access and use of key open space locations.</p> <p>Strategies to better balance locational pressures of residents and tourists include specifically designed open space assets targeted to manage and accommodate tourism and event demands, improved active and public transport connections, and increased maintenance schedules during peak periods.</p>
Climate change	<p>Open space assets are being significantly impacted by climate change hazards and the increased frequency of major weather events. This is impacting open space in multiple ways, including through encroachment on existing open space, reducing short-term useability and long-term access, increasing maintenance requirements, and limiting suitable future open space locations due to coastal erosion, inundation or flooding.</p> <p>Climate events will disrupt users' access to open space. This includes disruption to play, extended sporting seasons, an increase in evening uses, an increase in alternative spaces such as indoor recreation, and loss and or damage to infrastructure.</p> <p>With regards to climate change mitigation and preventative strategies, open spaces provide urban cooling and offer areas for people to seek refuge during periods of intense heat. It creates a buffer to urban development and in some cases serves as fire breaks or coastal storm surge and flood management to slow and retain floodwaters.</p> <p>Open space also supports in retaining and strengthen biodiversity as well as building critical habitat corridors across landscapes to support movement and migration.</p>
Financial and partnership opportunities	<p>Local government plays a key role in the planning, delivering, funding, maintenance and servicing of open space. Ensuring that current and future open spaces are financially sustainable is critical.</p> <p>Funding limitations: Council generally has three mechanisms to fund open space: development contributions, state and federal government grants, and general revenue. For new open space, development contributions are a key funding source. Councils in Victoria have multiple options when levying contributions for the provision of municipal open space. When considering state and federal government grants, they are usually one-off grants for specific types of projects (e.g. pavilion upgrades, dog parks). General revenue is used to support a range of ongoing and one-off projects. Under the rate cap, the pool of available funds is stretched, with the key focus for capital works programs being asset renewal. Given this, any new infrastructure needs to consider the long-term capital and maintenance costs on Council and the community.</p> <p>Privately owned and underutilised public spaces: To mitigate financial costs and increase access to open space partnership opportunities can be considered. This can include underutilised public spaces such as partnerships with schools and education sectors such as Deakin University, as well as access to open space managed and operated by private landowners (such as golf courses, racecourses, plazas/malls). Warrnambool City Council currently has several partnerships with education facilities to share infrastructure.</p> <p>Development as catalyst: Alternative opportunities to increasing open space are through major infrastructure projects. Major developments can unlock capital funds (or in-kind contributions) as part of significant infrastructure projects such as major roads, rail development, and renewable energy projects. While these opportunities may not be frequent, they can support the integration and or funding of open space.</p>



What we heard

Council engaged with the Warrnambool community to ensure local perspectives were considered and integrated into the Strategy.

We conducted a municipal wide online survey, held a number of face to face and online workshops, and met with specific community stakeholders to capture what the Warrnambool community values about open space. We asked the community:

- What types of open space people use, how often they use it, and how they travel there
- How the community views the quality, variety and accessibility of open space
- What could be improved or enhanced to increase community satisfaction.

Overall, the community felt that although the City of Warrnambool has a large amount of open space, some spaces are underutilised and are of low quality. Areas of high value to the community are Warrnambool's natural assets; particularly Warrnambool's various rivers, creeks, and coastal areas, the Botanic Gardens and Lake Pertobe. Areas for improvement spanned across 4 key themes:

Prioritise quality, diversity and design

- Better plan for open spaces in new developments, with designs, wayfinding and signage that recognise and align with Traditional Owner knowledge and history
- Plan for concentrated, connected larger green spaces as opposed to scattered, smaller spaces
- Consolidate the number of open space areas, by divesting low utilised /ill positioned areas to allow investment into others
- Increase maintenance of open spaces for high use areas, including the foreshore and the river/creeks.
- Simplify measuring and increase access to dogs off leashes areas
- Increase opportunities for informal recreation

Increase accessibility, connectivity and walkability

- Connect footpaths and cycling networks to existing areas of open space
- Prioritise connections to the rivers, creeks and coastal areas via safer, wider, high quality shared footpaths
- Increase accessibility for all abilities, ages, women, girls, and members of the culturally diverse community
- Increase safety of open space by increasing lighting, wayfinding, and improving line of sight.

Increase weather protected areas, seating and amenity

- Provide additional undercover areas and windbreaks around seating, picnic and playground areas
- Provide additional seating, toilets, drinking facilities and bins along high use areas

Increase tree canopy coverage in open spaces

- Increase the variety of species, and overall volume of tree planting across Warrnambool

Open Space Strategy

Vision: The open space network protects and enhances the environmental values of Warrnambool while also providing spaces for the community to exercise, build social connection, access education, and relax. The future open space network will be planned and maintained to be adaptable to changing community and climate needs while also using financially sustainable approaches.

Principles for open space planning

These principles will guide the planning, delivery, and maintenance of open space.

Open space principles	Description
Accessible	A variety of open spaces that are accessible and inclusive for all residents, regardless of age, ability and culture. Residents should have at least one open space within walking distance of their home.
Adaptable	Flexible, multi-use and provide opportunities for passive and active recreation that is responsive to community needs
Connected	Open space corridors and shared trails that improve the connectivity of the network and provide links for walking, cycling and biodiversity movement.
Efficient and sustainable	Consider adaptability and maintenance in the development and management of open space.
Diverse	Provide a variety of experiences and cater for a range of recreational needs.
Equitable	Access to open space will be distributed as fairly as possible across the municipality.
Protective of the environment	Preserve and enhance the biodiversity and environmental values across open space while providing appropriate public access to waterways and coastal environments.

Objectives and indicators

To achieve the open space vision, the Strategy is guided by 3 objectives. These objectives include indicators to measure the impact of change over the life of the Strategy.

Objectives	Indicators of success
Objective 1: To provide an equitable distribution and connection to open space across the city	95% of dwellings in urban areas are within a 400m walkable catchment of open space
Objective 2: To ensure all open space has a clear purpose and supported by multiple functions.	All open space has a clear function All open space greater than 0.2ha has a minimum of 2 functions
Objective 3: To provide a financially sustainable, adaptable and resilient open space network that can support future generations	23% to 30% (to be further considered) tree canopy cover across the open space network

Stingray Bay



Types of open space

Definition of open space

Public open space is publicly owned and accessible land in which the primary purpose is recreation, leisure, and outdoor enjoyment. It includes parks, gardens, sport reserves, and natural areas. It is protected for open space uses by the zoning Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ). Public open space is the focus for this Strategy.

Restricted open space the primary purpose of restricted open space is for open space, however, there is limited access due to use. This might be a result of lease agreements (such as schools), specialised sporting infrastructure (such as elite facilities, golf courses, racecourses) or conservation protection.

Encumbered land is land in which the primary purpose is not open space; however, it may provide some supplementary access. However, this is not always granted or available. Generally, the primary purposes for this land are transport, drainage, and utilities.

Given the limitations on restricted open space and encumbered land, this land should not be included in the core open space network. It can, however, support the open space network by providing greater access to green spaces.

Open space services standards

Open space service standards ensure the City plans for a sufficient and diverse supply of land into the future. Open space should be provided across a network of spaces with smaller land parcels providing local parks for surrounding residents and larger land parcels serving a broader catchment across the municipality. Service standards include hierarchy, accessibility, and functions.

Hierarchy of open space

Open space is categorised into 5 hierarchies: regional, district, neighbourhood, local and pocket. The hierarchy is determined by the size of the open space land only. It can however inform the role, experience, and duration of stay that users can expect. The open space network should include a variety of hierarchies to support different uses and experiences.

Hierarchy of open space	Size
Regional open space is a municipal destination. Infrastructure provided in regional spaces support longer stay times and typically accommodate substantial infrastructure and facilities that can cater to a large number of people. These spaces cater to users from across Warrnambool and, for some, the wider region. Examples include Lake Pertobe Recreation Reserve, Albert Park Reserve and Victoria Park.	15ha+
District open space is a destination that services a precinct. They can accommodate different activities and different user groups simultaneously. They are large enough to accommodate formalised sporting functions such as courts and playing fields; however, to include formalised sport, they must be at least 8ha in size. Infrastructure provided on district spaces supports longer stay times. Examples include Botanic Gardens, Brierly Recreation Reserve, Allansford Recreation Reserve, and Dennington Recreation Reserve.	5-15ha
Neighbourhood open space is large enough to accommodate multiple open space functions. In rural settings they may include formalised sports uses (e.g. 1 oval), however they need to be a minimum of 5ha. They are intended to service a catchment of surrounding suburbs for a medium length of stay. Examples include D.W. Jones Oval Reserve, A.H Davidson Oval, Manuka Dr Reserve, and Bushfield Recreation Reserve.	1-5ha
Local open space is intended as walkable locations for immediate residents. They can provide a range of passive open space functions, however, only for short stays. Examples include Witham Park Reserve, Toohey Estate Reserve, Motang Drive Reserve, and Water Tower Reserve.	0.2-1ha
Pocket parks are very small parcels of open space which can contribute to improving amenity and providing 'pockets' of green relief. Due to their size, they have limited functions and therefore require limited infrastructure. Pocket parks should not be prioritised as new open space due to the limitations on their use, rather they should only be delivered to fill accessibility gaps or increase greening in urban areas. Examples include Iona Avenue Reserve, Boronia Court, Mechanics Institute Park and Shrader Park.	0.2ha and under

Accessibility

Accessibility standards aim to ensure everyone has equitable access to open space, as well as access to a diverse range (district and regional) of open space. In urban areas, 95% of dwellings should be within 400m of public open space.

Higher order open spaces (district and regional) are destination spaces. This means that generally people will drive to access this open space. Across the whole LGA, 95% of dwellings should be within a 10min of district and 20min drive of regional open space.

In areas where there are accessibility gaps, restricted open space and encumbered land can support in addressing gaps, however as noted in Types of Open Space, there are limitations on this land.

Accessibility standards

95% of urban dwellings within 400m walking catchment of public open space

95% of dwellings within 10mins drive of district open space

95% of dwellings within 20min drive of regional open space

Quantity

Quantity refers to the amount of open space available. The benchmark of 30m² per capita has been broadly adopted by industry in open space planning. This benchmark is applied to the entire Local Government Area. It recognises that open spaces across the city work together as a network, and people often travel to enjoy a variety of spaces.

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

Standard	Description
Quantity	30m ² per capita across the LGA

Diversity

Diversity refers both to the mix of existing functions across the open space network and the diversity of the open space hierarchy. The more diverse the hierarchy the more opportunity for a wider range of open space functions and experiences. In addition, when open space includes multiple functions, it supports the needs for a wider range of users as well as increases the utilisation of open space.

To support in increasing diversity across the open space network the diversity standard is that 2 or more open space functions should be included on land over 0.2ha (local open space and above).

Standard	Description
Diversity	95% of open space land that is over 0.2ha (local open space and above) should have 2 or more functions



Functions

Functions on open space refers to the purposes and activities for which the land is developed and managed. To meet the diverse needs of the community a multi-functional (more than one function) should be provided on all local open space and higher order. The allocation on functions also ensures that the role of the open space is clear along with the supporting infrastructure required (see Appendix 2 for supporting infrastructure).

Functions	Description
Sport	Spaces that provide organised sport. It can include playing fields or pitches for competitive sports or physical skill development and training. The space is typically available for informal and public use when organised sporting events or training are not programmed. Sport functions should only be provided on Neighbourhood (if 5ha), District, and Regional level open space to ensure there is enough space for supporting infrastructure.
Civic	Squares or plazas that are a mix of hard and green infrastructure areas usually located within an activity centre and or next to community infrastructure. Civic functions should only be provided on Neighbourhood, District, and Regional level open space to ensure there is enough space for supporting infrastructure. At times they can be provided on local open space.
Nature	Nature functions provide access to natural landscapes, characterised by semi-natural and natural vegetation or bushland. They can provide low-impact recreation, such as trails and tracks, along with buffers between land use zones. They contribute to improving and supporting biodiversity and tree canopy. This function differs from conservation land, which is specifically zoned for conservation purposes and classified as restricted open space. This function can be provided on any size open space.
Linkage	Linear open space provides connections, linkages or movement corridors for pedestrians and cyclists. If a standalone piece of open space (primary function) they can also provide nature functions and biodiversity linkages (see nature function). Linkages can be provided on any size open space. They can also be provided in restricted and encumbered open space.
Events	Event functions on open space are areas designed to cater to formal events and community gatherings requiring public and commercial bookings. Event functions should only be provided on Neighbourhood, District, and Regional level open space to ensure there is enough space for supporting infrastructure.
Play	Play are formal play spaces for children and young people. They can include a range of different experiences such as nature play, water play, and traditional play. Also includes scoot, skate and BMX infrastructure. Play functions should only be provided on Neighbourhood, District, and Regional level open space to ensure there is enough space for supporting infrastructure. In areas with limited access, at times they can be provided on Local open space.
Social	Space for social, community gathering, informal exercise such as half courts, exercise stations and other infrastructure to enable community spend time and connect with others. Social functions should only be provided on Local, Neighbourhood, District, and Regional level open space to ensure there is enough space for supporting infrastructure. At times they can be provided on pocket open space however with limited supporting infrastructure e.g. seating.
Story, art and education	Integration of art and landmarks to promote connection, conversation, education and teaching. This function can be provided on any size open space.
Vistas	Provides vantage points preserving significant sightlines and vistas. This function can be provided on any size open space. This function can be provided on any size open space.
Dog walking	Intentional dog walking zones, including on and off lead areas. This function can be provided on any size open space, however integration and conflict with other uses and functions needs to be considered.



