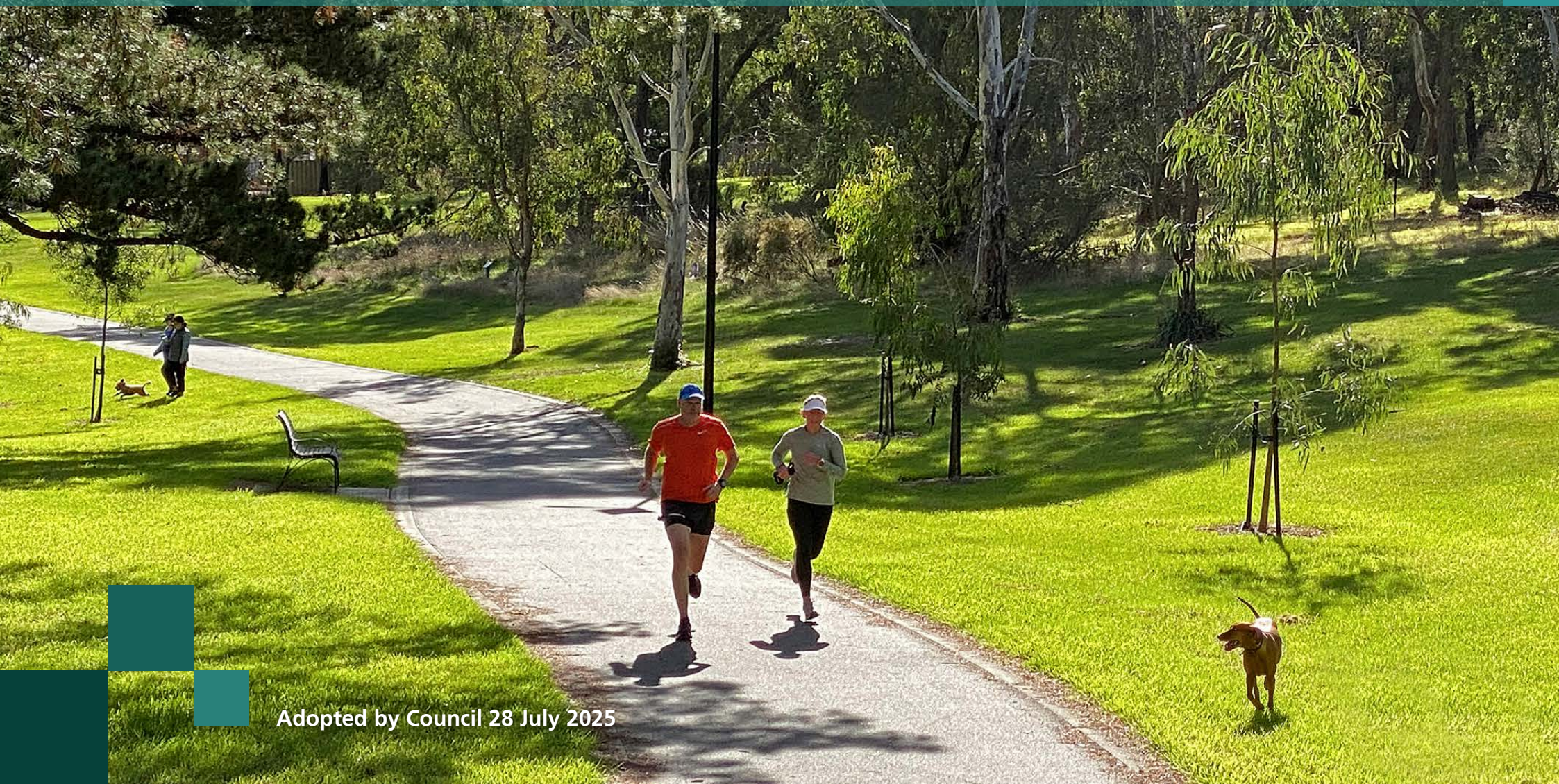




Whitehorse Open Space Strategy 2024



Adopted by Council 28 July 2025

Acknowledgements

Acknowledgement of Country

Whitehorse City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the land. We pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

The Whitehorse Open Space Strategy 2024 has been prepared for the City of Whitehorse by Thompson Berrill Landscape Design in association with Environment & Land Management and EdgResearch along with guidance from the Council Project Working Group.

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Draft	V1	23.06.2023

Index

	Page No.
Introduction	2
What is open space?	3
Why is open space important?	4
Existing open space network	6
The open space framework	8
What will change?	9
Overall directions	10
Precinct recommendations	14
Blackburn	16
Blackburn North	18
Blackburn South	20
Box Hill	22
Box Hill North	24

	Page No.
Box Hill South	26
Burwood	28
Burwood East	30
Forest Hill	32
Mitcham	34
Mont Albert	36
Mont Albert North / Balwyn North	38
Nunawading	40
Surrey Hills	42
Vermont	44
Vermont South	46
Implementation	48

Introduction

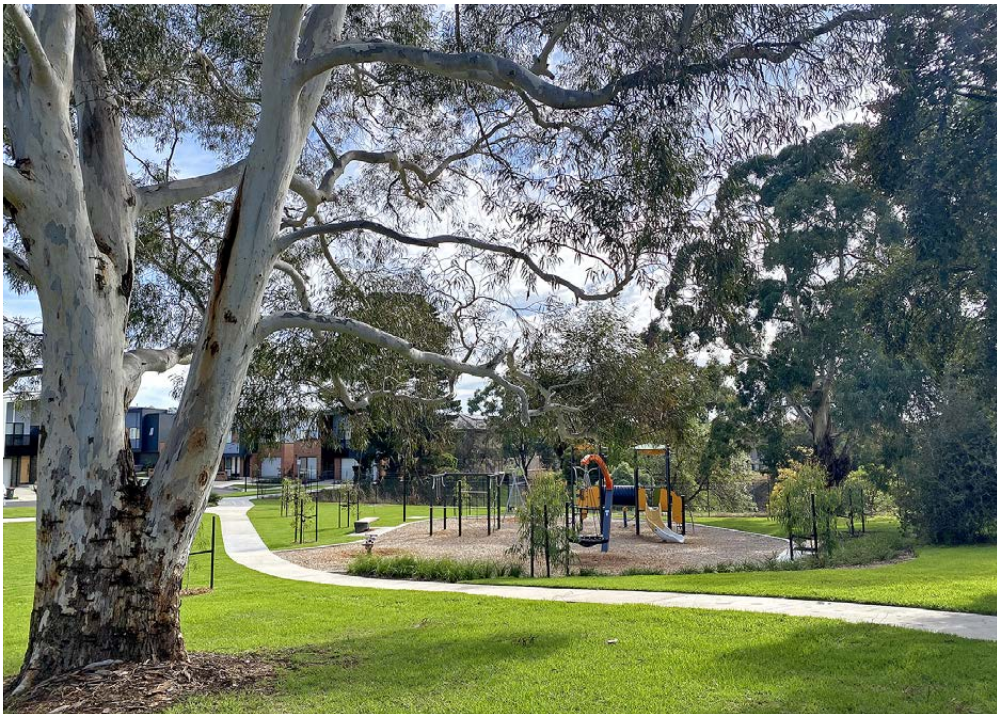
Purpose of the Strategy

The Open Space Strategy 2024 provides an overall framework and strategic direction for the future provision, planning, design and management of the public open space network in the City of Whitehorse for the next 15 years. The Strategy considers both the existing situation and forecast change and population growth, along with the strategic basis for the open space contributions policy

Achievements of the 2007 Strategy

Council has implemented the 2007 Open Space Strategy, resulting the provision of new open spaces and guided major upgrades and improvements to the existing open space network.

The 2007 Strategy provided the strategic basis for setting the mandatory 4 per cent minimum open space contribution rate in the Whitehorse Planning Scheme for all eligible subdivisions. Land contributions in large development sites have been negotiated using the 2007 Strategy including at the Burwood Brickworks Site and the Daniel Robertson Brickworks Site. Once approved and adopted by Council, the 2024 Strategy will replace the 2007 Strategy.



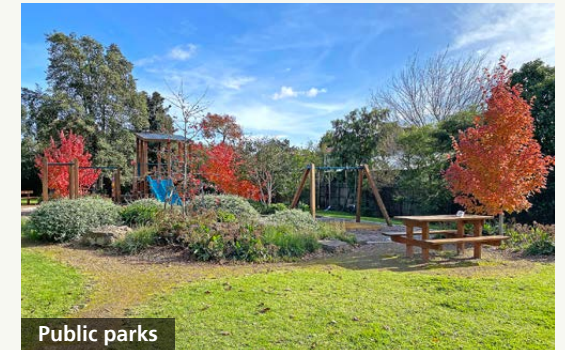
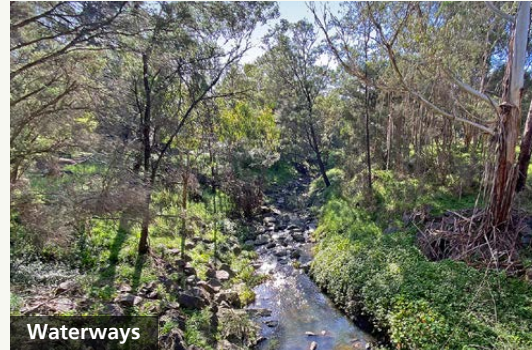
Strategy process



What is open space?

Public open space is all the publicly owned land that is set aside primarily for outdoor recreation, passive outdoor enjoyment and nature conservation and is generally zoned for this purpose. It includes reserves, parks, gardens, waterways and civic squares/plazas that are outdoors and open to the sky. Public open space includes open space that is managed by or on behalf of the State of Victoria including Dandenong Valley Parklands, Wattle Park, Melbourne Water retarding basins and the future Healesville Freeway Reserve Linear Park.

Access may be restricted at certain times on a fee-paying basis or club membership basis. It is generally zoned for public park, recreation or conservation purposes.



Why is open space important?

Overview

The community highly value the open space network for its natural qualities as well as the recreational values. The most commonly cited value of open space is a place to relax and unwind, followed by trees, connecting with nature, walking and cycling, just being outside and the native birds and wildlife. Open space significantly contributes to community health and wellbeing, the character and liveability of Whitehorse.

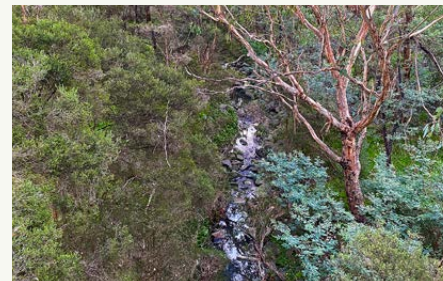
Open space also importantly supports and contributes to the biodiversity values with remnant indigenous and native vegetation being the dominant landscape character of the open space network. This is combined with high quality sporting facilities, an extensive network of waterway corridors and an extensive system of open spaces that provide informal recreational facilities and places to relax and enjoy the outdoors.

Open space is important for numerous reasons, some of which are described here:

Physical health, fitness and wellbeing



Biodiversity



Mental health and wellbeing



Why is open space important?

Social connectedness



Urban heat island effect mitigation



Cultural heritage and character



Events and arts



Existing open space network

Located approximately 15 kilometres east of the Melbourne CBD, just over the 11 per cent of the municipality is open space, with 722 hectares of open space. This has increased from 690 hectares in 2007. The waterway corridors define and significantly contribute to the sense of place and character of City of Whitehorse. Dandenong Creek flows along the eastern edge of the city with the large broad floodplain and wetlands associated with the Dandenong Valley Parklands providing excellent connectivity into adjoining municipalities to the east and the south. This contrasts with the steeply undulating Mullum Mullum Creek corridor in Mitcham, which flows along the north eastern boundary into the Yarra River catchment to the north. Yarran Dheran Reserve along with Schwerkolt's Cottage provide a unique linear open space network in the north.

Blackburn Lake Sanctuary is a major destination open space in the headwaters of Kooyongkoot / Gardiners Creek that flows south through Blackburn, Box Hill South and Burwood. Blackburn Creek Parklands is a linked open space system that is one of the most popular in Whitehorse. Koonung Creek flows in an easterly direction towards the Yarra River along the northern boundary from Nunawading through Blackburn North, Box Hill, Mont Albert North and Balwyn North. Bushy Creek has a linked network of open space along its valley extending from Springfield Park through to Elgar Park. The shared path link through Box Hill North and Mont Albert North is very popular.



Diagram A Existing Open Space

Existing open space network

Other key linked networks of open space include Heatherdale Parklands in Mitcham, Bellbird Dell in Vermont, Lundgren Chain in Burwood, Cootamundra Walk in Blackburn, Holland Gully in Burwood East and Gawler Chain in Mont Albert North.

In addition to the linear networks of open space along the waterway corridors there are other notable open spaces for informal recreational activities including Halliday Park in Mitcham and Box Hill Gardens. Whitehorse is well known for its high quality structured sporting facilities ranging from elite level facilities through to community sport including Box Hill City Oval, Burwood East Reserve, Wembley Park, Forest Hill Reserve, Mahoneys Reserve, Surrey Park, Moreton Reserve, RHL Sparks Reserve and Heatherdale Reserve. Many of the sporting fields are also used informally by the community for walking, dog walking, jogging and socialising.

Complementing the network of large open spaces is a series of smaller Neighbourhood, Local and Small Local open spaces that are highly valued and well used by the community. The community survey outcomes identified that large parks and gardens (non-sporting), followed by small local parks are the most popular types of open space reserves. Local streets for exercise are of equal top priority and this highlights the importance of the local street network for health and wellbeing benefits, and providing connectivity to and between open spaces.

The community survey identified that small local parks are more popular than large reserves highlighting the importance of small local parks in the overall open space network. In relation to what people value most about the open space network in Whitehorse, as a place to relax and unwind was the highest value followed by trees, connecting with nature, walking and cycling, and just being outside. Interestingly, dog walking was eleventh out of sixteenth as the preferred activities.

As the population grows, the Strategy has identified opportunities to expand the open space network and improve its quality to better meet the open space needs of the existing and future community.



The open space framework

Overview

In developing the Strategy, the role, character and distribution of existing open space has been assessed and mapped. The assessment forms the basis of understanding the existing network, assessing deficiencies and identifying what needs to change in the future.

Role

Each open space is assigned its role in the network as explained briefly below:

Regional open space is visited by a broader catchment of people beyond Whitehorse as well as the local community and can provide a regional biodiversity function. Examples include Dandenong Creek Parklands, Blackburn Lake Sanctuary and Wattle Park.

Municipal open space is primarily for the Whitehorse community providing facilities that the community will travel to including organised sport and recreation activities. Examples include Burwood East Reserve, Elgar Park and Box Hill Gardens.

Neighbourhood open space provide a diverse range of informal recreation facilities that appeal to a suburb. Examples include Lundgren Chain Reserve in Burwood, Tunstall Park in Nunawading and Memorial Park in Box Hill North.



Diagram B Gap Analysis

What will change?

Urban civic open space is an iconic open space that provides character and identity to the activity centres. Examples include Box Hill Mall and Britannia Mall in Mitcham.

Local and Small Local open space caters to the community within an easy and safe walk and complement the larger reserves. Examples include Bluebell Hill Reserve in Surrey Hills and Rowland Street Park in Mont Albert.

Local Link provides connectivity between streets and open space for improved walkability.

Character

The Strategy aims to provide a diversity of character types to appeal to the different parts of the community. Each open space is assigned a primary and secondary character type and this assists to plan ahead for a diversity of character types in each precinct where possible.

Distribution

Each open space type is assigned a walking catchment, which is applied to all the open spaces. One of the key objectives in open space planning is to ensure equity of access and therefore aim to provide open space within a safe and easy walk of everyone. By mapping the walking catchments, it identifies areas where there is no open space. These are referred to as 'gap areas' and they appear as white areas on the open space distribution diagram.

Forecast population growth

Fast facts

Population change

👤 = 20,000

Residents:

- 2021 (171,161) 
- 2036 (208,037) 

Jobs:

- 2021 (72,416) 

A 22 per cent increase in the residential population is forecast across the municipality over the next 15 years. While there are no specific employment forecasts available, the economic activity in Whitehorse is anticipated to expand, particularly in the activity centres and the industrial precincts. This means there will be more people using open space, which will increase the demand on existing open space and facilities. Box Hill is forecast to experience a 68 per cent increase (with nearly 10,000 new residents) and Burwood East is forecast to have a 56 per cent increase (with just over 6,000 new residents, excluding growth associated with the future Suburban Rail Loop project).

Major Victoria Government infrastructure projects in Whitehorse

The Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) is a major Victorian infrastructure project involving a

90km underground rail line, with the first stage referred to as SRL East, extending from Cheltenham to Box Hill, with an anticipated completion date of 2035. It includes two new stations in Whitehorse at Box Hill and Burwood and both stations will directly impact on existing open space while the project is in construction. Upon completion, the SRL is expected to generate significant economic activity and growth surrounding the new stations leading to additional growth and change in these precincts beyond the forecasts used in this Strategy. The SRL Authority is responsible for the structure planning currently in progress for the Box Hill and Burwood station precincts including the provision of open space. The North East Link/Eastern Freeway Upgrade project is completing a missing link between an upgraded Eastern Freeway and the M80 Ring Road. Council is currently advocating to the Victorian Government to minimise direct impacts on existing open spaces along Koonung Creek and the Eastern Freeway during the construction phase.

Increased urban densities

Increased urban densities are proposed to accommodate the additional residential and employment population across the activity centres. With the community living and working in high density settings, they generally have lower amounts of private open space and this increases the need for public open space. In areas where increased urban densities are forecast, particularly high density, the Strategy has identified actions to

accommodate higher levels of use of existing and new open space.

Change in land use

In selected locations, land use is changing from manufacturing or industrial uses to mixed use which includes residential. This means that people are working indoors in offices and this generally places a higher demand on open space to provide social and active recreational outdoor spaces as a break from work. Historically, these manufacturing and industrial areas typically had little or no open space, so there is a need to provide new open space as the land use changes.

Climate change

Extreme weather events

Climate change is predicted to result in more extreme weather events including extended dry periods combined with more severe storms, intense rainfall events and high winds which make vegetation management more difficult.

Urban heat island effect

Urban Heat island effect is the build-up of heat in urban areas, which is exacerbated by increased urban densities and building heights. The taller buildings trap heat overnight, particularly during periods of extended heat. With increased urban densities planned, the provision of open space with natural features and retained moisture will assist to off-set the build-up of urban heat.

Overall directions

Improve the quality of existing open space

There is potential to improve the quality of existing open spaces to increase their appeal and accessibility to everyone and better cater for increased numbers of people visiting them. Quality includes the surrounding urban context, the facilities, the character and overall condition of the open space. One of the key issues in Whitehorse is the lack of public road frontages to many of the existing open spaces, meaning they are not highly visible, making them less desirable to visit. Selected open spaces have been identified to be expanded to include additional or wider entry points into the open space so it makes it more visible and accessible. Refer to Diagram C that illustrates where these are located.



Increase the diversity of facilities in open space



The diversity of facilities will be increased so they appeal to different age groups and provide a wide range of structured sport and unstructured recreation facilities along with informal social facilities and spaces. This includes spaces that are natural in character to allow the community to relax and unwind. Recommendations have identified open space that requires either minor or major upgrades. As part of these upgrades, new facilities will be selected for their appropriateness to the local community,

their adaptability to maximise shared use, their demonstrated sustainability and their scale and design to complement the inherent character and values of the open space. The intent is to encourage broader participation in unstructured recreation activities and socialising in open space while balancing this with the ability to relax and enjoy the natural values in open space.



Provide open space within a safe and easy walk of everyone

This will be achieved by a number of actions including providing additional open spaces in the gap areas and expanding existing open spaces with new entry points into them to increase their visibility and accessibility. Other actions include improving the footpath condition and street tree planting in the local street network to improve the amenity to encourage people to walk the extra distance to reach open space. The Strategy also identifies opportunities to add Local Links to increase pedestrian permeability in the existing urban area, along with expanding

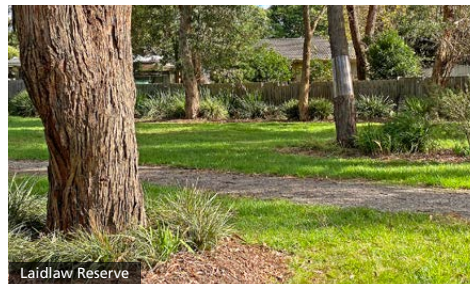


Overall directions

two of the linear open space links. Other recommendations include improving the interface treatment between future development and existing open space. This includes requiring public road frontages to open space so it is accessible and encourages development to face open space to improve passive surveillance and safety. Refer to Diagram C for an overall snapshot of the spatial distribution of new and expanded open spaces. For more information about each of them refer to the relevant precinct in which they are located.



Protect and strengthen biodiversity values



The presence of remnant or mature indigenous trees and vegetation in the open space network is a key feature that is to be protected and strengthened. This includes planting additional indigenous vegetation to introduce mid-storey and ground layer species where they increase diversity and do not impact on open and safe views into and within the open space. The Strategy supports the continued nature conservation work in the open space network by Council and the community to protect and strengthen these values.

Assist to mitigate urban heat island effect



Continue to provide well distributed green open spaces across the municipality with a focus on the medium and high density precincts. This includes maximising permeable surfaces that will absorb moisture in combination with large broad spreading canopy trees that are effective at evapotranspiration and assists with urban cooling, along with incorporating sustainable water sources to support natural turf, garden beds and trees. The focus will also be on designs that allow winter sunlight and warmth and excellent shade and cooling in summer.

Overall directions

Proposed new open space and expansion to existing open space

This diagram spatially illustrates the areas in which new open space is proposed and highlights those existing open spaces that are proposed to be expanded.

The new open spaces are proposed in locations where there are either significant gaps in the existing open space network, or where there is forecast to be moderate to significant change.

The expansion to existing open spaces will address existing gaps in the open space network by establishing additional entry points into them will improve permeability from the surrounding street network and broaden out their walking catchments, making them accessible to more people.

The proposed new open spaces shown are diagrammatic and do not illustrate the actual size or specific location. The final location, size and configuration of proposed new and expanded open space will be determined during the Strategy implementation. It will be influenced by factors such as the rate of population growth and development, land acquisition opportunities, surrounding urban context and available funds.

For more information about the new and expanded open space refer to the precinct recommendations in this Strategy.

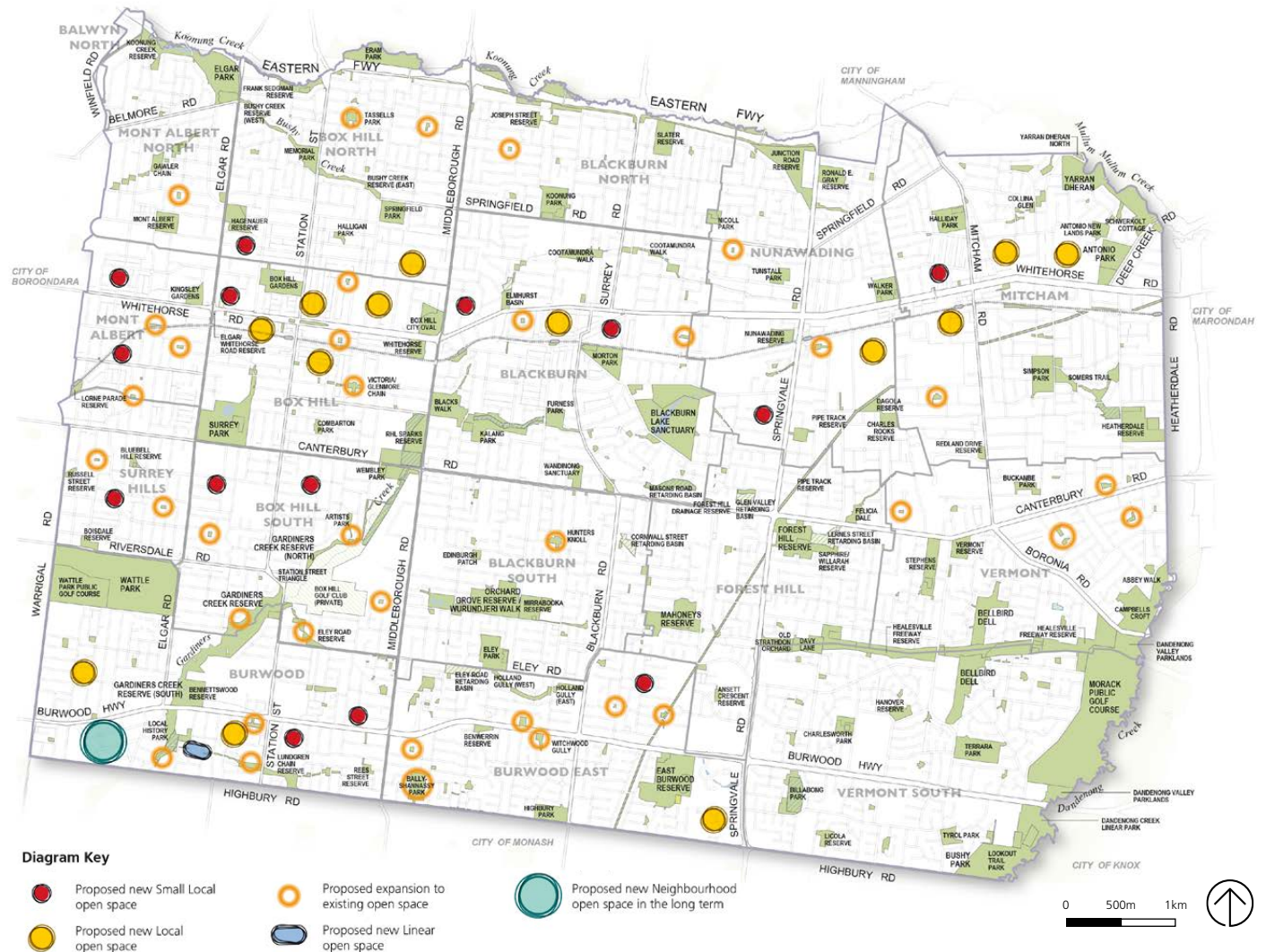


Diagram C Proposed areas for additional open space and expansion of existing open space

Overall directions

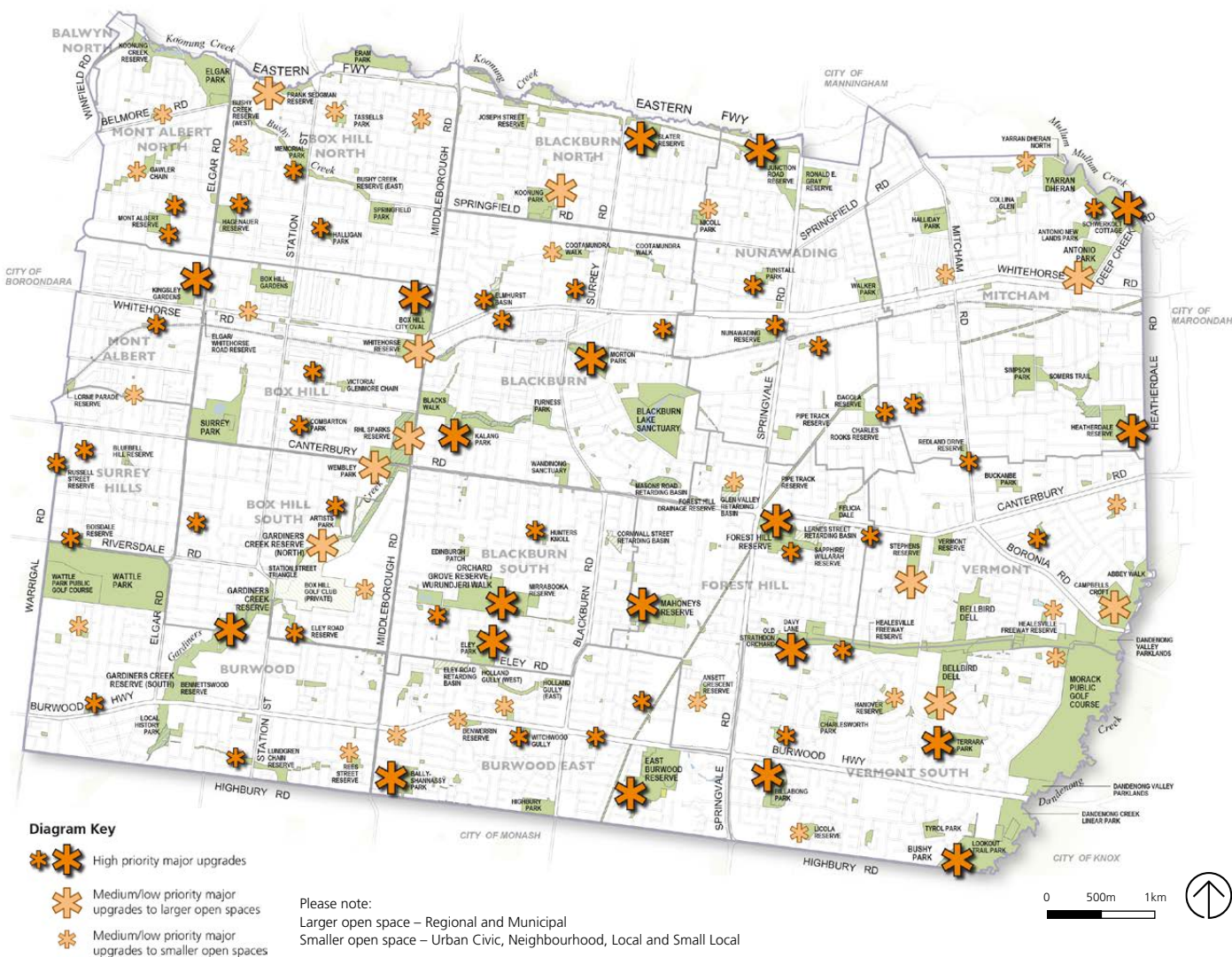
Proposed major upgrades to existing open space

This diagram spatially illustrates the proposed major upgrades across the existing open space network. The reason for the major upgrades are guided by the overall directions in the Strategy including to increase the diversity of unstructured recreation facilities and informal facilities that increase the role of open space as a social meeting place for the local community.

There are 14 priority major projects to be implemented over the 15 years, combined with a further 51 major upgrades across the network.

The upgrades are influenced by a range of factors including the condition of the existing open space, the existing urban context and the forecast change and growth. The implementation will be influenced by factors such as the rate of population growth and development, feedback from the community and available funds.

For more information about the intent and purpose of each of the major upgrades, please refer to the precincts in the next section of this Strategy.



Precinct recommendations

Overview

The open space needs assessment has been undertaken on a precinct basis to take into account the changes in the existing conditions and forecast change across each precinct. The precincts are generally consistent with the suburb boundaries and some are combined to directly correlate with the precincts used for the Whitehorse Community Profile. This allows the Strategy to be consistent with population forecasts and other strategic planning.

Forecast future change

Throughout each of the precincts, the forecast growth is based on the following:

- Residential forecasts prepared by .id Consulting for the City of Whitehorse and published as the Whitehorse Community Profile on their website, accessed May 2023.
- Whitehorse Housing Strategy 2014
- Whitehorse Planning Scheme, including the land use zoning that is summarised in Diagram E on the following page

The open space needs assessment and directions are based on these forecasts and directions.

Structure plans

Structure plans provide a framework for managing future growth and change activity centres in Whitehorse. The open space component of future structure plans will be informed by this Strategy. Where the open space recommendations in existing adopted structure plans differ from those in the Strategy, the recommendations in the adopted structure plan will take precedence until this Strategy is adopted.

Additional and expanded open space

The additional and expanded open spaces are shown symbolically on the precinct plans within a broader sub-precinct in which they are required. The final location, size and confirmation of new open space will be determined during the implementation of the Strategy. It will be influenced by a range of factors such as population growth, land acquisition opportunities, surrounding land use, urban layout and community feedback.

Existing open space improvements

Some of the existing open spaces are recommended for future upgrade as shown on the precinct diagrams. The open space not recommended for upgrade will continue to be maintained with ongoing asset renewal and maintenance as per existing program.

Existing masterplans

Masterplans are in place for some of the major open spaces in Whitehorse and there is a progressive program of implementation works. When the masterplans are reviewed, the overall directions in this Strategy will be taken into consideration and inform updated masterplans in the future.

Future masterplans and design plans

Landscape masterplans will be prepared to guide the future upgrades to Regional and Municipal open spaces. Landscape Concept Plans will be prepared to guide future upgrades to the Urban Civic, Neighbourhood, Local and Small Local open space.

Precinct recommendations

Land use and precincts

The existing land use plan has been used to inform where changes in urban density are likely to occur outside of the major activity centres. In summary the pale pink areas on the plan illustrate residential areas that are likely to experience limited change according to the current zonings in the Whitehorse Planning Scheme. The darker pink areas indicate residential areas that will experience natural and substantial change, as referred to the Whitehorse Housing Strategy 2014. The land use plan also indicates the commercial, industrial and education land uses, all of which have informed the recommendations in the Strategy.

There are 16 precincts and they are assembled in alphabetical order in the Strategy.

If an open space does not have a specific action, it is intended to continue to maintain.