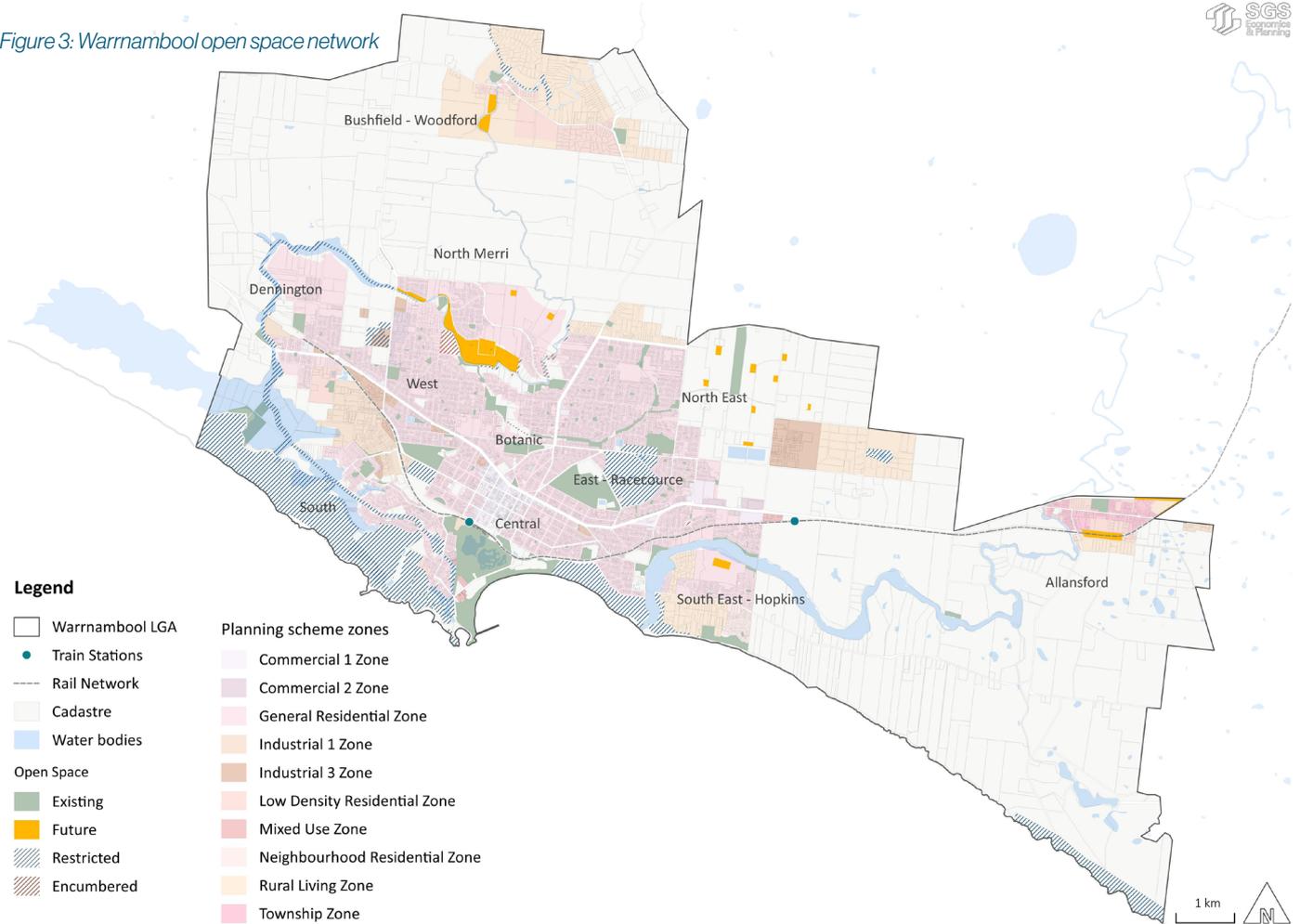
Warrnambool open space network

The City of Warrnambool comprises of 11 Precincts. These Precincts support local area planning for a range of services, including open space.

Across the city there are 362ha of open space across 169 individual parcels, along with significant portions of restricted conservation land, largely along coast and rivers. Majority of open space is located within the central and southern areas of Warrnambool, particularly within the East- Racecourse (33 parcels), South East- Hopkins (27 parcels) and South precincts (20 parcels).

Open space also plays a key linking role across the city with the Russell Creek, Merri River and Hopkins River trails being well utilised and highly valued by the community.

Figure 3: Warrnambool open space network



Quantity

The city currently has a high quantity of public open space which supports those who live, work, visit, and recreate in the city. Across the city there are several strategic growth areas such as East of Aberline and North Merri, as well as opportunity sites that have been identified for additional public open space. In addition to the current open space network, Council has noted that approximately 102.6ha of open space will be added to the network.

Based on current and forecast population as well as the existing and proposed open space, the city has an adequate amount of public open space.

		2024	2046
Quantity of public open space LGA Target: 30m2 per capita	Population	36,150	44,736
	Open space (ha)	362ha	464.6ha
	Per capita	100m2	104m2

Accessibility

Open space should be located within 400m of 95% of all urban residential dwellings. Based on accessibility across the municipality, approximately 72% of dwellings are within a 400m walking distance from open space.

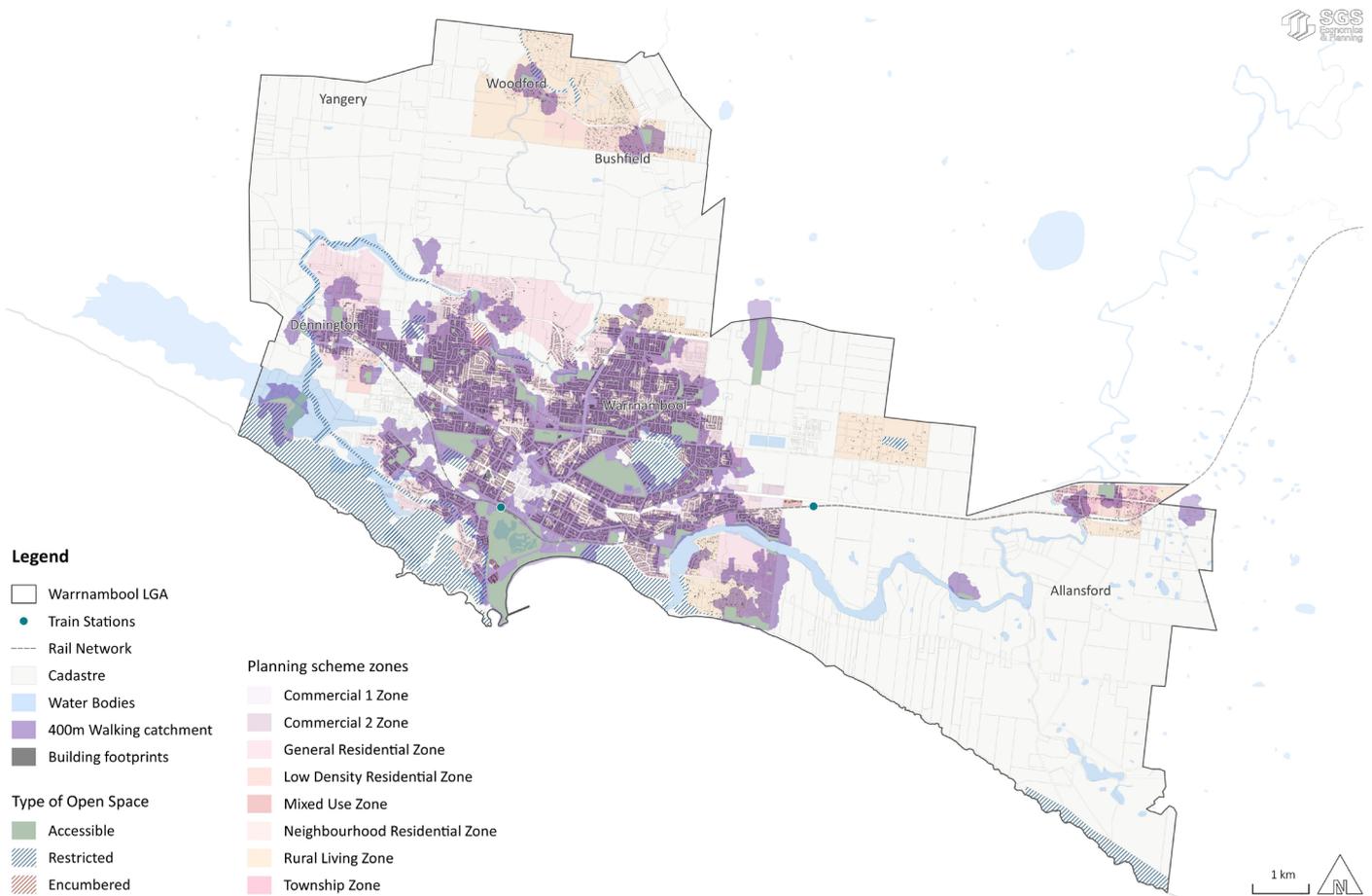
Urban precincts with the lowest level of accessibility include North Merri (25%) and South East – Hopkins (57%). These are both growth areas which will see improved access as new open space and linkage connections are created.

Encumbered and restricted open space, while this land might not always be available, it can support to improve accessibility to green space. Across this city, there is a total of 16.3ha of encumbered land and 739.19ha of restricted land. This is largely located along the foreshore and river networks.

When applying the accessibility standards of a 10-minute drive to a district open space and a 20-minute drive to a regional open space, all residential areas are within access to district and regional spaces.

Accessibility of public open space LGA Target: 95% of urban dwellings	400m to open space	72%
	10mins drive to district open space	100%
	20mins drive to regional open space	100%

Figure 4: 400m walking distance from public open space



Diversity

Across the city there are 12 regional parks, 16 district parks, 29 neighbourhood parks and 51 local parks. There are a further 61 pocket parks (36% of all parks).

Hierarchy	Number
Regional	12
District	16
Neighbourhood	29
Local	51
Pocket	61
Total	169

These parks provide a range of different functions, with most supporting social, play, linkage, and sport. Of the spaces that are over 0.2ha, only 54% provided two or more functions. To ensure open space has a clear purpose and can meet the needs of a wider user group, all open space over 0.2ha should be multifunctional.

Diversity 95% of open space land that is over 0.2ha (local open space and above) should have 2 or more functions	Number of spaces over 0.2ha	108
	Number of spaces over 0.2ha with two or more functions	58
	% of spaces over 0.2ha two or more functions	54%

Overall, at the LGA level, the total amount of open space meets the provision standard of 30sqm per capita. The distribution of this open space, however, does not ensure equal access for all residents, with many outside the 400m accessibility standard. The city includes a range of different types of open space with varying functions. In some areas, the open space is under-embellished with a lack of clarity on the purpose of the open space.



Improving the open space network

Improving the open space network so it can continue to meet the needs of the community today, as well as our future community can be achieved through three directions: protect, optimise, and grow.

Protect: Preserving open space for its intended use.

This can include ensuring land is appropriately zoned, balancing any commercialisation of uses on open space with free access, protecting biodiversity, and maintaining and renewing open space that is supporting the broader network.

Optimise: Ensuring the open space network delivers maximum community benefit.

This can include ensuring the role of each parcel of open space is clear and includes multiple functions, open space that is not able to meet current and future needs is repurposed for alternative uses, and accessibility gaps across the network are minimised.

Grow: Strategic expansion of the open space network to address identified gaps.

This can include unlocking land to improve community access, utilising restricted and encumbered land, acquiring new land to service growth communities, and redeveloping and improving the service standards of ageing infrastructure.

The following section provides a summary of open space for each of Warrnambool's 11 Precincts. Each Precinct provides a summary of the current state of open space along with opportunities to improve the open space network based on protect, optimise, and grow.

Logans Beach Road



Precinct summaries



Precinct 1: Central



The Central precinct includes the Central Business District and a variety of open spaces, featuring pocket parks, local parks, neighbourhood parks, district parks, and regional parks. The regional open space, Lake Pertobe Reserve and the Foreshore Reserve are key locations for residents and tourist. Within the CBD itself Civic Green provides open space to relax, socialise with others, and hold civic events.

Opportunities to improve open space include:

Optimisation: Review smaller parcels of open space to ensure they are able to meet current and future needs.

Optimisation: Review the purpose and functions of Cannon Hill Reserve as a significant open space asset for Warrnambool.

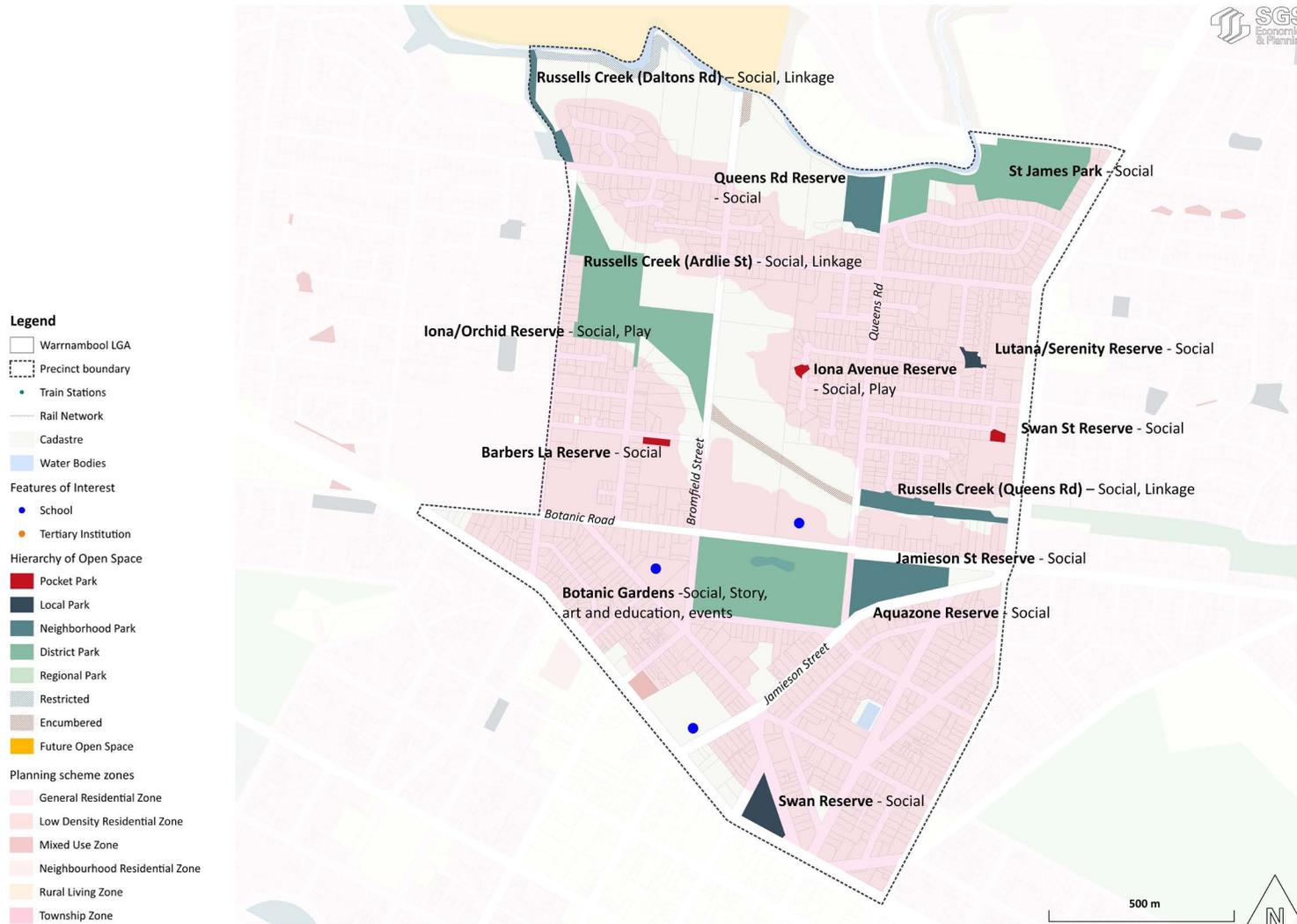
Grow: Explore opportunities to further connect Fletcher Jones Reserve with the Fletcher Jones Gardens.

Grow: Improve green linkages across the CBD and into Lake Pertobe Recreation Reserve and the Foreshore Reserve.

Population (2024)	3,914
Total open space	86.7ha
Quantity	221.5m ² per capita
Accessibility	68% of dwellings are within a 400m walking catchment to open space
Diversity	50% of open space more than 0.2ha includes more than 2 functions, which is below the LGA level of 58%

Assessment colours: Green: meets or exceeds service standard, Orange: 20% lower than service standard, Pink: more than 20% less than service standard.

Precinct 2: Botanic



The Botanic precinct features a variety of open space, including the Botanic Gardens which is a drawcard to residents and visitors alike, and the Russell Creek and Merri River which provide key connection links across the city as well as important ecological corridors. The precinct has a mix of social, sport, play, conservation and linkage spaces.

Opportunities to improve open space in this precinct include:

Optimise: Review and minimise conflict areas (narrow locations with multiple user groups) along Russell Creek.

Optimise: Review the accessibility of Botanic Park path network to ensure it is inclusive for all ages and abilities.

Optimise: Review smaller parcels of open space to ensure they are able to meet current and future needs.

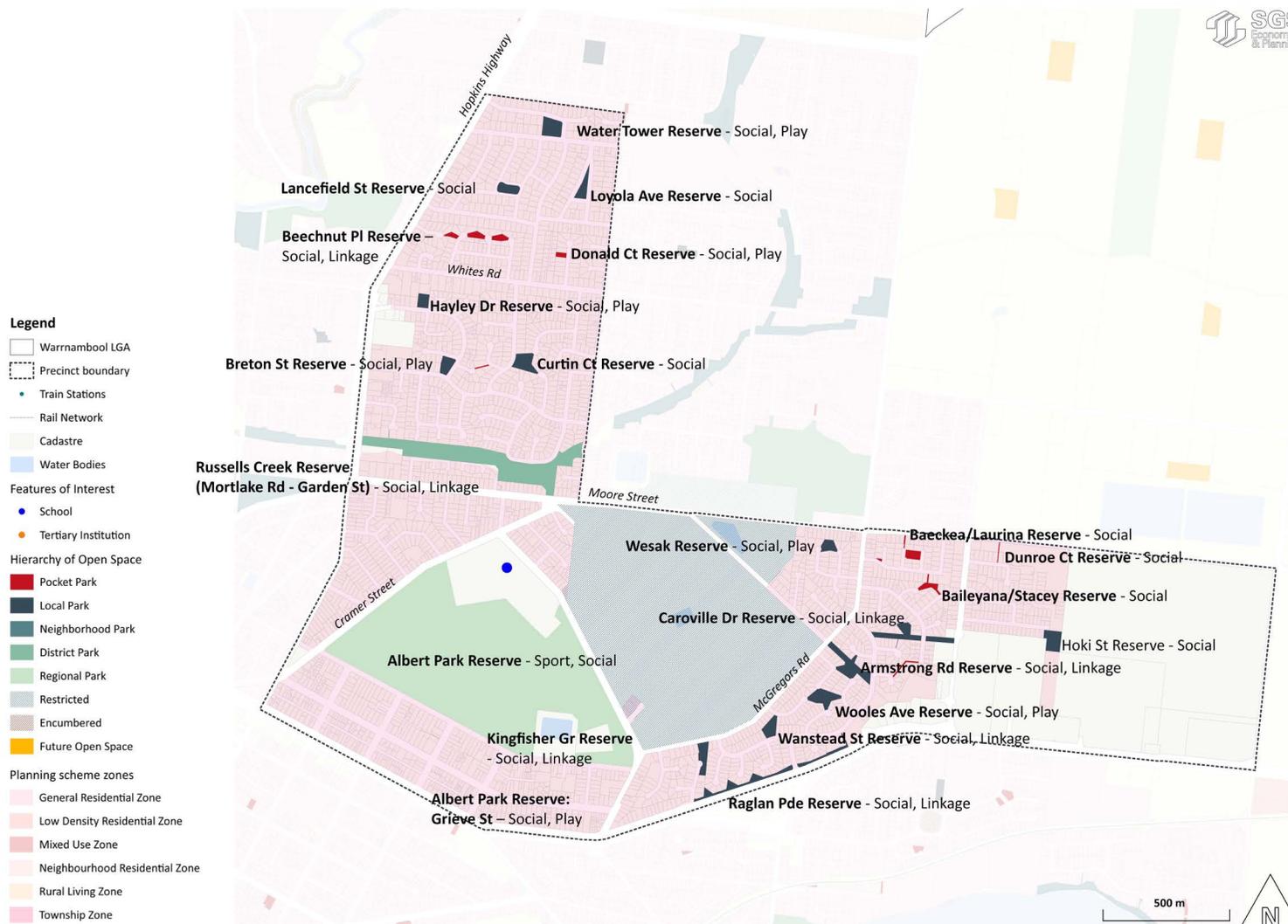
Optimise: Review opportunities to improve the quality of open space along the Merri River.

Protect: Explore opportunities to create wetlands and improve biodiversity in strategic areas along Russell Creek.

Population (2024)	2,705
Total open space	28.9ha
Quantity	106.7m ² per capita
Accessibility	68% of dwellings are within a 400m walking catchment to open space
Diversity	40% of open space more than 0.2ha includes more than 2 functions, which is above the LGA level of 54%

Assessment colours: **Green:** meets or exceeds service standard, **Orange:** 20% lower than service standard, **Pink:** more than 20% less than service standard

Precinct 3: East- Racecourse



The East Racecourse precinct includes a variety of open space including the major sporting reserve, Albert Park, and the linkage connection via Russell Creek. Additionally, the precinct features the racecourse, which is restricted open space.

Majority of the remaining open spaces within the precinct are local or pocket parks which provide social, play or linkage functions.

Due to the high level of local open space and pocket parks, this precinct is well connected when it comes to access to open spaces.

Opportunities to improve open space in this precinct include:

Protect: Protect and improve the quality of nature functions at Albert Park Reserve in alignment with the Albert Park Revegetation Plan 2022.

Grow: Explore partnership opportunities to increase community access to open space available at the Racecourse.

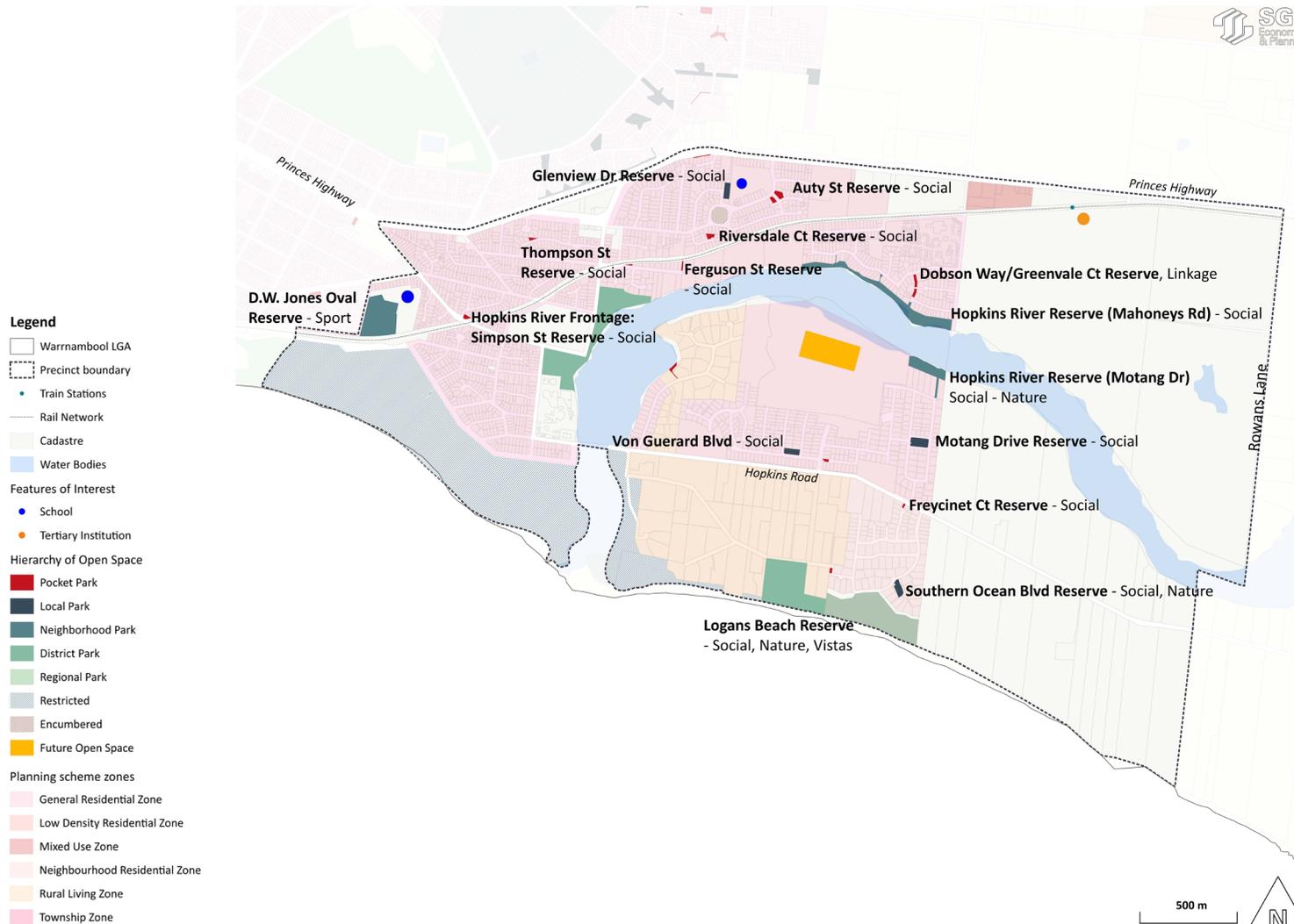
Grow: Improve connections between Brierly Recreational Reserve and Albert Park Reserve.