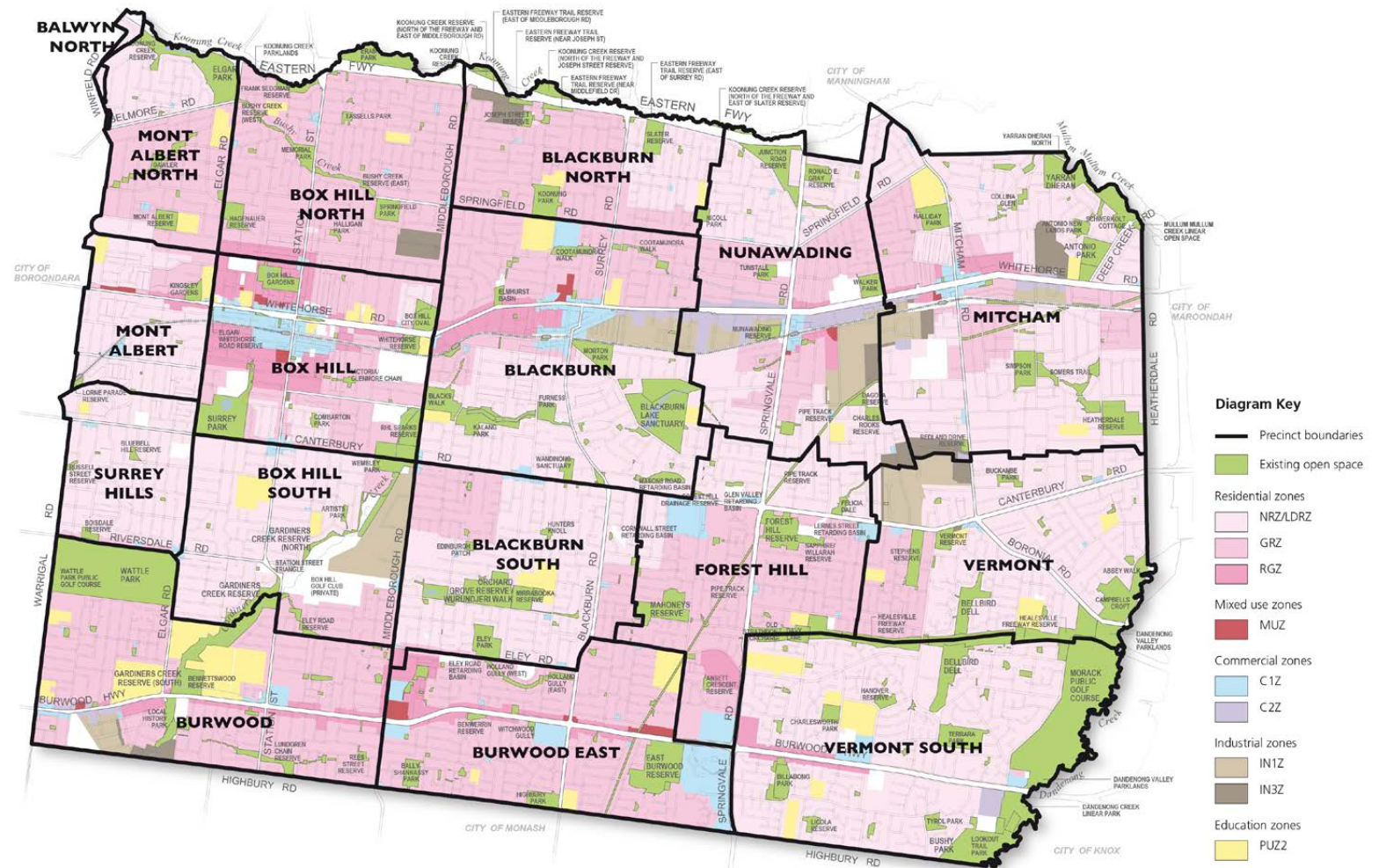
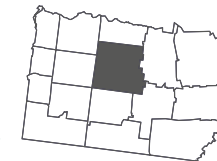


Diagram E Existing Land Use and Precinct Location

Blackburn



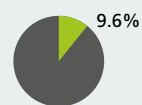
Fast facts

Quantity of open space:

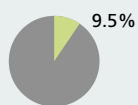
Total area



Proportion of land area



Blackburn



Whitehorse

Relative to population density



Blackburn



Whitehorse

Forecast population change:

1 icon = 2,000

Residents:

2021 (14,636)



2036 (18,497)



26%↑

Blackburn

22%↑

Whitehorse

Precinct summary

Provision and distribution

Blackburn will continue to change over the next 15 years with 3,831 additional residents forecast to be living in Blackburn by 2036, representing a 26 per cent increase. Blackburn Lake Sanctuary and Blackburn Creeklands (which includes Blacks Walk, Kalang Park and Furness Park) are the most popular open spaces in Blackburn, providing a linked network of open space through the southern part of the precinct. North of Whitehorse Road, Cootamundra Walk is a connected system of open spaces along the valley of a tributary to Gardiners Creek. Further west of Cootamundra Walk is series of smaller linked open spaces connect to Elmhurst Basin.

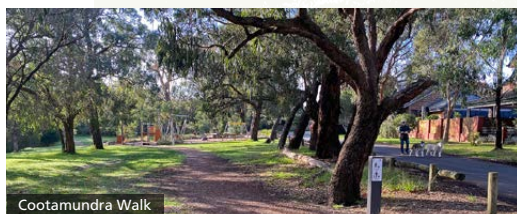
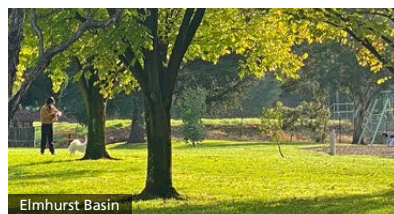
While there is excellent provision of open space in many parts of Blackburn, there are gaps in the provision of open space between Whitehorse Road and the railway where medium and high density development will continue in the future. An additional gap area is located north of Whitehorse Road near Middleborough Road in an area where growth is also forecast to continue. New open spaces are proposed primarily to meet

the open space needs of the new population and assist to mitigate urban heat in these higher density settings. Additionally, two existing Small Local open spaces are proposed to be expanded in size. North of Whitehorse Road, Pope Square can be increased in size by potentially relocating the community facility out of the park to create more space and cater to forecast increased urban densities along Whitehorse Road. Other changes include to investigate improving pedestrian connectivity between Laburnam Lot and Blacks Walk, and a pedestrian crossing over Surrey Road at Cootamundra Walk.

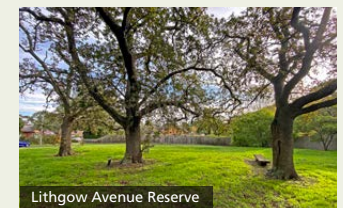
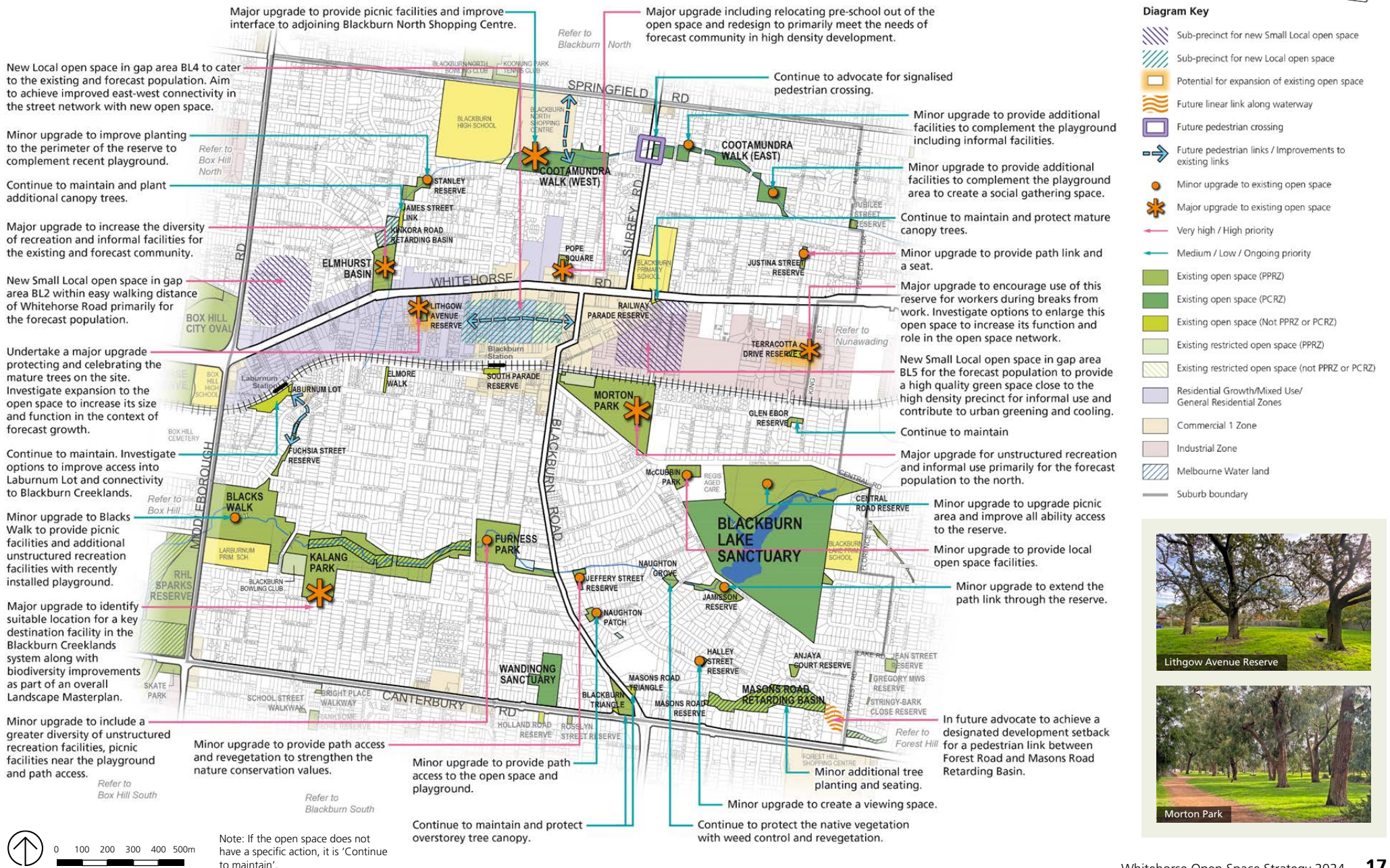
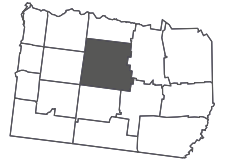
use and social spaces with a more exotic/deciduous character. Major upgrades are proposed to the unstructured recreational facilities at Morton Park primarily for the forecast new population. Similarly, the major upgrades proposed to the Blackburn Creeklands system will primarily cater to the forecast population in Blackburn and Box Hill. Other major upgrades focus on improving other key existing open space reserves including Elmhurst Basin and Cootamundra Walk.

Quality and design

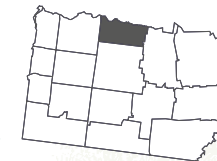
The Strategy recommends continuing to protect and strengthen the nature conservation and biodiversity values in the existing open space network, while introducing a broader range of unstructured recreation and informal facilities to appeal to a greater diversity of age groups. The new open spaces provide an opportunity to introduce diversity of character in the network with a focus on informal recreational



Blackburn



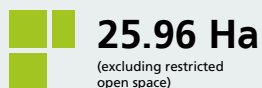
Blackburn North



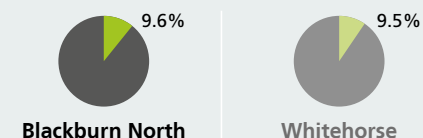
Fast facts

Quantity of open space:

Total area



Proportion of land area



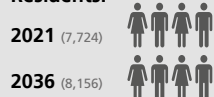
Relative to population density



Forecast population change:

1 person icon = 2,000

Residents:



6%↑

Blackburn North

22%↑

Whitehorse

Precinct summary

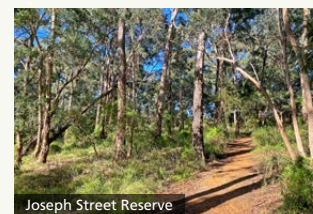
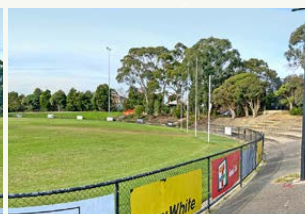
Provision and distribution

Blackburn North is forecast to continue to experience moderate forecast change over the next 15 years with 432 new residents forecast to be living here by 2036 representing a 6 per cent increase. Koonung Park and Slater Reserve are the two major existing open spaces in Blackburn North, with the Koonung Creek Trail along the Eastern Freeway Reserve providing east-west connectivity along the northern boundary. Council will continue to advocate to the Victorian Government to minimise impacts on open space associated with the North East Link project currently in construction. The open space network includes a diversity of Neighbourhood, Local and Small Local open spaces. There are a few gaps in the open space provision, with recommendations to expand Primula Park to improve connectivity or else seek an additional new Small Local open space to the west of Primula Park. In the longer term, both are likely to be required to fully address the open space gap area. Other gaps can be overcome with improved facility provision in the existing open space network as they are accessible via the local access street network without the need to cross major roads.

Quality and design

Middlefield Park is a good example of a Local open space that contains a diverse range of facilities that appeal to different age groups in the community. Both Koonung Park and Slater Reserve are proposed to receive major upgrades to improve the diversity of Neighbourhood level facilities, expanding the opportunities for the community to exercise and socialise. Nicoll Park, located in Nunawading, is proposed to be upgraded to meet the local open space needs of the community living in the south-east part of Blackburn North, along with the community in Nunawading. The predominantly native character of the existing open space network will be strengthened with additional planting. Remnant indigenous vegetation along the Koonung Creek corridor adjacent to the Eastern Freeway and in Joseph Street Reserve will continue to be protected and

improved with ongoing weed management and revegetation where appropriate. Council will continue to advocate to the Victorian Government to protect the natural and recreational values of the Koonung Creek corridor during the North East Link/Eastern Freeway upgrade project.



Blackburn North

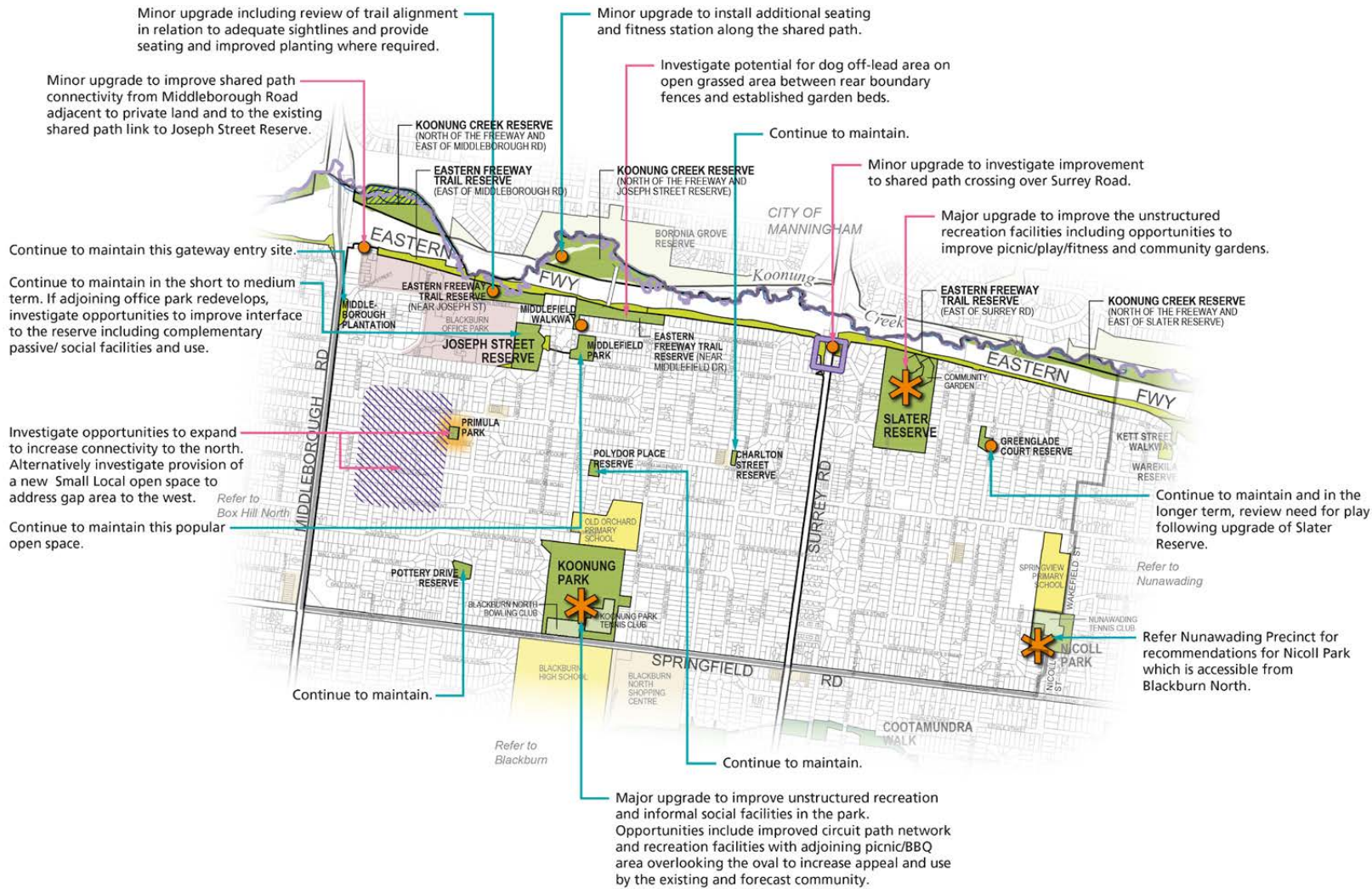
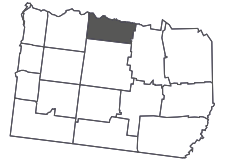


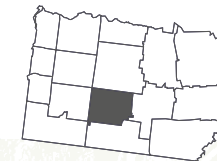
Diagram Key

- Sub-precinct for new Small Local open space
- Potential for expansion of existing open space
- Future pedestrian crossing
- Minor upgrade to existing open space
- Major upgrade to existing open space
- Very high / High priority
- Medium / Low / Ongoing priority
- Existing open space (PPRZ)
- Existing open space (Not PPRZ or PCRZ)
- Industrial Zone
- Melbourne Water land
- Municipal boundary
- Suburb boundary



Note: If the open space does not have a specific action, it is 'Continue to maintain'.