Optimise: Review smaller parcels of open space to ensure they are able to meet current and future needs.

Population (2024)	6,198
Total open space	57.8 ha
Quantity	93.3m2 per capita
Accessibility	82% of dwellings are within a 400m walking catchment to open space
Diversity	77% of open space more than 0.2ha includes more than 2 functions, which is above the LGA level of 54%

Assessment colours: Green: meets or exceeds service standard, Orange: 20% lower than service standard, Pink: more than 20% less than service standard

Precinct 4: South East- Hopkins



The South East – Hopkins precinct includes the key features of the Hopkins River, the tourist destination whale viewing area at Logan’s Beach Reserve, and the conservation land along the foreshore. While access to public open space is poor in this precinct, the conservation land which include a range of walking trails, provides additional access to green space.

The precinct has a number of important spaces along the Hopkins River. This river is subject to flooding therefore any infrastructure located on this land needs to be able to adapt.

There is significant growth occurring in Hopkins Heights where new open space is planned. Majority of these spaces include the functions of social and or play.

There are limited sports functions, with DW Jones Oval Reserve shared with Warrnambool East Primary School, the only location. In addition, key access barriers are the railway line and movement along and across the Hopkins River.

Opportunities to improve open space in this precinct include:

Grow: Improve linkages along the Hopkins River and or the railway line towards Deakin University.

Grow: Provide additional open space through the Hopkins Heights development.

Optimise: Review the functions and flood constraints on Scoborio Reserve and EJ King Park and consider if a Master Plan is required to support future improvement opportunities.

Optimise: Review smaller parcels of open space to ensure they are able to meet current and future needs.

Population (2024)	4,299
Total open space	28ha
Quantity	65.1m ² per capita
Accessibility	57% of dwellings are within a 400m walking catchment to open space
Diversity	46.2% of open space more than 0.2ha includes more than 2 functions, which is low than the LGA level of 54%

Assessment colours: Green: meets or exceeds service standard, Orange: 20% lower than service standard, Pink: more than 20% less than service standard.

Precinct 5: North East



The North East precinct will experience significant growth through the implementation of the East of Aberline Precinct Structure Plan. In doing so, it will also gain new open spaces as well as linkages across the precinct.

Beyond this development the precinct includes a variety of open spaces such as Brierly Reserve which abuts the Racecourse, the Russells Creek trail, and the Francis Tozer Memorial Reserve, which hold significant environmental and cultural values.

A pedestrian connection is currently being built between the Marrakai Reserve and the Russells Creek Reserve on Whites Rd and Sharp Ave, extending the ecological corridor and linkage functions.

Opportunities to improve open space in this precinct include:

Protect: Through the delivery of the East of Aberline Precinct Structure Plan, protect Francis Tozer Memorial through a rezoning from farming land to conservation land.

Grow: Provide additional open space through the East of Aberline Precinct Structure Plan.

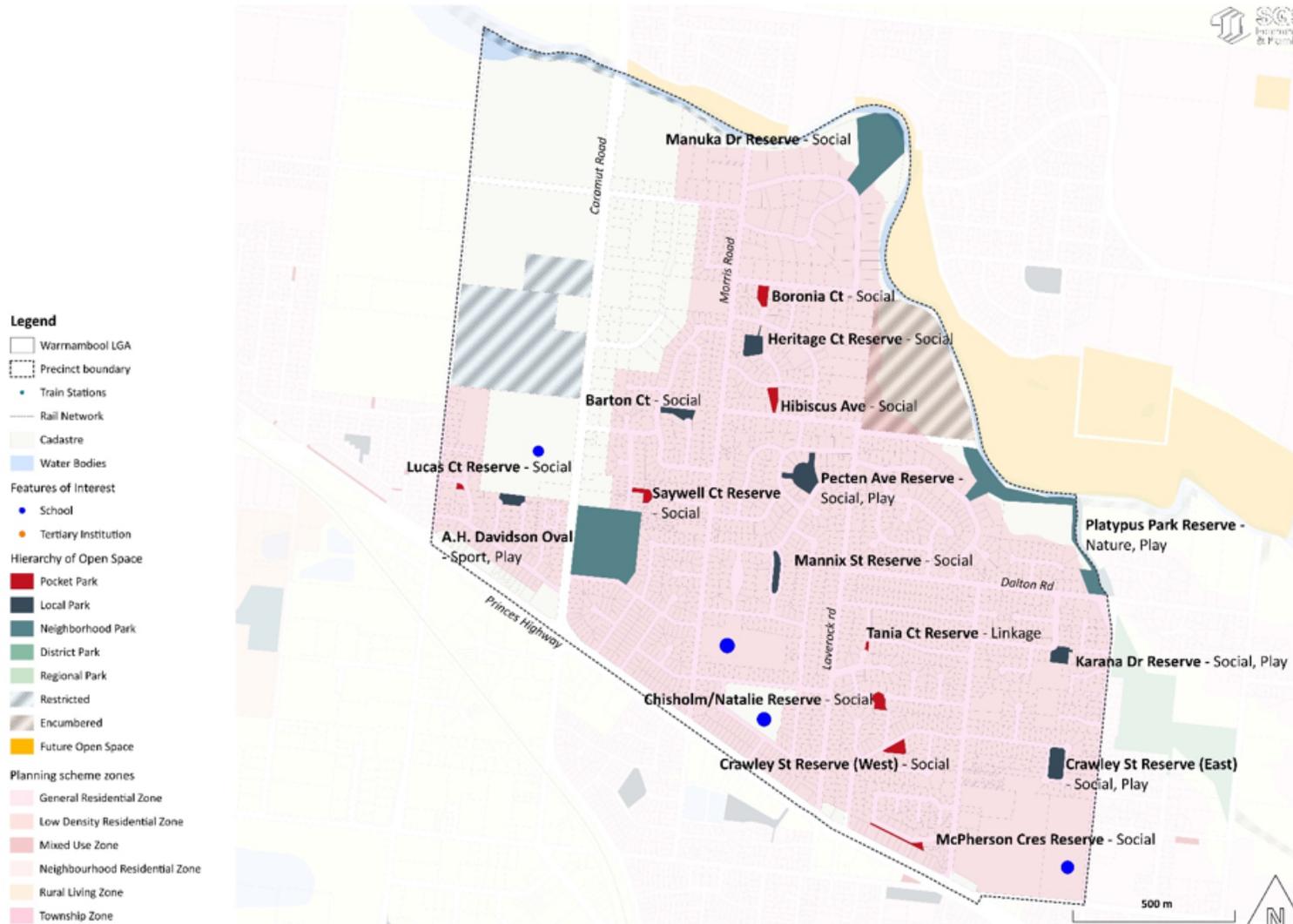
Grow: Investigate opportunities to improve pedestrian linkages between existing open spaces and new planned open spaces.

Optimise: Review smaller parcels of open space to ensure they are able to meet current and future needs.

Population (2024)	4,785
Total open space	45.4ha
Quantity	94.9m ² per capita
Accessibility	80% of dwellings are within a 400m walking catchment to open space
Diversity	83% of open space more than 0.2ha includes more than 2 functions, which is above the LGA level of 54%

Assessment colours: Green: meets or exceeds service standard, Orange: 20% lower than service standard, Pink: more than 20% less than service standard

Precinct 6: West



The West precinct includes a variety of open spaces, many of which are along the Merri River providing access to water and vistas. There are several parks throughout the precinct, however most are pocket or local parks. The Brauerander Park, the largest site in the precinct, is a premium athletes track and has restricted public access. In addition, Pecten Ave Reserve is a key site which is co-located with West Warrnambool Neighbourhood House.

The quantity of open space in this precinct is below 30sqm per capita which means that some people may be travelling out of the precinct to access additional open space. Woodend Road Reserve, a large encumbered parcel of open space that is subject to flooding, is able to provide some additional access, however limited in its current state.

Due to the number of small parks, the precinct has good accessibility with localised gaps in the north, west and south.

Opportunities to improve open space in this precinct include:

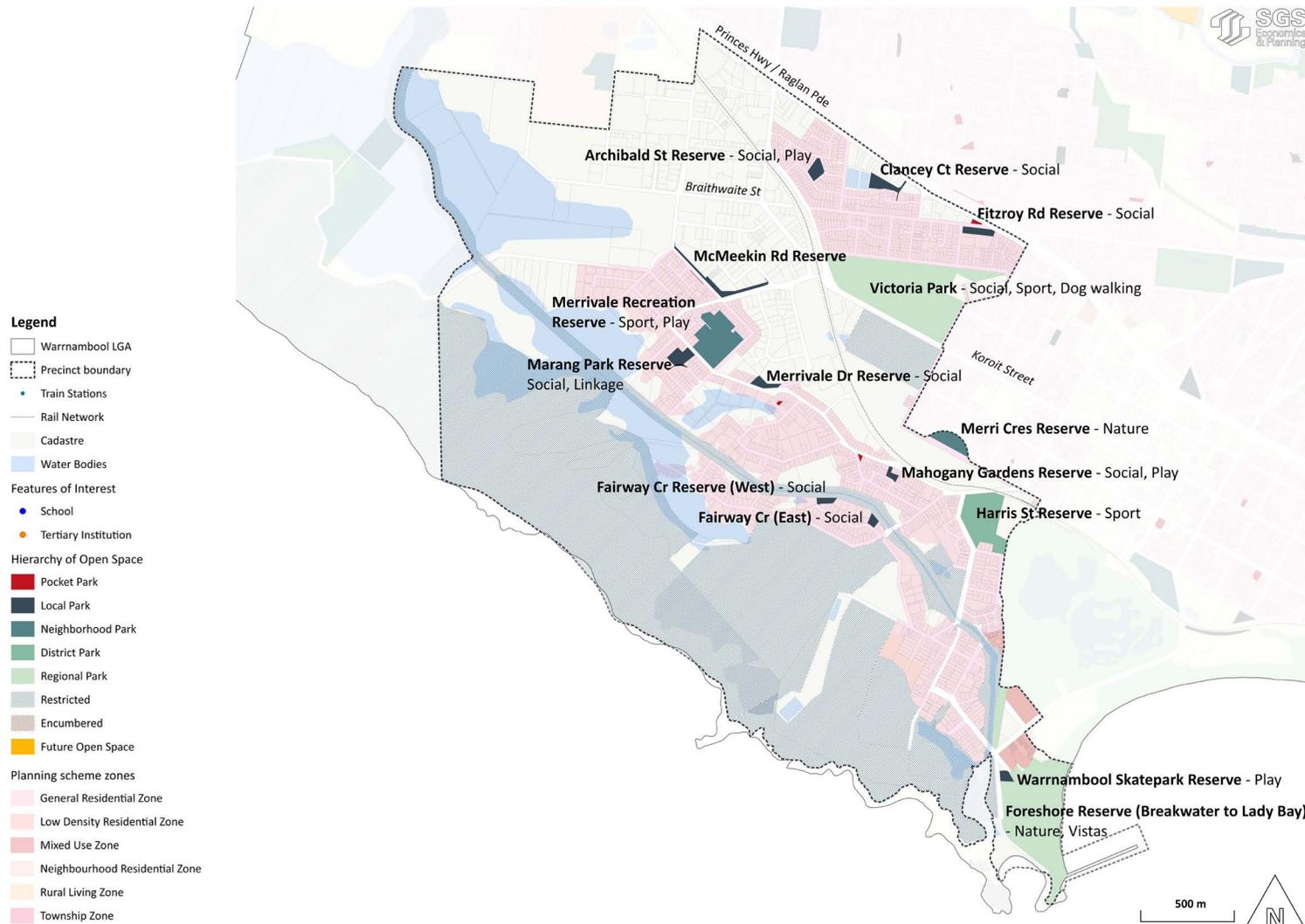
Optimise: Improve the quality of open space along Merri River, in alignment with the South of the Merri Open Space Precinct Plan. This includes the Woodend Road Reserve, Manuka Dr Reserve, and Platypus Park Reserve.

Optimise: Review smaller parcels of open space to ensure they are able to meet current and future needs.

Population (2024)	4,959
Total open space	13.2ha
Quantity	26.7m ² per capita
Accessibility	74% of dwellings are within a 400m walking catchment to open space
Diversity	55% of open space more than 0.2ha includes more than 2 functions, which is above the LGA level of 54%

Assessment colours: Green: meets or exceeds service standard, Orange: 20% lower than service standard, Pink: more than 20% less than service standard

Precinct 7: South



The South precinct includes significant conservation land along the foreshore and along the Merri River as well as key open spaces for the city including Victoria Park and the Warrnambool Skatepark Reserve. Victoria Park supports a range of open space functions as well as biodiversity connections. South of Victoria Park is the Showgrounds, which is restricted, however provides a key space for events. Warrnambool Skatepark Reserve provides a youth friendly space as well as connections to the foreshore trail.

The foreshore conservation land includes a range of walking trails as well as the tourist destination of Thunder Point Coastal Reserve. In addition, this location includes a golf course and former harness racing track. This precinct also includes the start of the Warrnambool to Port Fairy Rail Trail. While restricted open space due to flooding, it provides many of the residents in this precinct access to open space and walking trails.

Opportunities to improve open space in this precinct include:

Protect: Ensure conservation land is protected through enhancing biodiversity and strategically placed and maintained walking, education, and cultural infrastructure.

Grow: Explore opportunities to increase open space and green infrastructure in the industrial estate.

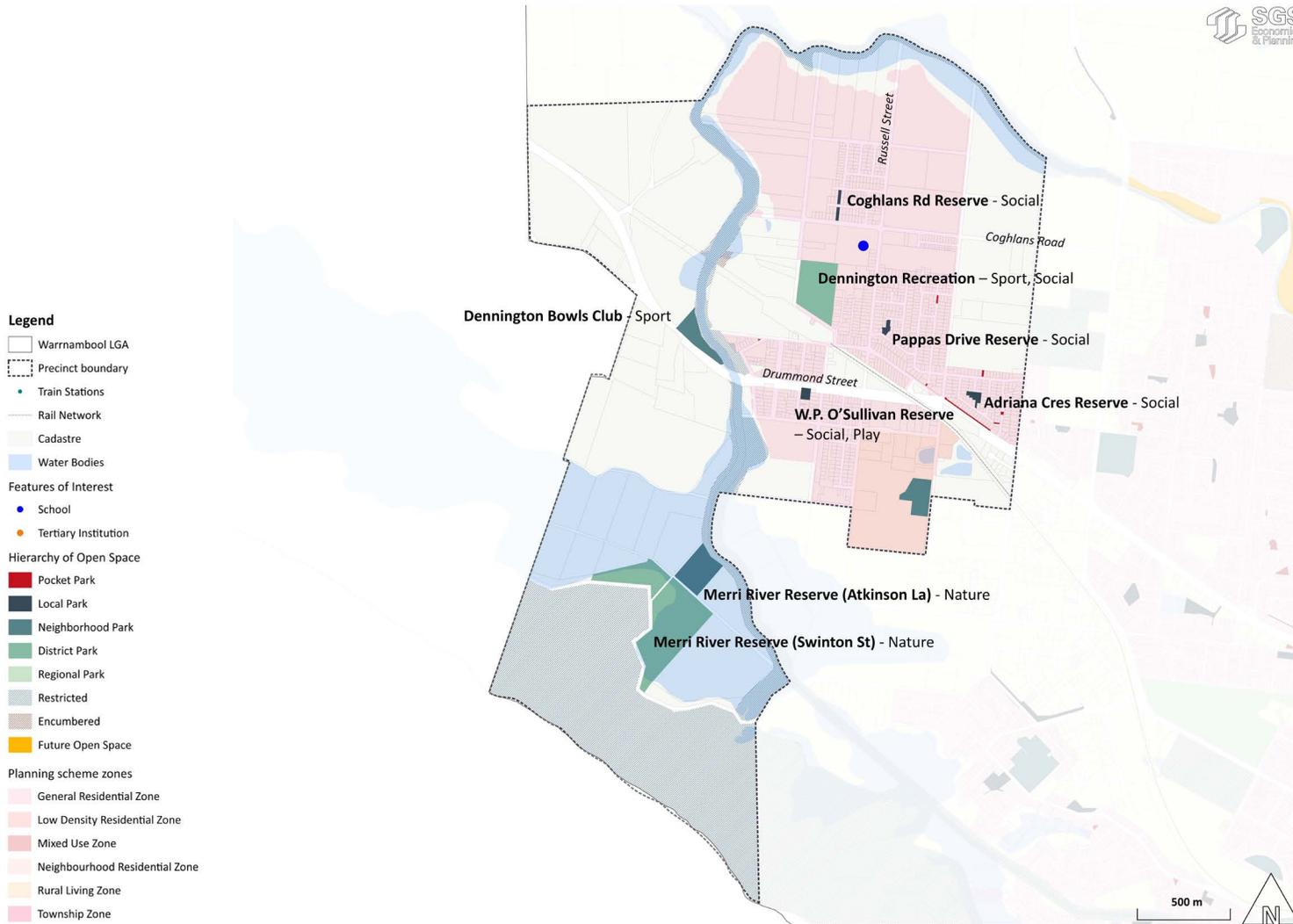
Optimise: Review smaller parcels of open space to ensure they are able to meet current and future needs.

Optimisation: Review the long term use of Merri Cres Reserve.

Population (2024)	3,502
Total open space	57.5ha
Quantity	164.3m ² per capita
Accessibility	76% of dwellings are within a 400m walking catchment to open space
Diversity	30% of open space more than 0.2ha includes more than 2 functions, which is below the LGA level of 54%

Assessment colours: Green: meets or exceeds service standard, Orange: 20% lower than service standard, Pink: more than 20% less than service standard.

Precinct 8: Dennington



The Dennington precinct includes the Merri River which runs through the precinct intersecting with the Merri Reserve, Dennington Bowls club, kayak club, rowing club, and GG Payne Reserve. Open space infrastructure located around the river will at times be subject to flooding which can limit the level of embellishment. The other key open space in the precinct is Dennington Reserve which provides a key sporting function. All other open space in the precinct are small parcels with limited functions.

The north of the precinct includes a key growth area. Currently, this area has limited open space except for linkages along the river. As per the North Dennington Development Plan these linkages will be enhanced and extend into the urban area through a series of roads with widened verges and key landscaped links, however no additional parcels of public open space will be provided.

Opportunities to improve open space in this precinct include:

Grow: Deliver new open space linkages as per the North Dennington Development Plan 2015.

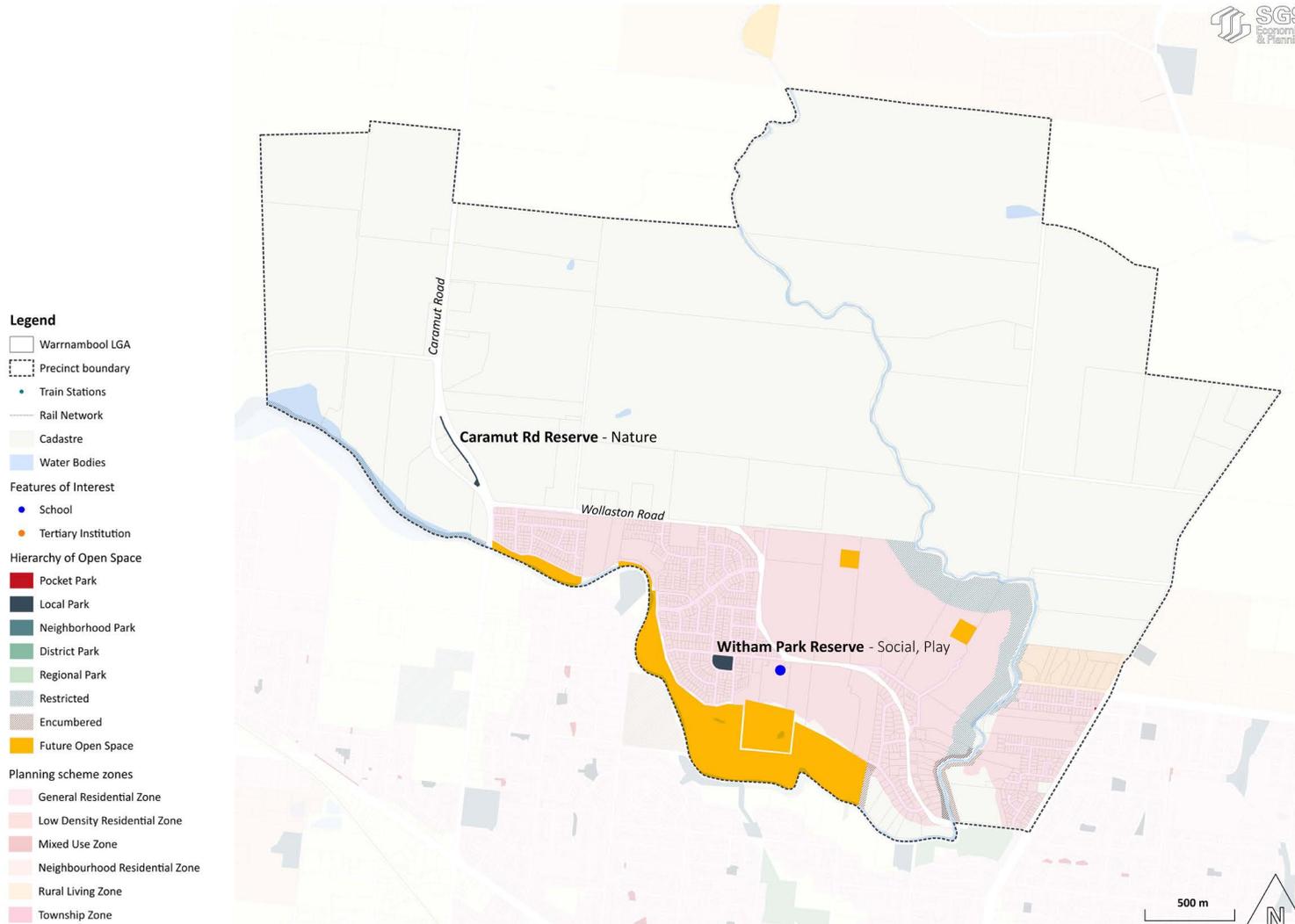
Optimise: Review the quality and capacity of Dennington Reserve to ensure the sporting functions can meet future participation demands.

Optimise: Review smaller parcels of open space to ensure they are able to meet current and future needs.

Population (2024)	2,134
Total open space	27.5ha
Quantity	129.0m ² per capita
Accessibility	70% of dwellings are within a 400m walking catchment to open space
Diversity	22% of open space more than 0.2ha includes more than 2 functions, which is below the LGA level of 58%

Assessment colours: **Green:** meets or exceeds service standard, **Orange:** 20% lower than service standard, **Pink:** more than 20% less than service standard

Precinct 9: North Merri



The North Merri precinct will experience significant growth through the delivery of the Merri North Structure Plan. Currently the precinct has limited access to public open space however there are several parks planned as growth occurs.

This precinct also connects to the Merri River to the south and east, which includes conservation land as well as land that is subject to flooding.

The North Merri Structure Plan notes that there will be additional open space located within the residential areas as well as a larger parcel of land which will include active recreation. The active recreation reserve will be located in land subject to flooding therefore infrastructure will need to be carefully considered.

South of the Merri includes key open space, however there are limited connection points for residents to access this land. The North Merri Structure Plan notes the delivery of 4 bridges to improve this access. Opportunities to improve open space in this precinct include:

Grow: Deliver new open space and bridge connection points as per the North Merri Structure Plan.

Grow: Investigate opportunities to create a linkage along the Merri River from this Precinct to Woodford.

Protect: As the area is developed south of Grange Road, ensure an adequate biodiversity and open space buffer is provided to complete the link between Grange Road and Wollaston Road.

Optimise: Review smaller parcels of open space to ensure they are able to meet current and future needs.

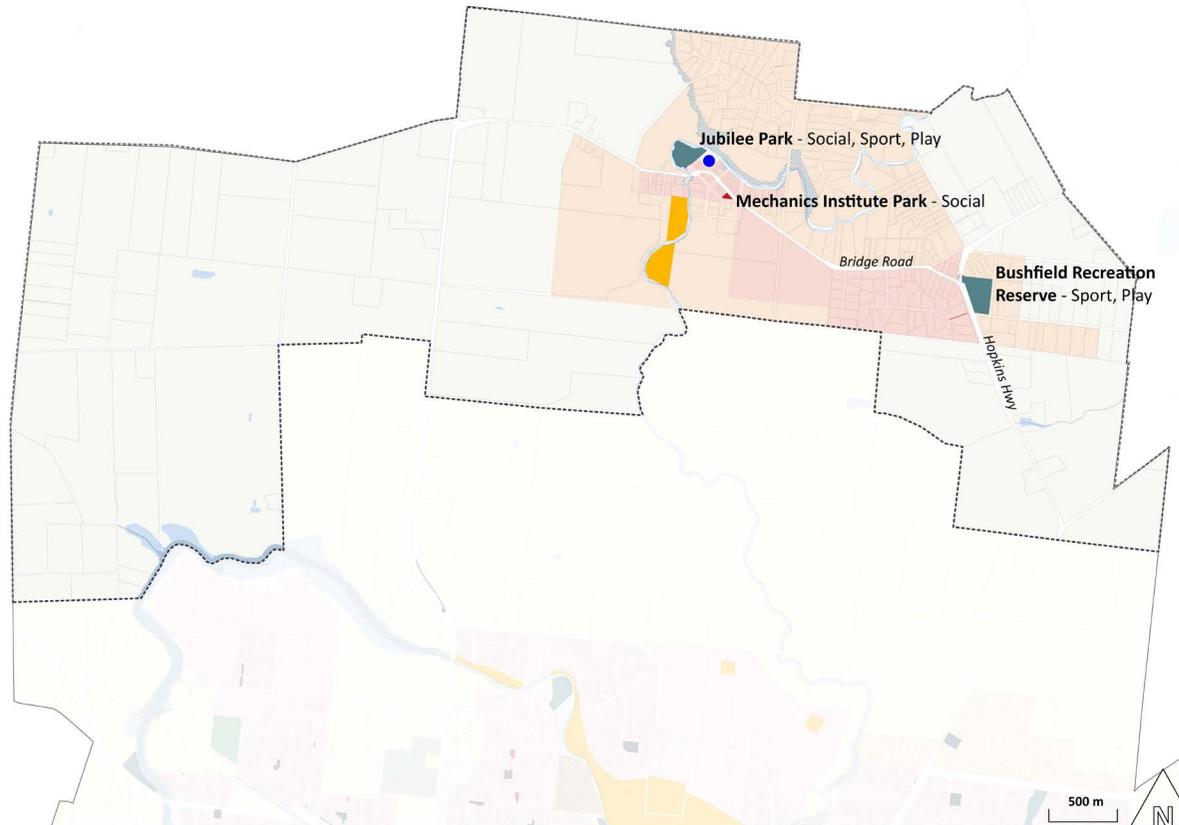
Population (2024)	1,378
Total open space	1.2ha
Quantity	8.9m ² per capita
Accessibility	25% of dwellings are within a 400m walking catchment to open space
Diversity	50% of open space more than 0.2ha includes more than 2 functions, which is below the LGA level of 54%