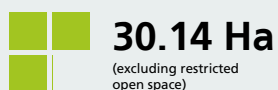
Blackburn South



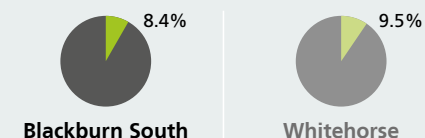
Fast facts

Quantity of open space:

Total area



Proportion of land area



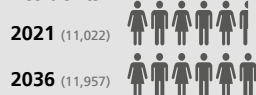
Relative to population density



Forecast population change:

👤 = 2,000

Residents:



Precinct summary

Provision and distribution

Blackburn South is forecast to change over the next 15 years with 935 new residents forecast to be living here by 2036, representing an 8 per cent increase. Orchard Grove Reserve / Wurundjeri Walk, Mirrabooka Reserve and Eley Park are the major existing open spaces in Blackburn South, located in the southern part of the precinct and close to where there has been recent substantial growth in the population in neighbouring Burwood at the Burwood Brickworks site. In the northern section of the precinct, the series of local open spaces provides reasonable access to open space, however there are gaps in the existing network. The gaps in open space provision will be addressed by improving the quality of the existing open spaces and improving the condition of the footpaths in the local street network and through the open spaces themselves to encourage walking between open spaces. Hunters Knoll will be upgraded to improve the diversity of facilities to appeal to a broader age group, along with investigating enlarging the entries to this reserve so it is easier to see and safer to use.

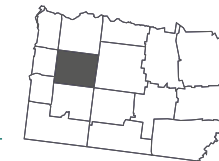
Quality and design

Key priority actions for this precinct include preparation of a Landscape Masterplan to guide the future upgrades to the structured sport and unstructured recreation facilities in the Mirrabooka Reserve and Orchard Grove Reserve / Wurundjeri Walk. This includes integration of unstructured recreational use and access that complements structured sporting uses including a circuit path that can be lit from the existing sports field lighting and connecting into the broader path network through Wurundjeri Walk. The other key priority is to prepare a Landscape Masterplan to guide a major upgrade to the structured sport and unstructured recreation and informal facilities at Eley Park. This includes integrating the recent installation

of the multi-purpose court facility into the broader park context, path network and facilities. A major upgrade is proposed to the Hilton Road East Reserve to diversify facilities in this catchment to encourage exercise and outdoor enjoyment for all age groups. Other works include a major upgrade to Hunters Knoll to address the existing gap areas.

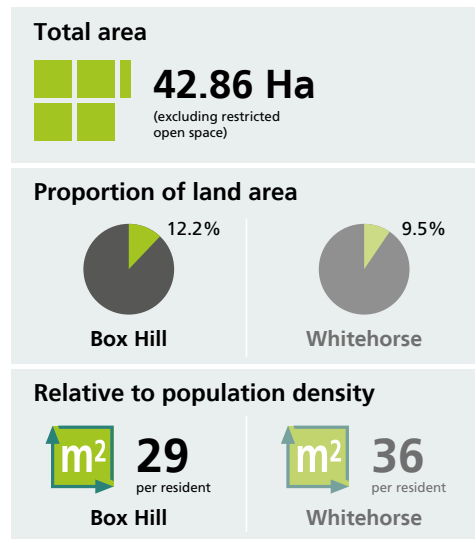


Box Hill

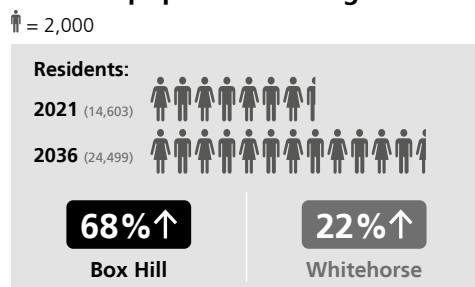


Fast facts

Quantity of open space:



Forecast population change:



Precinct summary

Provision and distribution

Substantial change is forecast in Box Hill over the next 15 years, with approximately 9,900 new residents living in the precinct representing a 67 increase by 2036, along with an expanded worker community. There is a need for more open space in the precinct noting that these forecasts do not include the additional change that forms part of the Victorian Government's SRL East project. North of Whitehorse Road the larger open spaces are Box Hill Gardens, Box Hill City Oval and Bolton Park and Graham Place Reserve being a smaller local park. This Strategy has identified there is a need for a series of three new open spaces to be provided north of Whitehorse Road to add to the network and address the recent significant forecast growth (excluding the additional forecast growth associated with the SRL East Project). Additional open space is also needed to compensate for the loss of approximately one third of Box Hill Gardens while the Suburban Rail Loop Project is in construction over the next 15 years. The new open spaces will improve east-west connectivity in the local street network east of Station Street.

Between Whitehorse Road and the railway, significant change is forecast and upgrades are proposed to the existing open spaces, including expanding the size of Linsley Park to cater to the increased numbers of people living and working in this location. West of Station Street a new Local open space is proposed associated with the redevelopment of Box Hill Central. A new Local open space is proposed in the gap area east of Station Street within the core commercial area, along with expansion to the existing open space in the Victoria / Glenmore Chain.

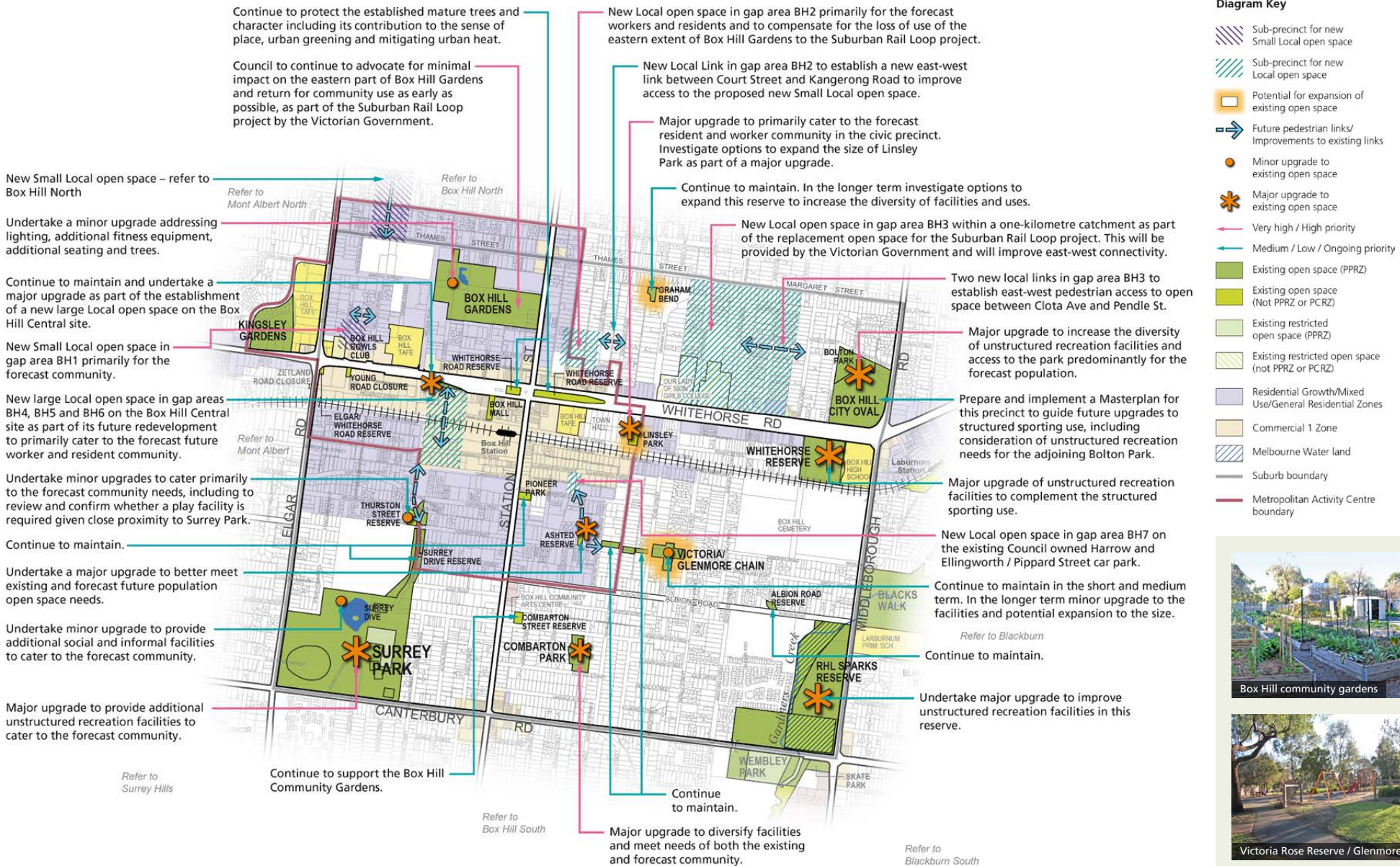
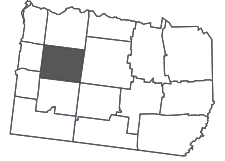
As discussed, there are existing demands and pressures on the open space network within the Box Hill precinct. The longer term growth in population forecast by the Victorian Government will likely increase these demands and pressures. This, in turn, may lead to refinements in open space planning as opportunities present themselves and challenges evolve. Nothing in this Strategy therefore commits Council to the acquisition or reservation of land that is not currently in public ownership or confers on any land any particular status.

Quality and design

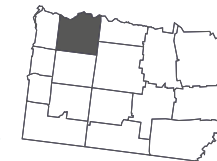
Box Hill Gardens and Surrey Park significantly contribute to the open space character in Box Hill, with Box Hill Gardens and its predominantly exotic character with large deciduous trees, and the predominantly native and informal character of Surrey Park to the south. The diverse range of recreational facilities in both of these parks appeal to different age groups and contributes to their nominations as the most popular open spaces in Box Hill. Council will continue to advocate to the SRL Authority to reinstate the eastern section of Box Hill Gardens, which is currently occupied by the SRLA, once construction is complete in 2035. Structured sport facilities are proposed to be upgraded in Box Hill City Oval, Whitehorse Reserve and RHL Sparks Reserve, along with the improved unstructured recreation and social facilities. Protecting existing and planting additional large canopy trees is a key aim for the existing and future open spaces given the increased urban densities in Box Hill.



Box Hill



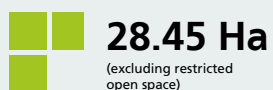
Box Hill North



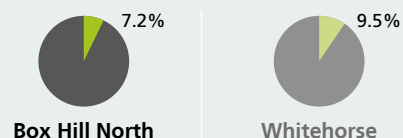
Fast facts

Quantity of open space:

Total area



Proportion of land area



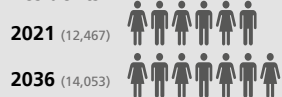
Relative to population density



Forecast population change:

1 person icon = 2,000

Residents:



13%↑
Box Hill North

22%↑
Whitehorse

Precinct summary

Provision and distribution

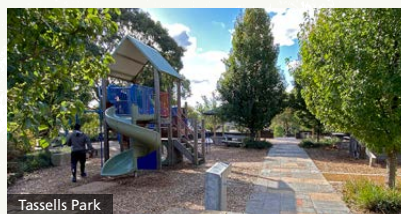
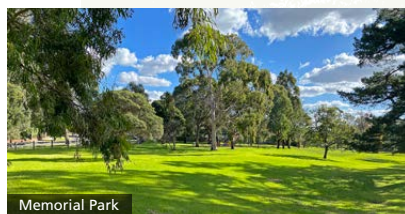
Box Hill North is forecast to continue to experience significant change over the next 15 years with 1,586 new residents forecast to be living in the precinct by 2036, representing a 13 per cent change. Bushy Creek Reserve provides a central linear spine of open space extending from Springfield Park in the east to Elgar Park in the west, located across the precinct boundary in Mont Albert North. With Koonung Creek and the Eastern Freeway forming the northern boundary to the precinct, this provides a second east-west linear open space link for the community. Council will continue to advocate to the Victorian Government to minimise impacts of the North East Link Project on the adjoining open space. Between these two networks there is a series of Local and Small Local open spaces that meet local open space needs. There are some gaps in open space provision, with the key gap area being in the south-eastern part of the precinct, which directly adjoins a gap area to the south in Box Hill. This Strategy recommends providing a new Local open space to address the gap area and

improve north-south pedestrian connectivity, and a new Small Local open space in the south-western area of the precinct. Other smaller gap areas are proposed to be addressed with proposed expansions to three existing open spaces to increase their role in the network.

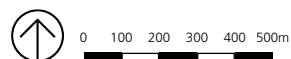
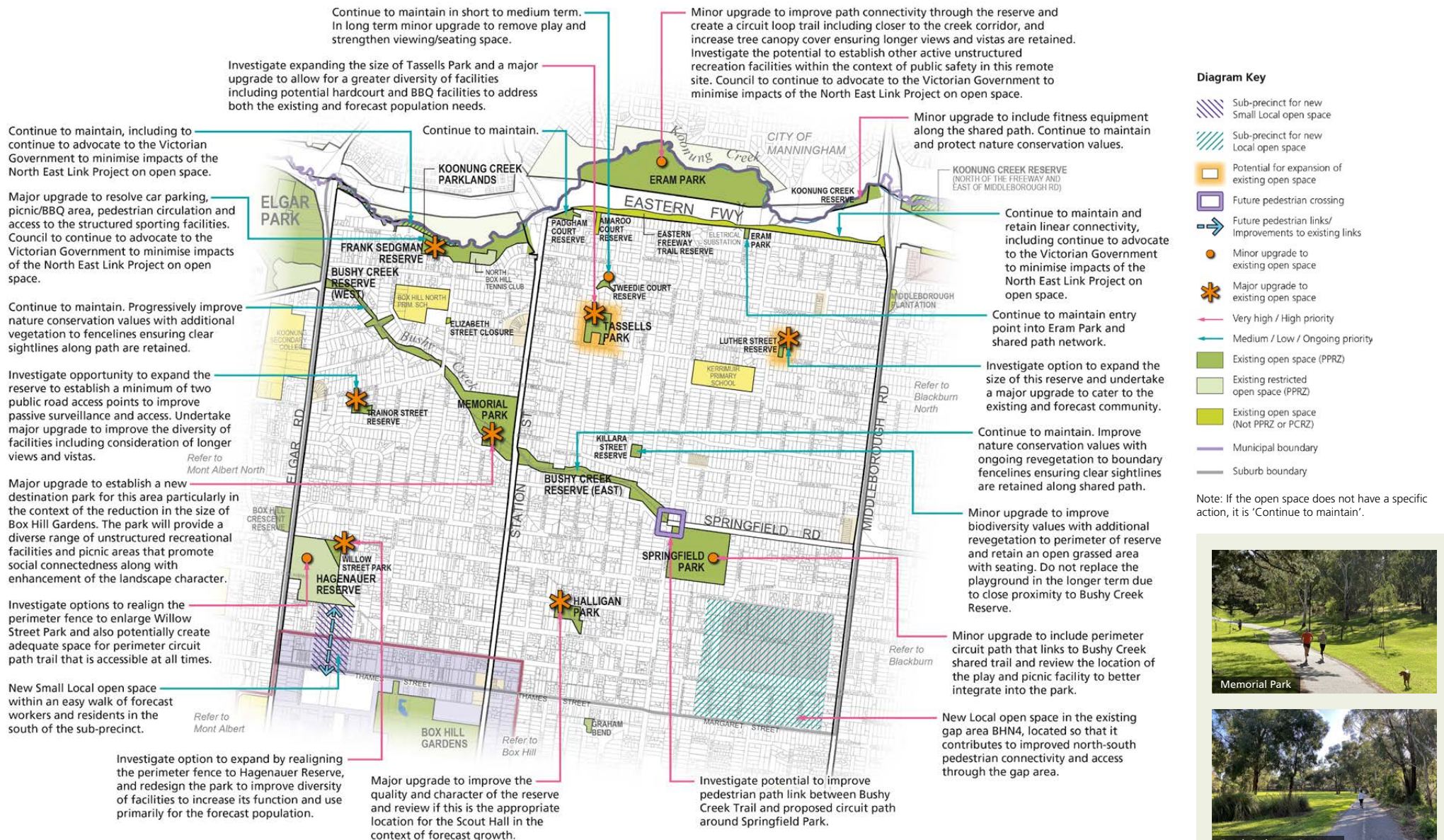
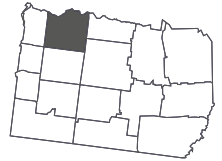
Quality and design

Memorial Park, located on the popular Bushy Creek linear trail, is to become a major destination park for the precinct with a diverse range of unstructured recreational facilities, picnic and barbecue facilities, and strengthening of the landscape character of the reserve. Another major upgrade is proposed for Willow Street Park and the adjoining Hagenauer Reserve, with a proposed reconfiguration of these two reserves by changing the fence alignment to increase the areas that are available to be used by everyone. Following expansion to

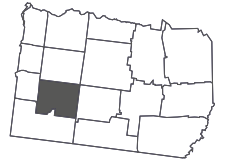
Tassels Park a major upgrade will increase the diversity of facilities and improve access. A series of other upgrades are proposed to improve the diversity of facilities and character of the open space network. Given the substantial increase in the population in Box Hill, the open spaces in the southern area of Box Hill North will be upgraded including Springfield Park and Halligan Park. Council will continue to advocate to the Victorian Government to protect the natural and recreational values of the Koonung Creek corridor during the North East Link/Eastern Freeway upgrade project.