Assessment colours: Green: meets or exceeds service standard, Orange: 20% lower than service standard, Pink: more than 20% less than service standard

Precinct 10: Bushfield – Woodford



- Legend**
- Warrnambool LGA
 - Precinct boundary
 - Train Stations
 - Rail Network
 - Cadastre
 - Water Bodies
 - Features of Interest**
 - School
 - Tertiary Institution
 - Hierarchy of Open Space**
 - Pocket Park
 - Local Park
 - Neighborhood Park
 - District Park
 - Regional Park
 - Restricted
 - Encumbered
 - Future Open Space
 - Planning scheme zones**
 - General Residential Zone
 - Low Density Residential Zone
 - Mixed Use Zone
 - Neighbourhood Residential Zone
 - Rural Living Zone
 - Township Zone



The Bushfield-Woodford precinct is north of central Warrnambool with rural living and low density residential zones and no active transport connections into Warrnambool.

The precinct includes Jubilee Park which has a key function of play and social, Bushfield Recreation Reserve with the key function of sport, and the Mechanics Institute Park which provides a social function.

The Merri River also connects through this precinct. To the north of the river, a walking trail and pedestrian bridge connect Jubilee Park and Jellie Reserve (conservation land). However, there is limited access to the Merri River south of Jubilee Park.

There is low accessibility to open space in this precinct. This is largely due to the low density residential areas, however there is also limited safe active transport connections along Bridge Road.

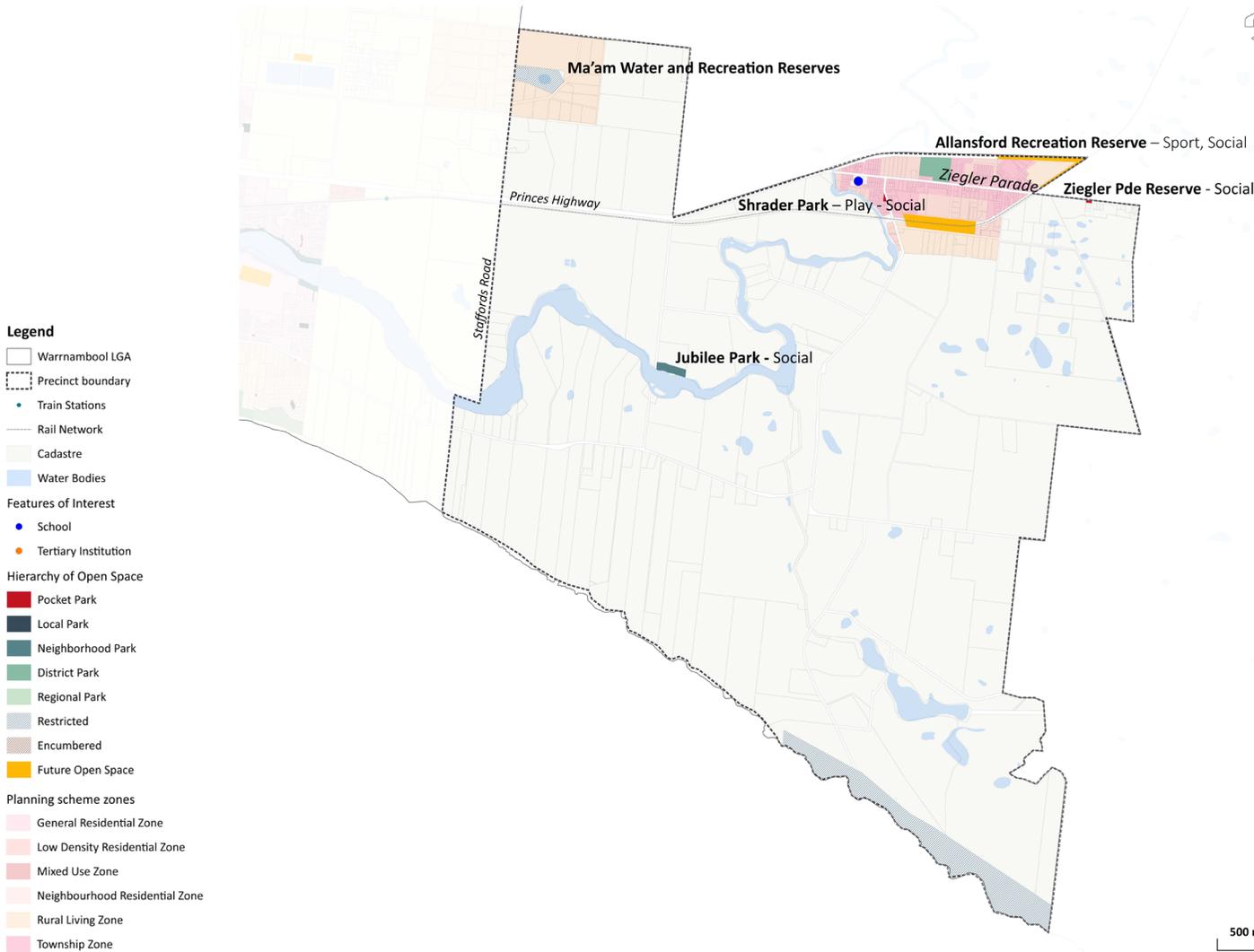
Opportunities to improve open space in this precinct include:

- Grow:** Provide safe connections along and across Bridge Road to increase access to Bushfield Recreation Reserve and Jubilee Park.
- Grow:** Increase access and linkage connections along the Merri River south of Bridge Road.
- Grow:** Explore opportunities for Council to partner with other landowners to deliver a shared pathway from Woodford / Bushfield to Grange Road, Warrnambool along the Merri River as a generational project.

Population (2024)	1,042
Total open space	7.4ha
Quantity	70.8m ² per capita
Accessibility	Not counted for rural, low density areas
Diversity	100% of open space over 0.2ha include more than 2 functions, which is above the LGA level of 54%

Assessment colours: Green: meets or exceeds service standard, Orange: 20% lower than service standard, Pink: more than 20% less than service standard.

Precinct 11: Allansford



The Allansford precinct is east of central Warrnambool with largely low density residential zones and no active transport connections into Warrnambool.

There are several key parcels of open space including the Allansford Recreation Reserve with a key sport function, and Jubilee Park, approximately 4km south of the Allansford township, which provides access to the Hopkins River.

There is low accessibility to open space in this precinct. While this is largely due to the low density residential living there are also limited connections to existing open space.

The open space around the rail corridor and the Hopkins River includes significant biodiversity components. These have been identified in the Allansford Strategic Framework Plan 2021 as potential opportunities to be further enhanced.

In addition, portions of the precinct are subject to flooding. While open space can support with flood mitigation, any infrastructure located on flood prone land also needs to be able to be adaptive.

Opportunities to improve open space in this precinct include:

Protect: As per the Allansford Strategic Framework Plan 2021, enhance biodiversity connections across the precinct.

Grow: Deliver improved linkage connections and additional open space across the township as per the Allansford Strategic Framework Plan 2021.

Grow: Explore opportunities to deliver a shared pathway that connects Allansford to Deakin University along the Hopkins River or railway line.

Population (2024)	1,189
Total open space	8.3ha
Quantity	69.7m ² per capita
Accessibility	Not counted for rural, low density areas
Diversity	50% of open space more than 0.2ha includes more than 2 functions, which is lower the LGA level of 54%

Assessment colours: Green: meets or exceeds service standard, Orange: 20% lower than service standard, Pink: more than 20% less than service standard.

Implementation



Action Plan

The following section identifies the actions to be delivered across the life of the Strategy. This includes city-wide actions as well as Precinct specific actions. The actions include Councils role as well as anticipated cost. The definition of both of these elements is provided below:

Councils role

Council will play a range of roles to support the implementation of this Strategy. This includes:

Council role	Description
Provider (P)	Active involvement in delivering new open space and or new open space infrastructure
Planner (PL)	Work closely with the private sector, community groups, agencies, and service providers to coordinate planning, funding and delivery of open space
Funder (F)	Provide funds or assistance/support to organisations to access grants, establish governance structures and systems to deliver and manage open space
Advocate (A)	Advocate on behalf of the community to other tiers of government and the private sector to improve open space outcomes

Anticipated cost

Each of the actions includes an anticipated cost to support in forward planning. Further detailed costings will be required as projects are further scoped.

Cost	Description
\$	\$0-10,000
\$\$	\$10,001-100,000
\$\$\$	\$100,001 - \$1,000,000
\$\$\$\$	\$1,000,000+

City wide actions

Actions	Council role				Time	Cost
	P	PL	F	A		
1 Develop an open space acquisition and disposal plan, with a particular focus on pocket parks.		x			1-5yrs	\$
2 Review and consider the need for additional formalised dog parks		x			1-5yrs	\$
3 In alignment with the Urban Forest Strategy increase the number of tree species and age diversity of trees on open space		x	x	x	1-5yrs	\$\$
4 Undertake a review and an update of the Public Amenities Strategy 2013 to ensure public toilets are accessible across the open space network	x	x			1-5 yrs	\$
5 Develop open space design guidelines in collaboration with Eastern Maar	x	x			1-5 yrs	\$\$
6 Following the findings of the open space contribution assessment, undertake a Planning Scheme Amendment to update the open space contribution rate in the schedule to Clause 53.01	x	x			1-5 yrs	\$\$
7 Review local laws regarding prohibited areas for dogs	x	x			1-10yrs	\$
8 In alignment with the Play Space Strategic Framework, identify opportunities within Regional, District, Neighbourhood and Local playgrounds to provide improved shade, rain and wind protection, seating, BBQ, picnic areas	x	x		x	1-10yrs	\$\$\$



		P	PL	F	A	Time	Cost
9	In alignment with the Warrnambool Events Strategy 2024-28, undertake an assessment to identify open space to develop a dedicated regional all weather events space	x	x			1-15 yrs	\$\$
10	Deliver 23% to 30% (to be further considered) tree canopy coverage across Warrnambool's public open space by 2050	x	x			1-25yrs	\$\$
11	Undertake an audit of informal sporting and fitness infrastructure to identify gaps and partner with public landowners and land managers to provide informal sporting and fitness infrastructure	x	x		x	5-10yrs	\$\$
12	Work with Eastern Maar to explore opportunities to improve way-finding and educational signage that includes Aboriginal Cultural significance	x	x		x	5-10 yrs	\$\$
13	In alignment with the Active Warrnambool Strategy increase access and achieve DDA compliance of infrastructure for people of all abilities, for women and girls, and culturally diverse community members	x	x	x	x	5-10yrs	\$\$\$
14	Implement the Active Warrnambool Strategy, Sustainable Transport Strategy and Principal Pedestrian Network to provide new and up-graded shared paths, improved crossings and improved lighting	x	x			10-15yrs	\$\$\$
15	Explore opportunities to partner with public landowners to pursue integrated water management, roof water harvesting, and flood mitigation projects (including wetlands) on underutilised open space	x	x	x	x	Ongoing	\$\$\$
16	In alignment with the Healthy Warrnambool 2025-29 identify open space sites that can support community food growing initiatives	x	x	x		Ongoing	\$\$
17	Continue to review maintenance schedule of open spaces with mowing/ weeding/ pruning needs, prioritising high use areas and around waterways	x	x			Ongoing	\$
18	To continue to liaise with State government and relevant entities regarding advocacy and partnership opportunities for tourism related open space facilities.	x	x		x	Ongoing	\$\$

Central Precinct

	Actions	Council role				Time	Cost
		P	PL	F	A		
1.1	Implement the Actions contained within Lake Pertobe Masterplan, including investigating pathways between Harris Street Oval and Lake Pertobe, and between Lake Pertobe and the CBD.	x	x	x		1-5 yrs	\$\$\$
1.2	Explore opportunities to further connect Fletcher Jones Reserve with the Fletcher Jones Gardens.	x			x	5-10yrs	\$\$
1.3	As outlined in the City Centre Revitalisation Plan, investigate the transformation of Cannon Hill into a significant open space asset in central Warrnambool.	x	x	x		5-10yrs	\$\$\$
1.4	Implement the actions contained within the Foreshore Strategic Framework plan to improve amenity and access to open space across the Foreshore, and pedestrian access between the foreshore and the city.	x	x	x		10-15yrs	\$\$\$
1.5	Review smaller parcels of open space to ensure they are able to meet current and future needs including Nicholson St Reserve, Koroit St Reserve and Shirley Gr Reserve.	x				1-5yrs	\$



Botanic Precinct

	Actions	Council role				Time	Cost
		P	PL	F	A		
2.1	Implement the Botanic Local Area Traffic Management Plan, which includes widening the Russell Creek path network.	x			x	1-5yrs	\$\$\$
2.2	Review the path network in the Botanic Garden to improve accessibility and DDA compliance	x		x		1-5yrs	\$\$
2.3	Explore opportunities to increase biodiversity along Russell Creek	x	x	x		1-5yrs	\$\$
2.4	Review smaller parcels of open space to ensure they are able to meet current and future needs including Swan St Reserve, Barbers Ln Reserve	x				1-5yrs	\$
2.5	Improve the quality of open space along Merri River, in alignment with the South of the Merri Open Space Precinct Plan.	x	x	x	x	5-10yrs	\$\$

East Racecourse Precinct

	Actions	Council role				Time	Cost
		P	PL	F	A		
3.1	Explore partnership opportunities to increase community access to Racecourse open space				x	1-5yrs	\$
3.2	Review smaller parcels of open space to ensure they are able to meet current and future needs including Curtin Ct Reserve and Lancefield St Reserve.	x				1-5yrs	\$
3.3	Protect and improve the quality of nature functions as Albert Park Reserve in alignment with the Albert Park Revegetation Plan 2022.	x		x		1-10yrs	\$\$
3.4	Improve connections between Brierly Recreational Reserve and Albert Park Reserve	x		x	x	5-10yrs	\$\$

South East – Hopkins Precinct

	Actions	Council role				Time	Cost
		P	PL	F	A		
4.1	Review the functions and flood constraints on Scoborio Reserve and EJ King Park and consider if a Master Plan is required to support future improvement opportunities.		x	x		1-5yrs	\$
4.2	Review smaller parcels of open space to ensure they are able to meet current and future needs including Hopkins River Frontage, Ferguson St Reserve, Riversdale Ct Reserve, Auty St Reserve, and Freycinet Ct Reserve.	x	x	x		1-5yrs	\$
4.3	Work with developers to provide additional open space through the Hopkins Heights development. Ensure this open space is of high quality, connected, and multi-functional.				x	1-10yrs	\$
4.4	Explore the delivery of a shared pathway along the Hopkins River or train line towards Deakin University.	x	x	x	x	5-10yrs	\$\$\$



North East Precinct

Actions	Council role				Time	Cost
	P	PL	F	A		
5.1 Through the delivery of the East of Aberline Precinct Structure Plan, work with the State Government to protect Francis Tozer Memorial through a rezoning from farming land to conservation land				x	1-5yrs	\$
5.2 Review smaller parcels of open space to ensure they are able to meet current and future needs including Wangoom Water Reserve.	x	x	x		1-5yrs	\$
5.3 Investigate opportunities to improve pedestrian linkages between existing open spaces and new planned open spaces.		x		x	1-10yrs	\$\$
5.4 Work with future developers to provide additional open space through the East of Aberline Precinct Structure Plan. Ensure this open space is of high quality, connected, and multi-functional.		x		x	5-10yrs	\$

West Precinct

Actions	Council role				Time	Cost
	P	PL	F	A		
6.1 Review smaller parcels of open space to ensure they are able to meet current and future needs including Boronia Ct, Heritage Ct Reserve, Hibiscus Ave, Saywell Ct Reserve, Lucas Ct Reserve, Mannix St Reserve, and McPherson Cres Reserve.	x	x	x		1-5yrs	\$
6.2 Improve the quality of open space along Merri River, in alignment with the South of the Merri Open Space Precinct Plan. This includes the Woodend Road Reserve, Manuka Dr Reserve, and Platypus Park Reserve.	x	x	x	x	10-15 yrs	\$\$

South Precinct

Actions	Council role				Time	Cost
	P	PL	F	A		
7.1 Review smaller parcels of open space to ensure they are able to meet current and future needs including 59 Merrivale Dr, Fairway Cr (East), Fairway Cr (West), Marrang Park Reserve, McMeekin Rd Reserve, Clancey Ct Reserve, Apex Reserve, Fitzroy Rd Reserve, and 27 Harrington Rd.	x	x	x		1-5yrs	\$
7.2 Review the long term use of Merri Crescent Reserve.	x			x	5-10yrs	\$
7.3 Explore opportunities to increase open space and green infrastructure in the industrial estate.	x	x	x	x	1-10yrs	\$\$
7.4 In alignment with the Wild Coast Master Plan 2021, ensure conservation land is protected through enhancing biodiversity and strategically placed and maintained walking, education, and cultural infrastructure.		x		x	1-20yrs	\$



Dennington Precinct

	Actions	Council role				Time	Cost
		P	PL	F	A		
8.1	Review the quality and capacity of Dennington Reserve to ensure the sporting functions can meet future participation demands. Should it be required, improvements could include lighting, maintenance, and or partnerships with St Johns Primary School to share infrastructure.	x	x	x		1-5yrs	\$\$
8.2	Review smaller parcels of open space to ensure they are able to meet current and future needs including Adriana Cres Reserve and 24 Darwinia St.	x	x	x		1-5yrs	\$
8.3	Work with future developers to deliver new open space linkages as per the North Dennington Development Plan 2015. In doing so optimise opportunities to increase tree canopy and connections with existing open space.	x	x		x	1-10yrs	\$\$

North Merri Precinct

	Actions	Council role				Time	Cost
		P	PL	F	A		
9.1	Review smaller parcels of open space to ensure they are able to meet current and future needs including Caramut Rd Reserve and its future role.	x	x	x		1-5yrs	\$
9.2	Work with future developers to deliver new open space and bridge connection points as per the North Merri Structure Plan. Ensure this open space is of high quality, connected, and multi-functional.	x	x		x	1-10yrs	\$\$
9.3	Work in landowners to investigate opportunities to create a linkage along the Merri River from this Precinct to Woodford.	x	x	x	x	5-15yrs	\$\$\$
9.4	As the area is developed south of Grange Road, work with landowners to ensure an adequate biodiversity and open space buffer is provided to complete the link between Grange Road and Wollaston Road.	x	x	x	x	1-10yrs	\$\$

Bushfield – Woodford Precinct

	Actions	Council role				Time	Cost
		P	PL	F	A		
10.1	Explore opportunities to partner with the State Government to deliver safe connections along and across Bridge Road to increase access to Bushfield Recreation Reserve and Jubilee Park.		x		x	1-10yrs	\$\$
10.2	Work with land owners to explore opportunities to increase access and linkage connections along the Merri River south of Bridge Road.	x	x	x	x	5-15yrs	\$\$
10.3	Explore opportunities for Council to partner with other landowners to deliver a shared pathway from Woodford / Bushfield to Grange Road, Warrnambool along the Merri River as a generational project.	x	x	x	x	15-20yrs	\$\$\$

Allansford

	Actions	Council role				Time	Cost
		P	PL	F	A		
11.1	As per the Allansford Strategic Framework Plan 2021, enhance biodiversity connections across the precinct.	x	x	x	x	1-10yrs	\$\$
11.2	Deliver improved linkage connections and additional open space across the township as per the Allansford Strategic Framework Plan 2021.	x	x	x		1-15yrs	\$\$\$
11.3	Explore opportunities to deliver a shared pathway that connects Allansford to Deakin University along the Hopkins River or railway line.	x	x	x	x	15-20yrs	\$\$\$

Monitoring and evaluation

The Open Space Strategy and action plan provides a range of actions to be delivered across the 15 year timeframe. Over this timeframe Council will track progress as well as review and update actions as required. These reviews will aim to respond to changing community trends, potential partnership opportunities, and or funding availability.

The Strategy will be supported by an internal working group and undertake an annual review of progress, noting which actions are in progress, completed, not started, or need to be reviewed.

A detailed review will occur every four years which will monitor progress against the below measures of success. These measures consider accessibility, functionality and quality across the open space network to ensure this is improving.

Measures of success:

- **Accessibility:** 95% of dwellings in urban areas are within 400m of open space
- **Diversity:** All open space greater than 0.2ha has a minimum of 2 identified functions
- **Optimisation:** All open space has a clear function
- **Quality:** State of open space assets are an average of 3 or less
- **Community needs:** 75% of the community are satisfied with the open space network
- **Sustainability:** 30% of tree canopy cover across the open space network



Merri River

Appendix 1: Open space assets

Summary of public open space

Asset Name	Precinct	Hierarchy	Size (ha)	Function 1	Function 2	Function 3	Function 4
Ziegler Pde Reserve	Allansford	Pocket Park	0.11	Social			
Shrader Park Reserve	Allansford	Pocket Park	0.14	Play	Social		
Jubilee Park Reserve (Allansford)	Allansford	Neighbourhood Park	2.09	Social			
Allansford Recreation Reserve	Allansford	District Park	5.95	Sport	Social		
Iona/Orchid Reserve	Botanic	Pocket Park	0.09	Social	Play		
Swan St Reserve	Botanic	Pocket Park	0.11	Social			
Barbers La Reserve	Botanic	Pocket Park	0.13	Social			
J. Swan Reserve	Botanic	Local Park	0.91	Social	Play		
Lutana/Serenity Reserve	Botanic	Local Park	0.21	Social			
Aquazone Reserve	Botanic	Neighbourhood Park	2.42	Social			
Jamieson St Reserve	Botanic	Neighbourhood Park		Social			
Russells Creek Reserve (Queens Rd - Mortlake Rd)	Botanic	Neighbourhood Park	1.40	Social	Linkage		
Queens Rd Reserve (West)	Botanic	Neighbourhood Park	1.39	Social			
Botanic Gardens Reserve	Botanic	District Park	8.13	Social	Story, art and education	Events	
St James Park Reserve	Botanic	District Park	6.02	Social			
Queens Rd Reserve (East)	Botanic	District Park		Social			
Russells Creek Reserve (Ardlie St - Bromfield St)	Botanic	District Park	8.05	Social	Linkage		



Asset Name	Precinct	Hierarchy	Size (ha)	Function 1	Function 2	Function 3	Function 4
Rodger PI Reserve	Bushfield - Woodford	Pocket Park	0.04	Linkage			
Mechanics Institute Park Reserve	Bushfield - Woodford	Pocket Park	0.19	Social			
Jubilee Park Reserve (Woodford)	Bushfield - Woodford	Neighbourhood Park	2.91	Social	Sport	Play	
Bushfield Recreation Reserve	Bushfield - Woodford	Neighbourhood Park	4.24	Sport	Play		
Civic Green Reserve	Central	Pocket Park	0.20	Social	Civic	Events	
Fletcher Jones Reserve	Central	Pocket Park	0.07	Social			
Nicholson St Reserve	Central	Pocket Park	0.16	Social			
Norfolk PI Reserve	Central	Pocket Park	0.16	Social			
Koroit St Reserve	Central	Pocket Park	0.09	Social			
Shirley Gr Reserve	Central	Pocket Park	0.04	Social			
Surfside Holiday Park Reserve	Central	Local Park	0.56	Social	Linkage		
Flagstaff Hill Reserve	Central	Local Park	0.38	Social			
Ryot St Reserve	Central	Local Park	0.27	Social			
Cannon Hill Reserve	Central	Neighbourhood Park	3.29	Social	Vistas		
Foreshore Reserve (Lady Bay to Flume)	Central	Regional Park	17.72	Nature	Vistas		
Lake Pertobe Recreation Reserve	Central	Regional Park	63.75	Social	Nature	Play	Events
Jetty Flat Reserve	Central	Regional Park		Sport			
Warrnambool Lawn Tennis Reserve	Central	Regional Park		Sport			