Box Hill North



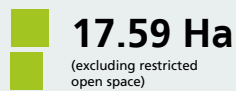
Box Hill South



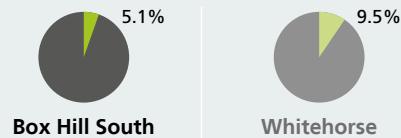
Fast facts

Quantity of open space:

Total area



Proportion of land area



Relative to population density



Forecast population change:

👤 = 2,000

Residents:

2021 (8,629)

2036 (9,323)



8%↑

Box Hill South

22%↑

Whitehorse

Precinct summary

Provision and distribution

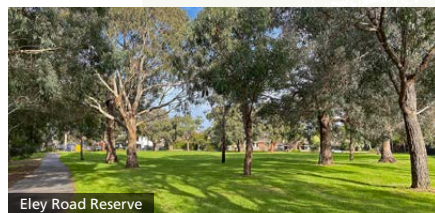
Box Hill South is forecast to experience moderate change with an additional 694 residents living in the precinct by 2036, representing an 8 per cent increase. The majority of this change is forecast to be in the north, in the vicinity of Hay Street and Canterbury Road, along with a level of distributed change across the area south of Box Hill Private Golf Course. Gardiners Creek Reserve is the key regional open space in Box Hill South and is popular for walking and cycling, providing good north-south connectivity. Eley Road Reserve is a linked network of open space that connects to Gardiners Creek Reserve in the south-eastern area of the precinct. Other key open spaces include Artists Park and Wembley Park in the north. There are significant gap areas in open space provision in Box Hill South including in the north-west and east. A new Small Local open space is recommended in the north-west gap area along with an expansion to Chaucer Street Park. To the east, improving access along the Gardiners Creek trail as part of any future redevelopment in the industrial precinct, and major upgrades and expansion to Eley Road Reserve and Penrose

Cornfield Reserve, will improve accessibility, character and use, particularly in the context of forecast change. The private Box Hill Golf Club is located across a large section of KooyongKoot / Gardiners Creek north-east of Station Street. While this contributes an unbuilt natural character to the area, the Strategy recommends that if this land use changes in the future, there is an opportunity to secure a linked public open space corridor along KooyongKoot / Gardiners Creek as part of that change.

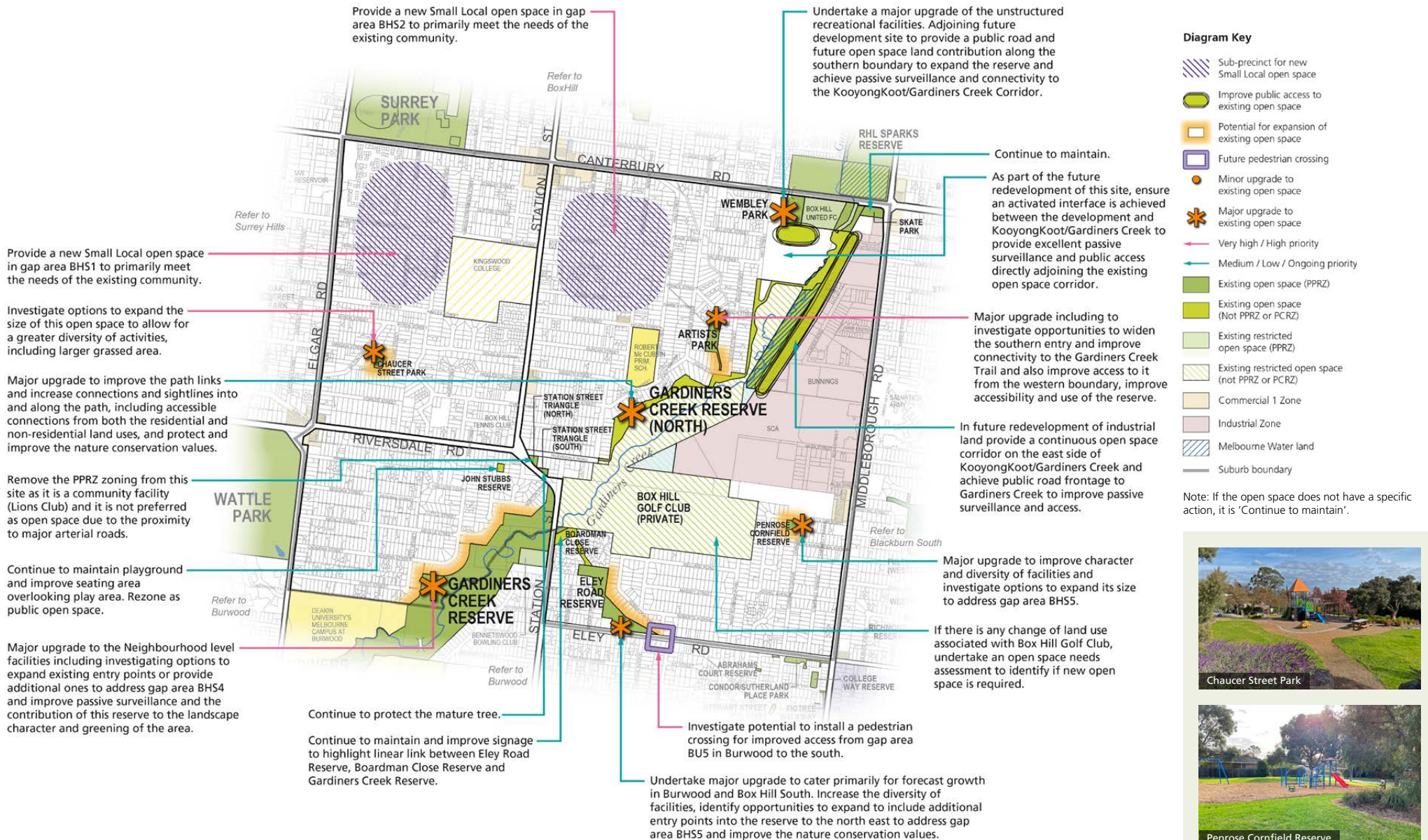
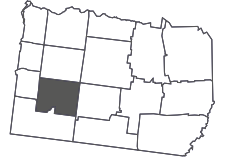
Quality and design

KooyongKoot / Gardiners Creek significantly contributes to the landscape character and nature conservation values of Box Hill South. Artists Park celebrates the Heidelberg School of artists who painted the native bushland character of Australia and the Strategy recommends improving the connection to KooyongKoot / Gardiners Creek to strengthen these values. Major upgrades are proposed along KooyongKoot / Gardiners Creek with a focus on increasing the diversity and

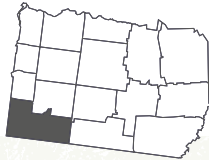
quality of local facilities within the reserves in the south. In the north, the priority is to resolve and improve the shared path and local linkages into the KooyongKoot / Gardiners Creek corridor. Major upgrades and expansions are proposed to Eley Road Reserve and the Penrose Cornfield Reserve. In the north-west, an expansion to the Chaucer Street Park will include a more diverse range of facilities to complement the recently established play facility. The elevated views from this reserve provide a point of difference from the other open spaces in Box Hill South, along with the more exotic landscape character away from the KooyongKoot / Gardiners Creek catchment.



Box Hill South

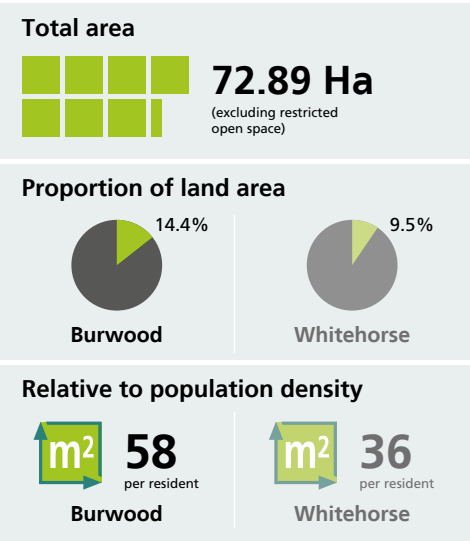


Burwood

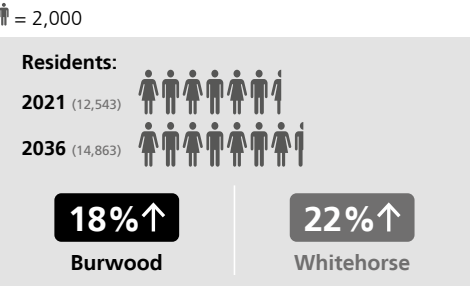


Fast facts

Quantity of open space:



Forecast population change:



Precinct summary

Provision and distribution

Wattle Park, KooyongKoot / Gardiners Creek, Bennettswood Reserve and Lundgren Chain Reserve are key areas of open space in Burwood. Burwood Highway runs east-west through the precinct and creates a distinct barrier to open space access. An additional 2,320 residents are forecast to be living in Burwood by 2036, which represents an 18 percent increase. The forecast change is mainly anticipated along the north and south sides of Burwood Highway and along Middleborough Road, where high density development is anticipated to continue. The Victorian Government recently confirmed the location of the future Suburban Rail Loop station in Burwood on the east side of KooyongKoot / Gardiners Creek, on the Alinta National Power Service site and Sinnott Street Reserve. The population forecasts noted above do not factor in the new station which is forecast to open by 2035. With the forecast change the existing gaps in open space in Burwood will be exacerbated, particularly between the Burwood Cemetery and KooyongKoot / Gardiners Creek, south of Burwood Highway.

This Strategy has identified the need for new Local and Small Local open spaces over the next 15 years, and in the longer term, a new Neighbourhood open space may be required. The closed Bennettswood Tennis Club site is an existing open space that is identified to be investigated for alternative configuration and use.

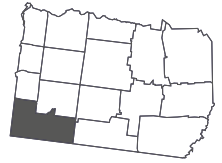
Quality and design

Gardiners Creek Reserve, Wattle Park and Lundgren Chain Reserve all significantly contribute to the predominantly native and natural open space character of Burwood. Major upgrades are proposed to the facilities in Gardiners Creek Reserve, Lundgren Chain Reserve and the smaller Rees Street Reserve and Murray Drive Reserve to better cater for forecast growth. The new open space

reserves will provide an opportunity to introduce some diversity in character and facilities to primarily meet the open space needs of the forecast population living and working in higher density environments with less private open space.



Burwood



Council to continue to advocate for local community access and use of Wattle Park including the upgraded regional play facility and informal recreational use of the oval.

Major upgrade to remove play and develop as a park that appeals to diverse age groups including a focus on fitness for adults, given the nearby Banksia Waratah Reserve has play facilities.

Minor upgrade to add picnic facilities and upgrade the play space.

Continue to maintain recently upgraded play area and add seating to enjoy the views.

New Local open space to address the gap area BU3.

Major upgrade to improve the quality including celebrating views and strengthen character and greening.

Continue to maintain.

In the longer term, new Neighbourhood open space primarily to address the forecast higher density development associated with the proposed new Burwood Station as part of the Suburban Rail Loop project.

In the longer term if adjoining land redevelops, investigate opportunities to expand linear open space down to Highbury Road on the east side of KooyongKoot/Gardiners Creek.

DOTP has advised this is the location of the proposed Burwood Station as part of the Suburban Rail Loop Project. Sinnott Street Reserve has been acquired by the Victorian Government and Council is to continue to advocate for a new Local open space to be provided as a replacement.

Implement the outcomes of existing Masterplan being prepared with all agencies and traditional owners.

As part of any future redevelopment of sites south of Wattle Park in the gap area BU2, identify opportunities to provide access points into Wattle Park.

Complete the Landscape Masterplan to guide improvements in partnership with Deakin University, noting that future upgrades are not included in this Strategy.

Investigate improvements to public realm associated with retail precinct to improve greening and create a meeting place given lack of public open space and to address gap area BU4.

Investigate two options for this reserve. One is to expand its size and increase physical and visual access from the south and west. Option two is alternatively to dispose of this open space and provide a new Local open space in a more accessible location within the same walking catchment.

Continue to maintain.

Investigate potential to install signalised pedestrian crossing on Eley Road to assist addressing gap area BU5.

Provide new Small Local open space in gap area BU6 including investigating reconfiguring road reserves at intersection of Greenwood/Tennyson Streets.

Continue to maintain.

Minor upgrade to improve function of open grassed area.

Continue to maintain.

Continue to maintain in the short term. In the medium term, minor upgrade to include picnic facilities and other features that encourage fitness and exercise for a broader age range.

Minor upgrade to provide path link and do not replace playground in the longer term, once upgrade of Rees Street Reserve is complete.

New Small Local open space in gap area BU8 for the existing and forecast population in higher density development along Burwood Highway.

Major upgrade to provide a range of facilities in the open space including review of the Scout Hall.

Continue to maintain. In the longer term review the need for play facility given the proposed upgrade to play facility at Rees Street Reserve.

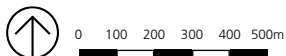
Diagram Key

- Sub-precinct for new Small Local open space
- Sub-precinct for new Local open space
- Sub-precinct for new Neighbourhood open space
- Potential for expansion of existing open space
- Minor upgrade to existing open space
- Major upgrade to existing open space
- Very high / High priority
- Medium / Low / Ongoing priority
- Future pedestrian crossing
- Existing open space (PPRZ)
- Existing open space (Not PPRZ or PCRZ)
- Existing restricted open space (PPRZ)
- Existing restricted open space (not PPRZ or PCRZ)
- Temporary future open space (DOTP)
- Adjoining open space
- Residential Growth/Mixed Use/General Residential Zones
- Commercial 1 Zone
- Industrial Zone
- Melbourne Water land
- Municipal boundary
- Suburb boundary

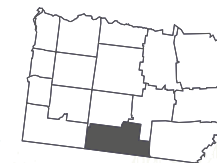
Note: If the open space does not have a specific action, it is 'Continue to maintain'.



Sinnott Street community gardens

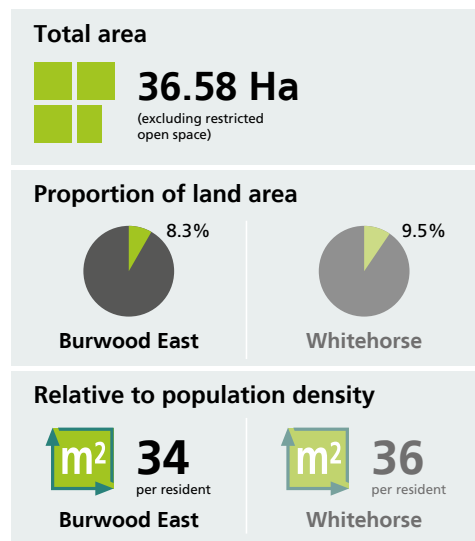


Burwood East



Fast facts

Quantity of open space:



Forecast population change:

👤 = 2,000



Precinct summary

Provision and distribution

Burwood East is forecast to experience substantial change over the next 15 years with 6,047 new residents forecast to be living in the precinct by 2036, which represents a 56 per cent increase. The majority of this forecast change will primarily occur in the Burwood Brickworks site and along both sides of Burwood Highway. South of Burwood Highway, East Burwood Reserve is the largest existing open space and a major sporting reserve for Whitehorse. Highbury Park combines remnant indigenous vegetation with both sporting and unstructured informal recreational facilities, while Ballyshannassy Park is a sporting reserve that is also a popular dog off-lead reserve. North of Burwood Highway, Holland Gully provides a linear path link with a recently installed play space, and there are recently constructed new open spaces within the Burwood Brickworks site.

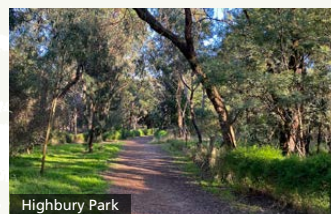
With higher density development forecast to continue on both the north and south sides of Burwood Highway, there is a need to undertake major upgrades to existing open spaces within the walking catchment

of increasing densities. This includes investigating opportunities to improve public access into the reserves and activated interfaces as adjoining sites redevelop. Five existing open spaces are identified to be expanded in size with the longer term provision of a new Small Local open space in the gap area north of Burwood Highway and one new Local open space in the south-eastern area of the precinct.

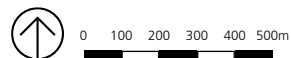
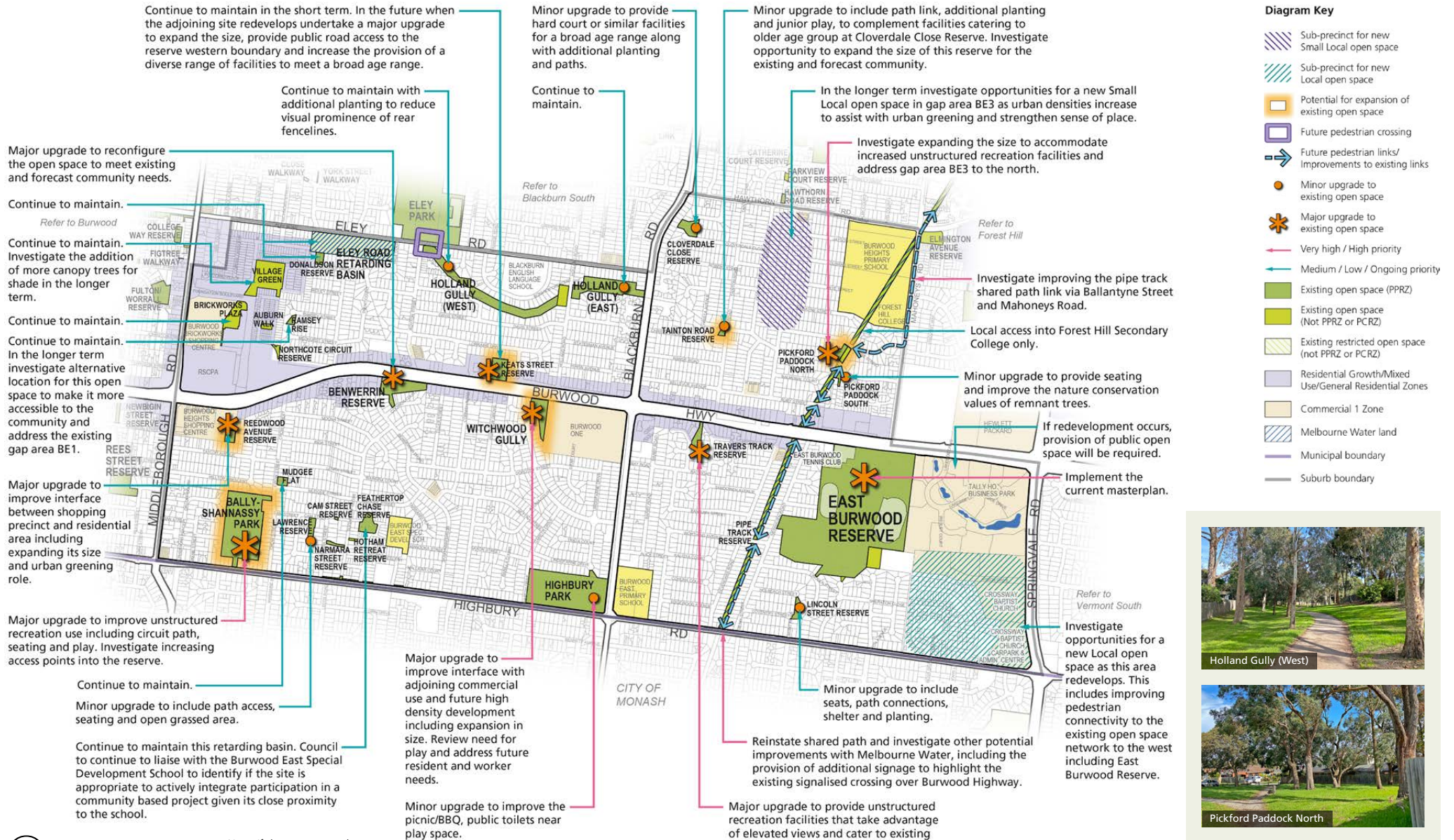
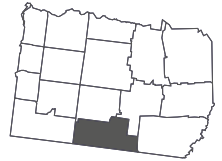
Quality and design

Overall the existing open space network has a predominantly native and indigenous character, and this is to be strengthened and improved. The focus is to improve access to existing open space by increasing the diversity of facilities to broaden their appeal and contribution to the sense of place and community. Key priorities include implementing the recently completed Landscape Masterplan for Burwood East Reserve and upgrading the structured sport and unstructured recreation facilities at

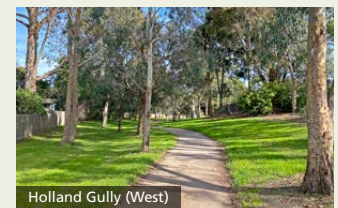
Ballyshannassy Park including investigating expanding the reserve to increase passive surveillance and entry points. Reconstructing the shared path along the Pipe Track will reinstate north-south linear connectivity through the eastern extent of the precinct and extending north to Forest Hill and south through the City of Monash. Major upgrades are proposed for the Witchwood Gully, Benwerrin Reserve and Travers Track Reserve, to respond to increasing urban densities and future community needs. The recommendations identify the opportunity for Council to advocate for activated interfaces and excellent passive surveillance with adjoining development sites.



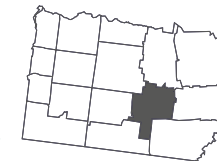
Burwood East



Note: If the open space does not have a specific action, it is 'Continue to maintain'.



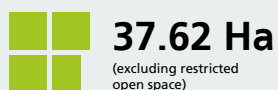
Forest Hill



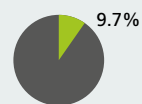
Fast facts

Quantity of open space:

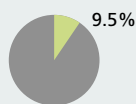
Total area



Proportion of land area



Forest Hill



Whitehorse

Relative to population density



Forest Hill



Whitehorse

Forecast population change:

👤 = 2,000

Residents:

2021 (10,866)



2036 (12,397)



14%↑

Forest Hill

22%↑

Whitehorse

Precinct summary

Provision and distribution

In Forest Hill there is forecast to be an additional 1,531 residents to be living in the precinct by 2036, representing a 14 per cent increase from the existing population. The majority of this change will occur south of Canterbury Road including in the Forest Ridge Development site (former Global Film Studio) where medium to high density development is proposed. In response to this, Ansett Court Reserve will be upgraded to improve the interface between the development site and the park. Unstructured recreation facilities will be provided as part of a major upgrade at Mahoneys Reserve to address the increased urban densities in this area. East of Springvale Road the major change is to provide new sporting fields at Davy Lane Reserve along with a linked path network and local unstructured recreational facilities as part of its integration into the newly created Healesville Freeway Linear Reserve. A priority project is to create a new Neighbourhood park at Sapphire/Willarah Reserve, with a broad range of unstructured recreation and social facilities to create a community focus for this part of Forest Hill.

The only gap area in the provision of open space in Forest Hill is in the north-west around the Forest Hill Shopping centre. If the shopping centre substantially redevelops and increases the employment and/or residential population on the site, then provision of new public open space as part of that redevelopment may be required.

Quality and design

Felicia Dale, Forest Hill Reserve and Sapphire/Willarah Reserve are all located along a tributary to Kooyongkoot / Gardiners Creek which contributes to their nature conservation values. These, combined with large mature Eucalypts more elevated areas of open space across Forest Hill contribute to the native forest character of Forest Hill. The future upgrades will protect and strengthen this Forest Hill character, while increasing the diversity of facilities including for older age groups. The exotic and heritage character

of Old Strathdon Orchard is unique in the precinct, and the future redevelopment of Davy Lane will strengthen this character with excellent path links to the site to increase its use and value as part of the open space network.



Old Strathdon Orchard



Davy Lane



Brentford Square

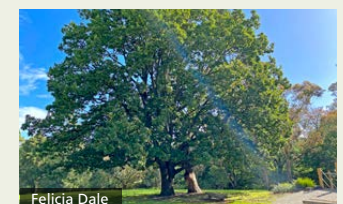
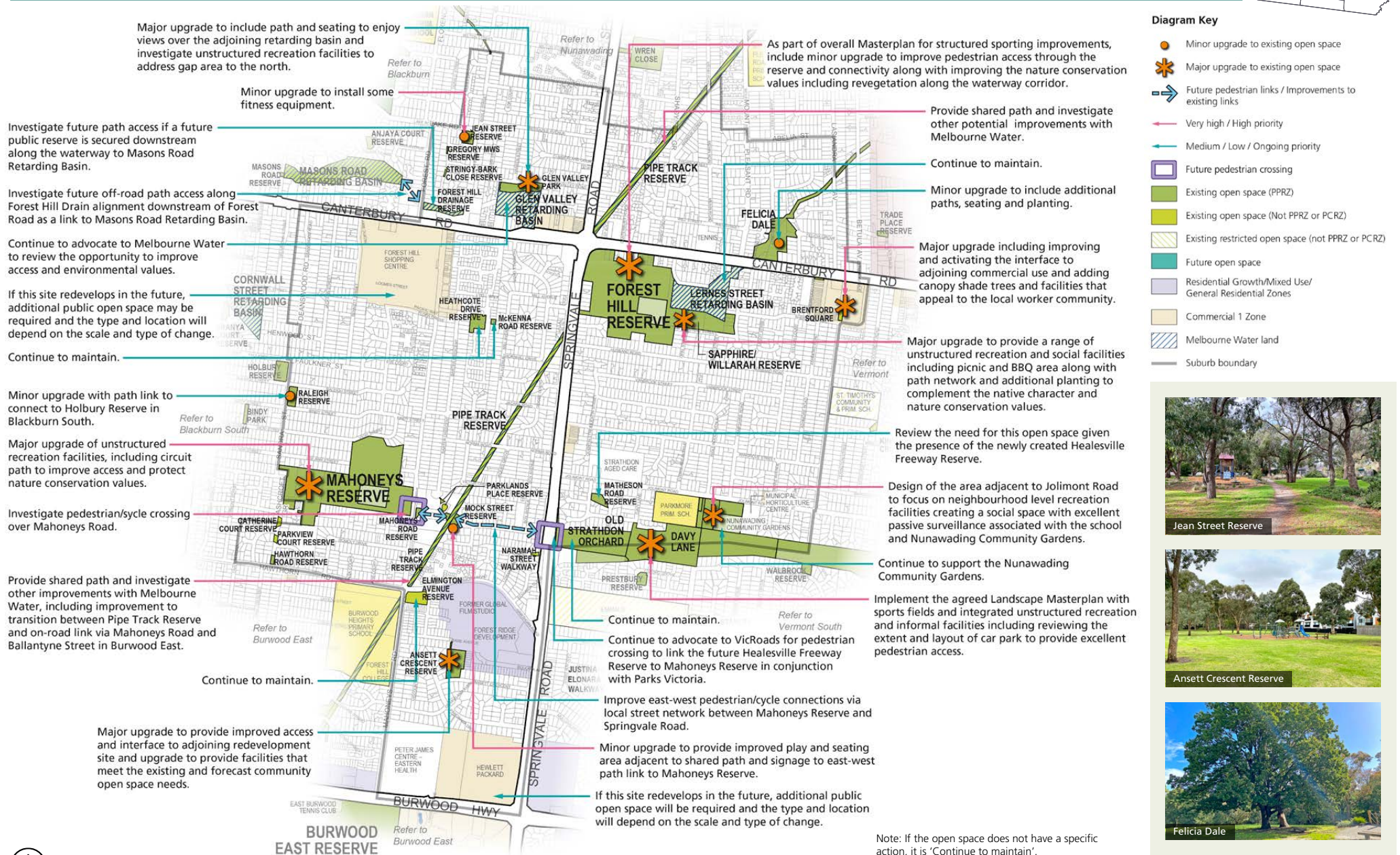
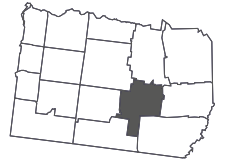


Forest Hill Reserve

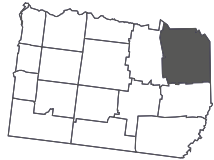


Ironbarks in Heathcote Drive Reserve

Forest Hill

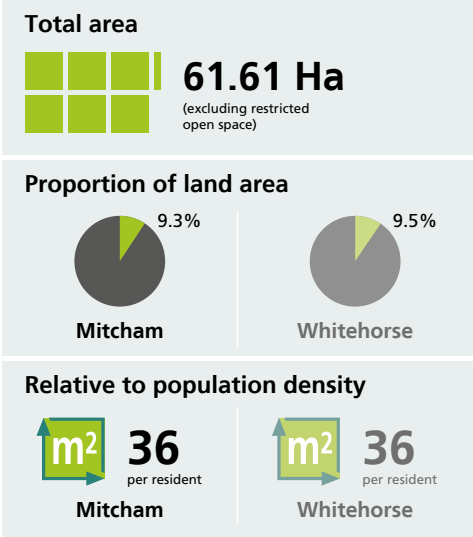


Note: If the open space does not have a specific action, it is 'Continue to maintain'.

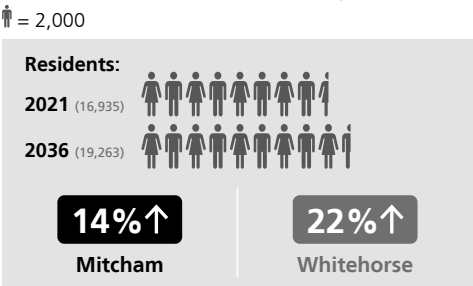


Fast facts

Quantity of open space:



Forecast population change:



Precinct summary

Provision and distribution

Mitcham is forecast to experience change over the next 15 years with 2,321 new residents forecast to be living here by 2036 which represents a 14 per cent increase. The forecast change is mainly anticipated in the Mitcham Activity Centre that extends along Whitehorse Road and includes the Mitcham Station precinct. Within the core area where most change will occur, there is a lack of existing open space with Britannia Mall and Peel Street Reserve being the only two existing open spaces. There is a need to provide new green Small Local open space west of Mitcham Road and a new Local open space to the east in the higher density mixed use area. Further east in the Cook Road Industrial Precinct a new Local open space is proposed for the existing and forecast employment community. South of Whitehorse Road and west of the Mitcham Road a new Local open space is proposed for the recent and forecast community.

Outside of the gap areas, Halliday Park is one of the City's major destination parks for unstructured and informal recreational use. Yarran Dheran Reserve and Schwerkolt Cottage are major regional destination open spaces adjacent to Mullum Mullum Creek with heritage and nature conservation values. Heatherdale Parklands is a major linked network of open space along the valley line of Heatherdale Creek. The community survey identified this system of open space as being the most popular in Mitcham. It provides a diversity of spaces ranging from sporting facilities, dog off-lead areas, remnant bushland, play spaces, picnic facilities and shared trail network. As a contrast, the area south-west of the railway lacks a diversity of open space with Lucknow Court Reserve being difficult to access and Redland Drive Reserve being located fronting a main road.

Quality and design

With Mullum Mullum Creek defining the northern boundary of this precinct and Heatherdale Creek Parklands, waterways and natural bushland character significantly contribute to Mitcham's inherent character and sense of place. As a contrast, Halliday Park has a more formal public parkland character with a combination of exotic and native vegetation, which offers diversity of character for the community. Upgrades to Halliday Park along with Heatherdale Creek Parklands focus on increasing the diversity of recreation and social facilities.

For the proposed new open spaces, the focus will be on diversity, ranging from quiet spaces for people to relax and enjoy nature to encouraging exercise and fitness. Throughout the precinct mature trees are a key feature in open space and protecting these and increasing canopy cover is a key outcome as urban densities increase.



Mitcham

Provide new Local open space in gap area M13 to meet existing and forecast community recreation and open space needs.

Minor upgrade to include path, seating and other unstructured recreation facilities eg fitness station.

Minor upgrade to the quality of picnic area infrastructure and provide additional unstructured recreational facilities for adults.

Continue to maintain to protect the mature trees and strengthen planting if required. Given the close proximity to Halliday Park it is not necessary to provide recreational infrastructure.

Minor upgrade to include park seating and add additional planting.

Major upgrade to increase the urban cooling/greening role of this open space and identify opportunities to improve activation of the eastern boundary.

Provide new Small Local open space in gap area M12 away from the commercial precinct and include unstructured recreation facilities and urban greening.

Provide a new Local open space in the Mitcham Station Precinct for the recent and forecast population in high density precincts and address gap area M15.