Asset Name	Precinct	Hierarchy	Size (ha)	Function 1	Function 2	Function 3	Function 4
Dennington War Memorial Reserve	Dennington	Pocket Park	0.01	Civic			
Adriana/Grevillia Reserve	Dennington	Pocket Park	0.18	Linkage			
Cole Ct Reserve	Dennington	Pocket Park	0.04	Linkage			
Darwinia St Reserve	Dennington	Pocket Park	0.03	Social			
Cowie Ct Reserve	Dennington	Pocket Park	0.01	Linkage			
Grevillia/Adriana Reserve	Dennington	Pocket Park	0.02	Linkage			
Grevillia/Hakea Reserve	Dennington	Pocket Park	0.02	Linkage	Social		
Reserve: Coghlan Rd (196)	Dennington	Local Park	0.24	Social			
W.P. O'Sullivan Reserve	Dennington	Local Park	0.31	Social	Play		
Adriana Cres Reserve	Dennington	Local Park	0.35	Social			
Pappas Dr Reserve	Dennington	Local Park	0.22	Social			
Merri River Reserve (Atkinsons La)	Dennington	Neighbourhood Park	3.44	Nature			
Dennington Rowing Club Reserve	Dennington	Neighbourhood Park	2.07	Sport			
Dennington Bowls Club Reserve	Dennington	Neighbourhood Park		Sport			
Merri River Reserve (Swinton St)	Dennington	District Park	14.87	Nature			
Dennington Recreation Reserve	Dennington	District Park	5.72	Sport	Social		
<hr/>							
Collina Ct Reserve	East - Racecourse	Pocket Park	0.01	Linkage			
Dunroe Ct Reserve	East - Racecourse	Pocket Park	0.02	Linkage			
Beechnut Pl Reserve	East - Racecourse	Pocket Park	0.13	Social	Linkage		
Cassie Ct Reserve	East - Racecourse	Pocket Park	0.15	Social	Linkage		
McKellar Ct Reserve	East - Racecourse	Pocket Park	0.02	Linkage			
McKenna Pl Reserve	East - Racecourse	Pocket Park	0.08	Social	Linkage		
Baileyana/Stacey Reserve	East - Racecourse	Pocket Park	0.19	Social			
Baeckea/Laurina Reserve	East - Racecourse	Pocket Park	0.20	Social	Play		
Baeckea/Dales Reserve	East - Racecourse	Pocket Park	0.02	Social	Linkage		
Baker Gr Reserve	East - Racecourse	Pocket Park	0.06	Linkage			
Donald Ct Reserve	East - Racecourse	Pocket Park	0.08	Social	Play		
Woolles Ave Reserve	East - Racecourse	Local Park	0.55	Social	Play		



Asset Name	Precinct	Hierarchy	Size (ha)	Function 1	Function 2	Function 3	Function 4
Kingfisher Gr Reserve	East - Racecourse	Local Park	0.39	Social	Linkage		
Wanstead St Reserve	East - Racecourse	Local Park	0.33	Social	Linkage		
Raglan Pde Reserve (Kingfisher Gr - Glenrowe Ave)	East - Racecourse	Local Park	0.59	Social	Linkage		
Raglan Pde Reserve (Glenrowe Ave - rear Ryan Ct)	East - Racecourse	Local Park	0.24	Social	Linkage		
Wesak/Alice Reserve	East - Racecourse	Local Park	0.24	Social	Play		
Armstrong Gr Reserve	East - Racecourse	Local Park	0.82	Social	Linkage		
Caroville Dr Reserve (East)	East - Racecourse	Local Park	0.23	Social	Linkage		
Caroville Dr Reserve (West)	East - Racecourse	Local Park	0.58	Social	Linkage		
Hoki St Reserve	East - Racecourse	Local Park	0.49	Social			
Water Tower Reserve	East - Racecourse	Local Park	0.52	Social	Play		
Loyola Ave Reserve	East - Racecourse	Local Park	0.31	Social			
Lancefield St Reserve	East - Racecourse	Local Park	0.31	Social			
Breton St Reserve	East - Racecourse	Local Park	0.30	Social	Play		
Curtin Ct Reserve	East - Racecourse	Local Park	0.50	Social			
Hayley Dr Reserve	East - Racecourse	Local Park	0.24	Social	Play		
Russells Creek Reserve (Mortlake Rd - Garden St)	East - Racecourse	District Park	5.71	Social	Linkage		
Moonah St Recreation Reserve	East - Racecourse	District Park		Social	Play		
Albert Park Reserve	East - Racecourse	Regional Park	44.53	Social	Sport		
Albert Park Reserve: Miura Friendship Garden	East - Racecourse	Regional Park		Social	Play		
Albert Park Reserve: Warrnambool Community Gardens	East - Racecourse	Regional Park		Social			
Albert Park Reserve: Grieve St Playground	East - Racecourse	Regional Park		Social	Play		



Asset Name	Precinct	Hierarchy	Size (ha)	Function 1	Function 2	Function 3	Function 4
Mitchell St Reserve	North East	Pocket Park	0.04	Linkage			
Boston Dr Reserve	North East	Pocket Park	0.09	Social	Linkage		
Wendy Pl Reserve	North East	Local Park	0.26	Social			
Toohey Estate Reserve	North East	Local Park	0.72	Social	Play		
Wangoom Water Reserve: Mort-lake Rd	North East	Local Park	0.89	Social			
Marrakai Reserve	North East	Neighbourhood Park	3.29	Social	Linkage		
Russells Creek Reserve (Boston Dr - Wangoom Rd)	North East	Neighbourhood Park		Social	Linkage		
Russells Creek Reserve (Wares Rd - Whites Rd)	North East	Neighbourhood Park	1.41	Social	Linkage		
Russells Creek Reserve (Garden St - Wares Rd)	North East	Neighbourhood Park	2.75	Social	Linkage		
Russells Creek Reserve (Whites Rd - Booval St)	North East	Neighbourhood Park	2.23	Social	Linkage		
Witton Dr Reserve	North East	Neighbourhood Park		Social	Linkage		
Rawlings Dr Reserve	North East	Neighbourhood Park	1.53	Social	Linkage		
Brierly Recreation Reserve	North East	District Park	12.57	Sport	Social	Play	
Francis Tozer Memorial Reserve	North East	Regional Park	19.63	Nature	Story, art and education		
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McIntyre Ct Reserve	North of Merri	Pocket Park	0.01	Social			
Caramut Rd Reserve	North of Merri	Local Park	0.40	Nature			
Witham Park Reserve	North of Merri	Local Park	0.82	Social	Play		



Asset Name	Precinct	Hierarchy	Size (ha)	Function 1	Function 2	Function 3	Function 4
Granter St Reserve	South	Pocket Park	0.02	Linkage			
Cody Pl Reserve	South	Pocket Park	0.04	Social			
Fitzroy Rd Reserve	South	Pocket Park	0.08	Social			
Mahogany Gardens Reserve (West)	South	Pocket Park	0.05	Social			
McMeekin Rd Reserve	South	Local Park	0.98				
Warrnambool Skate Park Reserve	South	Local Park	0.33	Play			
Archibald St Reserve	South	Local Park	0.61	Social	Play		
Clancey Ct Reserve	South	Local Park	0.86	Social			
Fairway Cr Reserve (East)	South	Local Park	0.24	Social			
Fairway Cr Reserve (West)	South	Local Park	0.30	Social			
Fitzroy Rd Reserve	South	Local Park	0.59	Social			
Mahogany Gardens Reserve (East)	South	Local Park	0.25	Social	Play		
Marang Park Reserve	South	Local Park	0.90	Social			
Merrivale Dr Reserve	South	Local Park	0.48	Social			
Merri Cres Reserve	South	Neighbourhood Park	1.27	Nature			
Harrington Rd (27) Reserve	South	Neighbourhood Park	2.28	Social			
Merrivale Recreation Reserve	South	Neighbourhood Park	4.70	Sport	Play		
Harris St Reserve	South	District Park	5.39	Sport			
Foreshore Reserve (Breakwater to Lady Bay)	South	Regional Park	17.80	Nature	Vistas		
Friendly Societies Recreation Reserve	South	Regional Park	20.37	Sport			
Victoria Park Reserve	South	Regional Park		Social	Sport	Dog walking	



Asset Name	Precinct	Hierarchy	Size (ha)	Function 1	Function 2	Function 3	Function 4
Dobson Way/Greenvale Ct Reserve	South East - Hopkins	Pocket Park	0.08	Linkage			
Dunvegan Way/Greenvale Ct Reserve	South East - Hopkins	Pocket Park	0.05	Linkage			
Raglan Pde Reserve	South East - Hopkins	Pocket Park	0.03	Linkage			
Reserve: 14 Von Guerard Blvd	South East - Hopkins	Pocket Park	0.03	Social			
Reserve: Astbury Ct (3)	South East - Hopkins	Pocket Park	0.03	Linkage			
Riverview Tce Reserve	South East - Hopkins	Pocket Park	0.08	Linkage			
Auty St Reserve (East)	South East - Hopkins	Pocket Park	0.13	Social	Play		
Auty St Reserve (West)	South East - Hopkins	Pocket Park	0.06	Social			
Ferguson St Reserve (East)	South East - Hopkins	Pocket Park	0.03	Social			
Ferguson St Reserve (West)	South East - Hopkins	Pocket Park	0.02	Social			
Freycinet Ct Reserve	South East - Hopkins	Pocket Park	0.02	Social			
Ilex Ave/Flaxman St Reserve	South East - Hopkins	Pocket Park	0.06	Social			
Riverdale Ct Reserve	South East - Hopkins	Pocket Park	0.09	Social			
Thompson St Reserve	South East - Hopkins	Pocket Park	0.04	Social			
Glenview Dr Reserve	South East - Hopkins	Local Park	0.24	Social			
Motang Drive Reserve	South East - Hopkins	Local Park	0.40	Social			
Reserve: 14 Von Guerard Blvd	South East - Hopkins	Local Park	0.23	Social			
Reserve: Southern Ocean Blvd (29)	South East - Hopkins	Local Park	0.25	Social	Nature		
Hopkins River Reserve: Mahon- eys Rd	South East - Hopkins	Neighbourhood Park	2.98	Social			
Dobson Way Reserve	South East - Hopkins	Neighbourhood Park		Social	Linkage		
Motang Dr: Hopkins River Reserve	South East - Hopkins	Neighbourhood Park	1.13	Social	Nature		
D. W. Jones Oval Reserve	South East - Hopkins	Neighbourhood Park	3.14	Sport			
Scoborio Reserve	South East - Hopkins	District Park	6.35	Social	Social		
E. J. King Park Reserve	South East - Hopkins	District Park		Social			
Hopkins River Frontage: Simpson St Reserve	South East - Hopkins	District Park		Social			
Logans Beach Reserve (Lookout)	South East - Hopkins	District Park	5.88	Social	Nature	Vistas	
Southern Ocean Blvd Reserve	South East - Hopkins	District Park	6.63	Social	Nature		



Asset Name	Precinct	Hierarchy	Size (ha)	Function 1	Function 2	Function 3	Function 4
Tania Ct Reserve	West	Pocket Park	0.03	Linkage			
Boronia Ct Reserve	West	Pocket Park	0.19	Social			
Chisholm/Natalie Reserve	West	Pocket Park	0.18	Social			
Crawley St Reserve (West)	West	Pocket Park	0.18	Social			
Hibiscus Ave Reserve	West	Pocket Park	0.18	Social			
Kermond Ct Reserve	West	Pocket Park	0.10	Social			
McPherson Cres Reserve	West	Pocket Park	0.13	Social			
Nicolls Dr Reserve	West	Pocket Park	0.03	Social	Play		
Saywell Ct Reserve	West	Pocket Park	0.05	Social			
Barton Ct Reserve	West	Local Park	0.25	Social			
Crawley St Reserve (East)	West	Local Park	0.45	Social	Play		
Heritage Ct Reserve	West	Local Park	0.36	Social			
Karana Dr Reserve	West	Local Park	0.27	Social	Play		
Lucas Ct Reserve	West	Local Park	0.23	Social			
Mannix St Reserve	West	Local Park	0.24	Social			
Pecten Ave Reserve	West	Local Park	0.66	Social	Play		
Platypus Park Reserve	West	Neighbourhood Park	2.86	Nature	Play		
Russells Creek Reserve (Daltons Rd - Merri River)	West	Neighbourhood Park		Social	Linkage		
Manuka Dr Reserve	West	Neighbourhood Park	2.67	Social			
A. H. Davidson Oval Reserve	West	Neighbourhood Park	4.18	Sport	Play		



Appendix 2: Open space infrastructure

Open space hierarchy and functions: The following provides an overview of what hierarchy the open space functions can be provided on, and where ideally, they should be avoided due to size.

Across the different hierarchies the level of supporting infrastructure may vary e.g. event space on a neighbourhood park will likely be much smaller than an event space provided in on a regional park. The locations for these functions should be guided by the Active Warrnambool, Play Space Strategic Framework, Green Warrnambool, Tourism and Events and other enabling infrastructure strategies.

Functions	Hierarchy				
	Pocket Park	Local	Neighbourhood	District	Regional
Sport			(if 5ha)		
Civic					
Nature					
Linkage					
Events					
Play					
Social					
Story, art & education					
Vistas					
Dog walking					



Infrastructure on public open space: The following provides an overview of the types of infrastructure that can be provided across the different open space functions. When contemplating open space infrastructure and the amount of infrastructure, Council should consider the hierarchy (size) and capacity of the open space.

Infrastructure	Functions									
	Sport	Civic	Nature	Linkage	Events	Play	Social	Story, art & education	Vistas	Dog walking
Open areas										
Planting / biodiversity linkages										
Natural play elements										
Play equipment										
Fencing										
Basketball ring/hitting wall										
Skateboard area										
Fitness equipment										
Public toilets										
Sports playing areas										
Multi-purpose pavilions / change rooms										
Training fields/cricket practice nets										
Courts - tennis/netball/ multi-use										



Infrastructure	Functions									
	Sport	Civic	Nature	Linkage	Events	Play	Social	Story, art & education	Vistas	Dog walking
Shared pedestrian/bike path										
Seating										
Picnic tables										
Rubbish bins										
Bike racks										
Barbeques										
Shade structure/shelter										
Drinking fountain										
Information signage										
Artworks/sculptures										
Power and AV connections										
Lighting										
WIFI										
Carparking										
Irrigation										