Minor upgrade to protect the environmental character and improve access. This includes new unstructured recreation and informal facilities to make the open space more accessible and appealing for the existing and forecast community to use.

Investigate opportunities to expand existing open space to improve access and passive surveillance. Once expansion/additional entry points are confirmed undertake a major upgrade to include a range of unstructured recreation facilities.

Continue to maintain and in the longer term, minor upgrade to install fitness station to improve activities for the forecast community.

Council to require new north-south pedestrian links through future redevelopment sites to improve pedestrian permeability and access into existing open space near gap area M16.

Major upgrade to improve character and design to increase its appeal to both the employment and resident community.

Provide shared path and investigate other potential improvements with Melbourne Water. Review the need for the play facility in the longer term.

Continue to maintain and undertake weed control works.

Minor upgrade to paths and improve environmental values with weed management and revegetation, retaining open sightlines from paths and entries.

Major upgrade to reset play space and seating area to overlook the open space.

Provide a new Local open space in gap area M14 to encourage workers outdoors to socialise and participate in physical activity and assist with urban cooling.

Continue to maintain including vegetation management and installation of seat.

Major upgrade to include unstructured recreation and social facilities for the local community and improved landscape character.

Major upgrade to improve visitor facilities. Investigate option to include community gardens in the orchard area of this site as an appropriate adaptive reuse of this heritage site as part of the Masterplan process.

Continue to maintain.

Continue to protect nature conservation values in the north. In the south undertake a major upgrade to improve play, picnic, and provide additional facilities.

Continue to maintain.

Investigate if this open space to the west of Reserve Avenue is required in the future.

Continue to maintain with additional planting, seating and path.

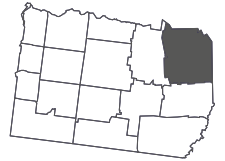
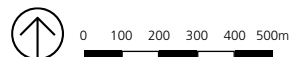
Continue to protect remnant vegetation and strengthen biodiversity values.

Continue to maintain including sporting use of the retarding basin for cricket.

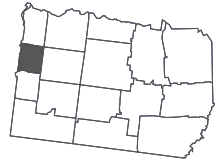
Prepare and implement a Landscape Masterplan to address the future structured sport and unstructured recreational needs in the context of the Tennis Club proposed expansion.

Minor upgrade to include a circuit path and upgrade existing path surfaces to improve accessibility.

Refer to Burwood precinct for diagram key

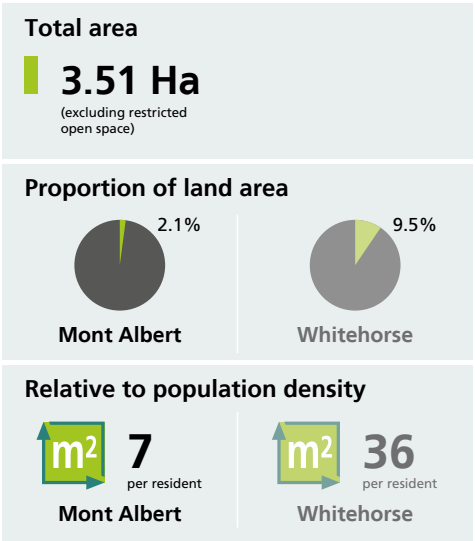


Mont Albert

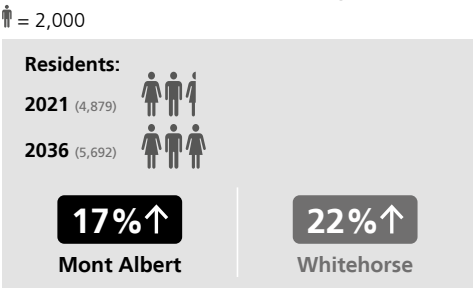


Fast facts

Quantity of open space:



Forecast population change:



Precinct summary

Provision and distribution

Mont Albert is forecast to experience some change over the next 15 years with 831 new residents forecast to be living here by 2036 which represents a 17 per cent increase. Kingsley Gardens is the key existing open space located north of Whitehorse Road next to the Box Hill TAFE. The forecast change is mainly anticipated along Whitehorse Road and in the vicinity of the Mont Albert commercial centre. While the streetscapes provide good connectivity between open spaces and have avenue street tree planting, overall there is a low amount public open space and there are gap areas that require new open space, particularly close to higher-density development. This includes provision of a new Small Local open space in the north-west area of the precinct, centrally located with the Mont Albert shopping precinct and expansion to existing open spaces. Kingsley Gardens to the east provides a diversity of facilities so the new open space will focus on urban greening. South of Whitehorse Road, Beatty Street Reserve will be upgraded to address the forecast growth, while a new Small Local open space is proposed in the heart of the retail area as a social space for

workers and residents. South of Mont Albert Road the upgraded Lorne Parade Reserve, combined with an enlarged Windsor/St George Reserve will assist to meet the open space needs of the existing and forecast population.

Quality and design

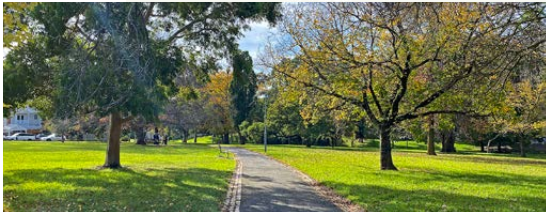
There is potential to strengthen and improve the predominantly exotic landscape character of the open space in Mont Albert. Major upgrades are proposed to Kingsley Gardens to increase the diversity of facilities and overall quality and character of the reserve. This will increase its prominence and role in the context of the significant growth forecast in the adjoining Box Hill Metropolitan Activity Centre. Major upgrades are also proposed to the Beatty Street Reserve primarily for active unstructured recreation to provide a clear point of difference to Rowland Street Park, which is for younger play and picnics and seating. A major upgrade to Windsor/

St George Reserve to incorporate increased facilities will complement the St Johns Avenue Park, where tree protection and urban greening is the key value of this park.

For the proposed new open space reserves, the focus will be on providing a diversity of spaces that have combined roles of urban greening and unstructured recreational use, particularly being located in proximity to higher-density development in Box Hill. Throughout the precinct mature exotic trees are a key feature in open space and protecting these and increasing canopy cover is a key outcome being sought in this precinct as urban densities increase.



Kingsley Gardens



Beatty Street Reserve

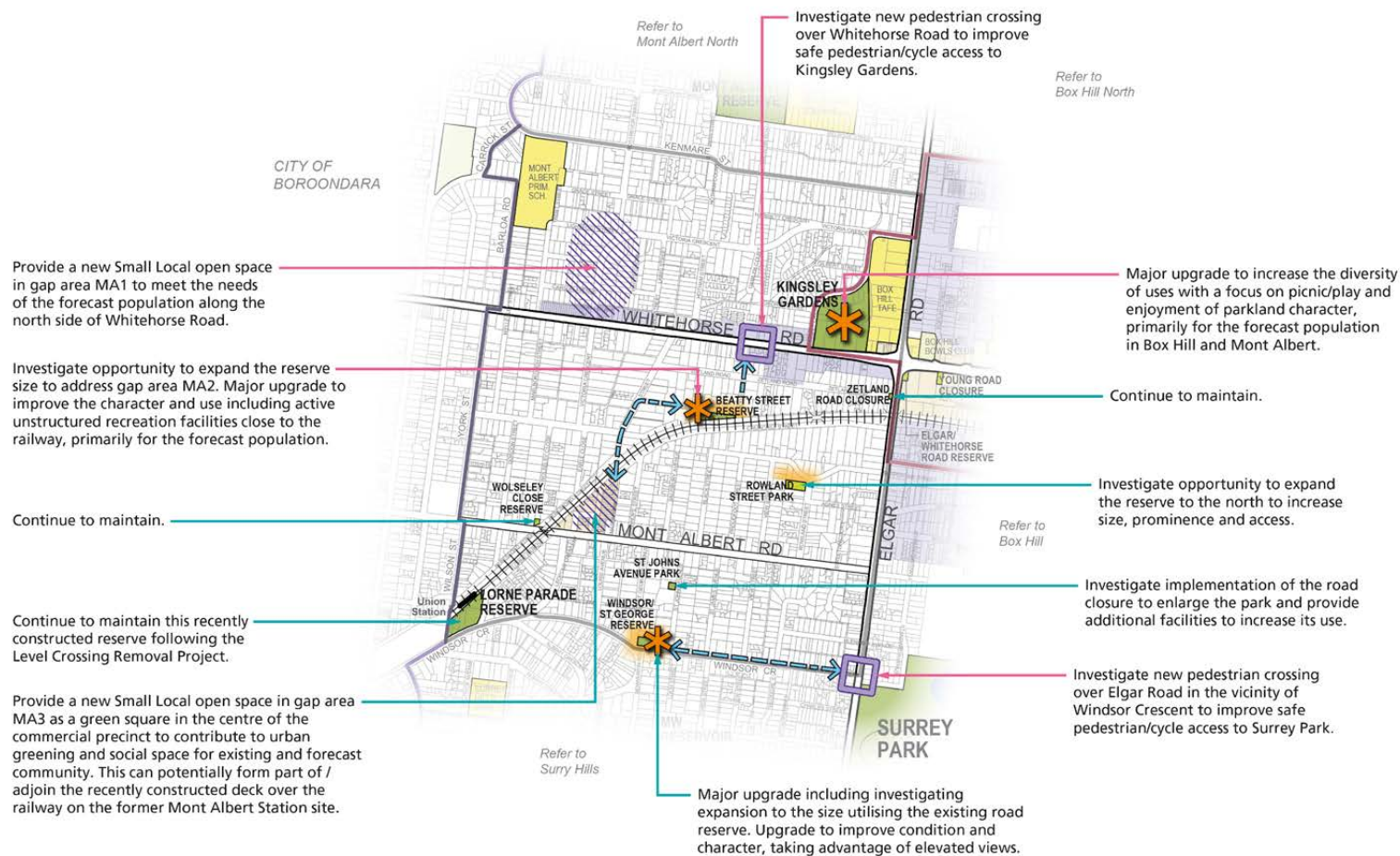
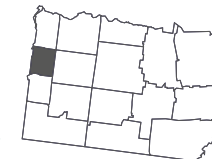


Windsor/St George Reserve

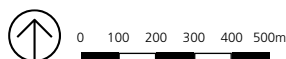
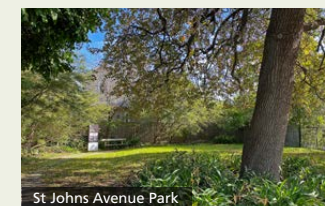


Rowland Street Park

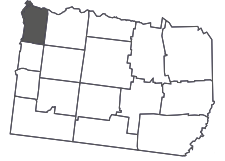
Mont Albert



Note: If the open space does not have a specific action, it is 'Continue to maintain'.

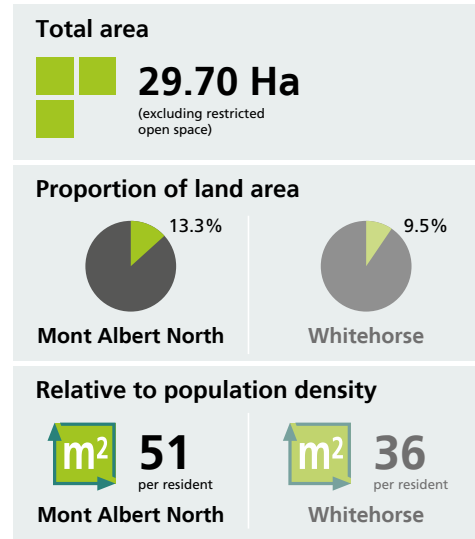


Mont Albert North | Balwyn North

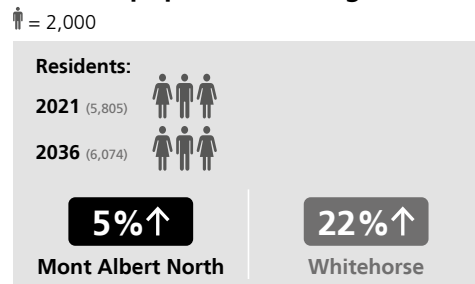


Fast facts

Quantity of open space:



Forecast population change:



Precinct summary

Provision and distribution

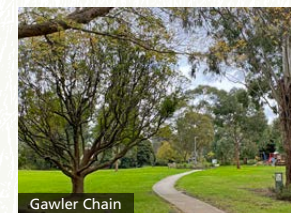
In Mont Albert North | Balwyn North there is forecast to be minimal change with an additional 269 residents living here by 2036, representing a 5 per cent increase from the existing population. The forecast change is mainly anticipated to be distributed through the residential area south of Belmore Road. Koonung Creek and Bushy Creek in the north provide excellent linear open space connectivity, with entry points into the network at Winfield Reserve, Jackson Avenue Reserve and Elgar Park. Council will continue to advocate to the Victorian Government to reinstate the recreational and nature conservation values to the open space that is impacted by the North East Link Project, including Koonung Creek Reserve, Valda Avenue Wetlands and the-west oval at Elgar Park. South of Belmore Road, Gawler Chain provides excellent east west connectivity through the heart of the precinct, and further south is Mont Albert Reserve. The community survey outcomes identify that Gawler Chain is the most popular open space in this precinct, most likely due to its connectivity, diversity

and central location. Box Hill Crescent Reserve is identified as not being well used with poor amenity located adjacent to an arterial road. While there are small gaps in accessibility, these can generally be addressed via improving pedestrian amenity in the local street network to improve access to the existing open spaces.

Quality and design

The Koonung and Bushy Creeks contribute to the nature conservation values and character of the open space in the northern area of this precinct, with Elgar Park located directly adjoining both waterways. Future upgrades to the unstructured facilities in Elgar Park will protect and complement the nature conservation character. Council will continue to advocate to the Victorian Government to protect the natural and recreational values of the Koonung Creek corridor during the North East Link/Eastern Freeway upgrade project. Gawler Chain is located along the valley of a former waterway and has a predominantly

native character, which will be strengthened in the future with a major upgrade to the largest section of Gawler Chain to increase the diversity of play and unstructured recreation facilities in this core part of the reserve. Ashmole Crescent Reserve is located in the heart of an area experiencing some higher density development and is identified to be expanded to increase its size to cater to the growing community in the immediate vicinity of it. By contrast the nearby Box Hill Crescent Reserve is not well used due to its proximity to Elgar Road and may be more suitable to accommodate indoor recreation or community facilities potentially relocated out of the Gawler Chain. Mont Albert Reserve to the south provides excellent facilities and elevated views to the east, with additional shade trees proposed to the multipurpose court area.



Mont Albert North | Balwyn North

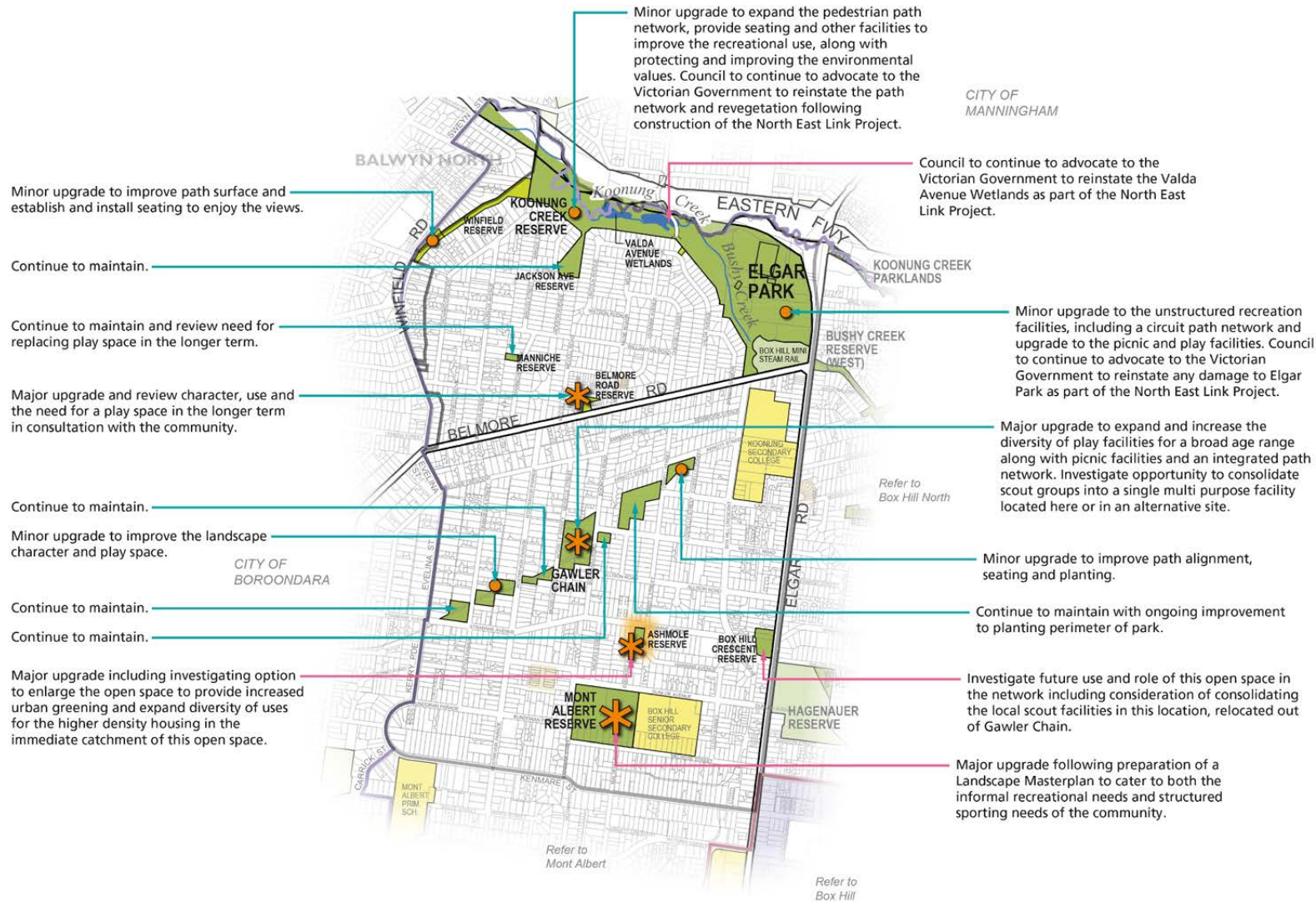
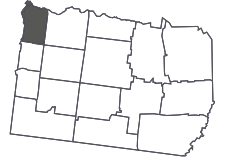
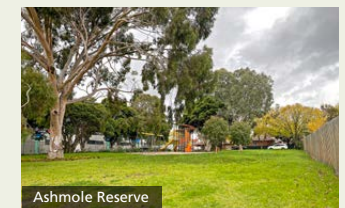


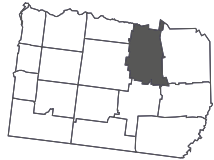
Diagram Key

- Potential for expansion of existing open space
- Minor upgrade to existing open space
- Major upgrade to existing open space
- Very high / High priority
- Medium / Low / Ongoing priority
- Existing open space (PPRZ)
- Existing open space (Not PPRZ or PCRZ)
- Existing restricted open space (PPRZ)
- Adjoining open space
- Commercial 1 Zone
- Municipal boundary
- Suburb boundary

Note: If the open space does not have a specific action, it is 'Continue to maintain'.

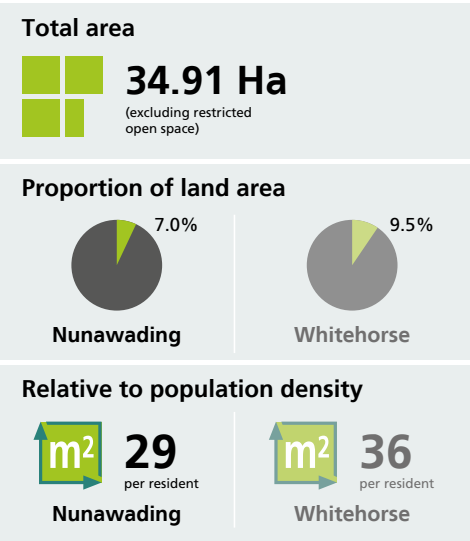


Nunawading

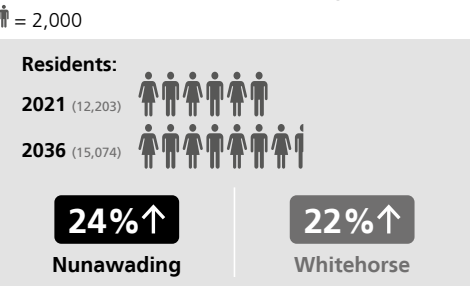


Fast facts

Quantity of open space:



Forecast population change:



Precinct summary

Provision and distribution

Nunawading is forecast to experience substantial change over the next 15 years with 2,871 new residents forecast to be living here by 2036 which represents a 24 per cent increase. The forecast change is mainly anticipated in the Nunawading Megamile Activity Centre that extends along Whitehorse Road and includes Nunawading Station and the former Daniel Robertson Brickworks site. South of Whitehorse Road, Nunawading Reserve also referred to as Silver Grove, provides a key opportunity to develop a vibrant, green open space at the heart of this activity centre. Improving east-west pedestrian connectivity to the west of the reserve will address the existing open space gap area.

South of the railway, Wood Park is the only existing open space in the core part of the activity centre east of Springvale Road, and this is recommended to be expanded and upgraded. A future open space is proposed on the Daniel Robertson Brickworks site and further east in the Rooks Road industrial precinct, a new Local open space is proposed primarily for the worker community. West of Springvale Road, a new Small Local open

space will address the gap area. The provision and distribution of open space north of Whitehorse Road is adequate, and upgrades are proposed to improve the capacity of the open space network to accommodate the forecast population change.

Quality and design

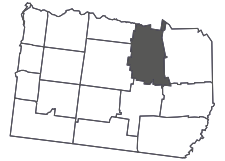
There is a strong native and nature conservation character to the open space network in Nunawading. Recommendations to improve these values are combined with the need to also improve the range of recreational facilities to address the diverse demographics and growing population. North of Whitehorse Road, Junction Road Reserve is identified to receive a major upgrade with investigation to include structured sport fields and unstructured recreation facilities. Council will continue to advocate to the Victorian Government to protect the natural and recreational values of the Koonung Creek corridor during the North East Link/Eastern Freeway upgrade project. Walker Park is also identified to be upgraded to better meet the unstructured recreation and informal open

space needs of the existing and forecast community. West of Springvale Road, the recent Nunawading Hub adjoining Tunstall Park has provided a new focus and a major upgrade will respond to this change. The urban context will be reset around Feiglin Park to improve connectivity and passive surveillance. North of Springfield Road, Nichol Park, Junction Road Reserve and Ronald Gray Reserve provide a diverse open space network and minor upgrades are proposed to better cater to community needs and strengthen biodiversity values.

South of Whitehorse Road, Charles Rooks Reserve will be upgraded to include unstructured recreation and picnic facilities along with improvements to the nature conservation values. Other upgrades include improving connectivity with new shared paths along the Pipe Track easement and through the linking spaces that lead to Blackburn Lake Sanctuary.



Nunawading



Undertake a major upgrade to improve the role and function of this open space including investigating potential for an outdoor structured sporting field, a designated dog off lead area, unstructured recreation facilities for all ages and a major picnic destination if the noise attenuation is undertaken by Department of Transport and Planning. Council to continue to advocate to the Victorian Government to install noise attenuation as part of the North East Link Project.

Continue to maintain.

Continue to maintain and improve nature conservation values.

Continue to maintain.

Major upgrade to improve the quality and character of the park including the interface to the Tennis Club.

Investigate opportunities to increase the size of this reserve to increase its function and use.

Major upgrade to provide additional unstructured recreation facilities such as hard court areas and picnic/BBQ facilities.

Continue to maintain. In the longer term review the need for this open space due to its close proximity to Cootamundra Walk (East).

Investigate opportunities to establish a public roadway/path interface to at least three boundaries to improve safety. In the longer term, upgrade once access and passive surveillance are improved.

Council to require east-west pedestrian links as part of future redevelopments to improve pedestrian permeability in gap area N1.

Subject to Strategic Property Program investigation, repurpose the former Silver Grove site to provide a public open space primarily for the forecast community. This site is an excellent opportunity to provide a green heart to the future redevelopment of this area, primarily providing unstructured recreation and social facilities.

Extend footpath link into Blackburn Lake Reserve.

Investigate removal of fencing and install path link.

Provide a new Small Local open space in this gap area N3 for both the existing and forecast population. Also investigate opportunities for improved north-south pedestrian connectivity in gap area N3 as part of future development applications.

Refer to Forest Hill

Provide shared path and investigate other potential improvements with Melbourne Water.

Refer to Vermont

Minor upgrade to increase the diversity of unstructured recreation facilities and upgrade picnic/BBQ facilities.

Continue to maintain.

Minor upgrade to improve path entry point and path surface and overall condition of the reserve, including review of the continued use of the reserve by the Bill Waters Rover Scouts.

Minor upgrade to improve pedestrian connectivity between the Civic Centre and Walker Park, establish a circuit path around the reserve, and provide additional seating overlooking the oval.

Although not currently anticipated, if large sites redevelop to high density use, new public open space may be required.

Future open space (indicative) to be provided to Council as part of development of the former Daniel Robertson Brickworks Site.

Provide new Local open space in gap area N4 in the future that improves east-west connectivity and addresses the existing gap area.

Major upgrade to cater to the changing open space needs of the existing and forecast community in high density development.

Continue to maintain and if well used, add seats that overlook the open grassed area.

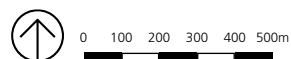
Minor upgrade to improve path connection and bushland revegetation works.

Major upgrade to provide combined facilities including play, picnic/BBQ, public toilet, unstructured recreation facilities and paths connecting into Dagola Reserve nature conservation area and the Pipe Track Reserve.

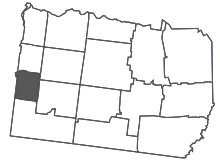
Diagram Key

- Sub-precinct for new Small Local open space
- Sub-precinct for new Local open space
- Potential for expansion of existing open space
- Future pedestrian links / Improvements to existing links
- Minor upgrade to existing open space
- Major upgrade to existing gap area
- Very high / High priority
- Medium / Low / Ongoing priority
- Existing open space (PPRZ)
- Existing open space (Not PPRZ or PCRZ)
- Residential Growth/Mixed Use/General Residential Zones
- Commercial 1 Zone
- Industrial Zone
- Melbourne Water land
- Municipal boundary
- Suburb boundary

Note: If the open space does not have a specific action, it is 'Continue to maintain'.

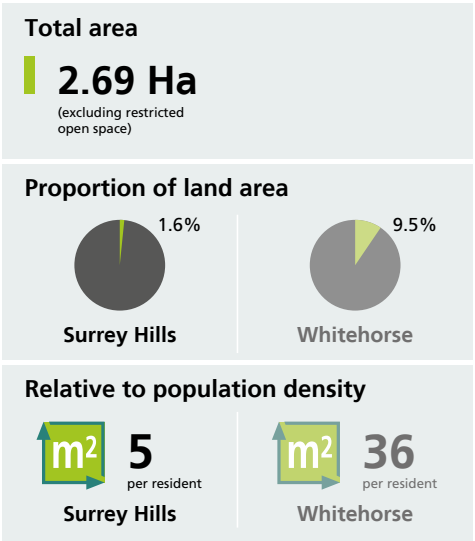


Surrey Hills

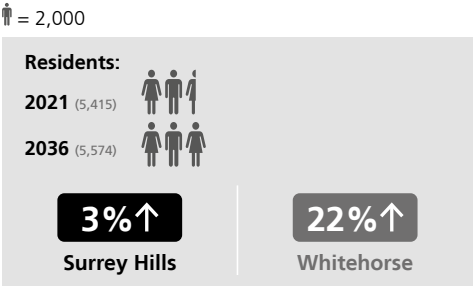


Fast facts

Quantity of open space:



Forecast population change:



Precinct summary

Provision and distribution

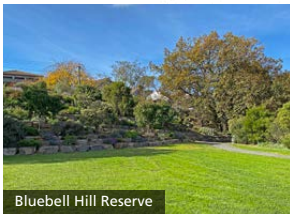
Surrey Hills is forecast to experience minimal change over the next 15 years with 159 new residents forecast to be living here by 2036 which represents a 3 per cent increase. The forecast change is mainly anticipated along Canterbury Road and Riversdale Road. The most popular open space is Bluebell Hill Reserve, which is centrally located in Surrey Hills with an excellent diversity of facilities and features. While there is not a large amount of open space in Surrey Hills it is a distributed across the area and connected via the local street network without major barriers to access. An additional Small Local open space is proposed to address the gaps in open space provision south of Canterbury Road primarily for the existing population. Expansion to the size of existing open spaces and a series of major upgrades that focus on increasing access and a diversity of facilities and features will improve accessibility and useability of open space network for the community. The proposed expansion of both

Florence Reserve and Windsor/St George Reserve (in Mont Albert) will assist to increase the capacity of that reserve to cater to increased levels of use for the community north of Canterbury Road. Wattle Park adjoins the southern boundary of Surrey Hills and while Riversdale Road forms a barrier to safe walking access, it does contribute to the open space character.

Quality and design

The undulating topography of Surrey Hills significantly contributes to the character of the existing open space network. Expansive views from within Bluebell Hill Reserve add to the sense of space and character. Similarly the expansive views over Boisdale Reserve to Wattle Park provide an excellent setting and

context for the future major upgrade to this neighbourhood park. The major upgrades will focus on the significantly improving the diversity of facilities and improvement to the quality of spaces for the local community.



Surrey Hills

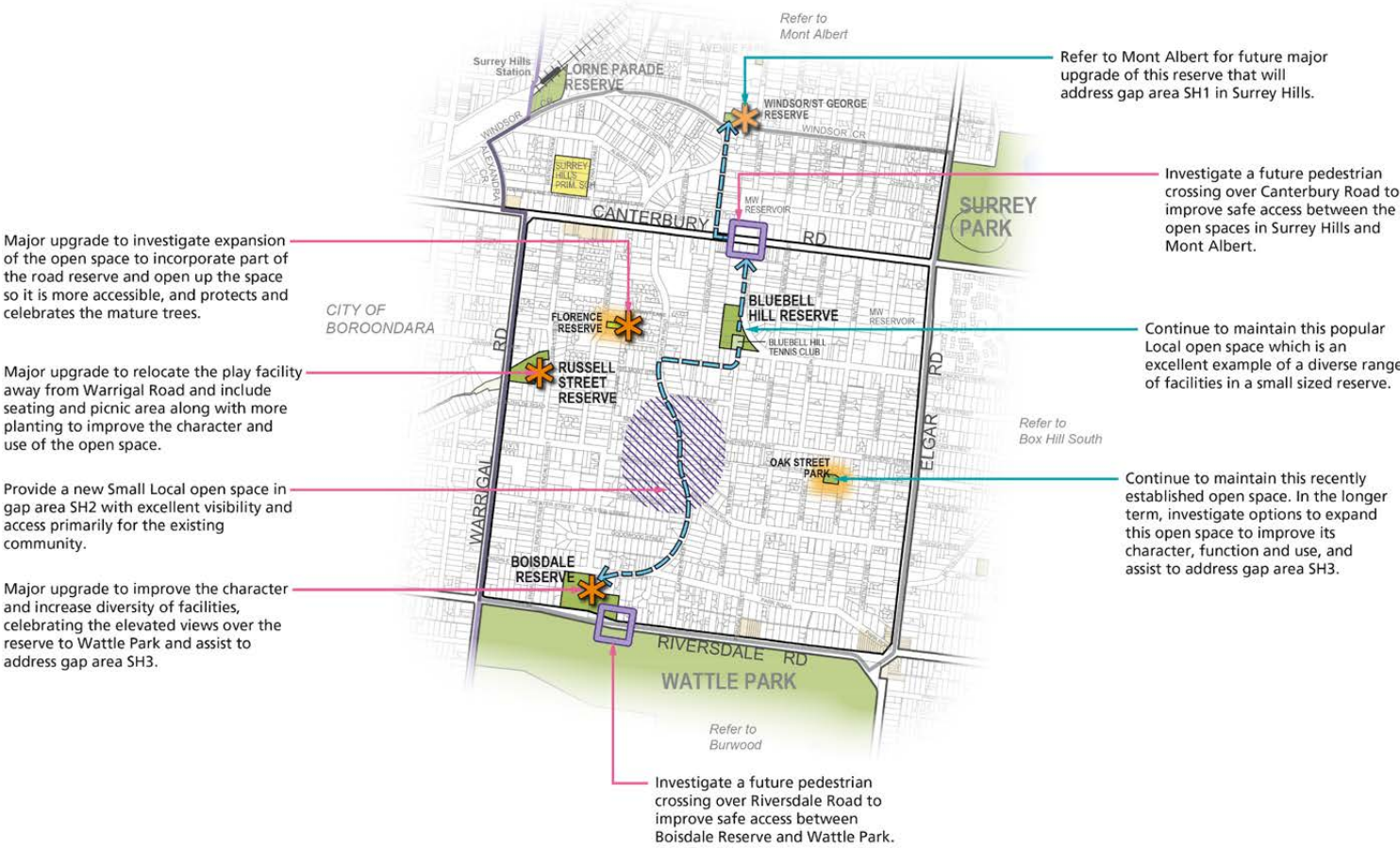
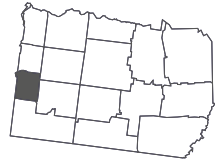


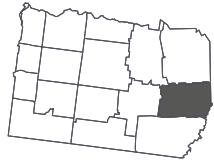
Diagram Key

- Sub-precinct for new Small Local open space
- Potential for expansion of existing open space
- Future pedestrian crossing
- Future pedestrian links / Improvements to existing links
- Major upgrade to existing open space
- Very high / High priority
- Medium / Low / Ongoing priority
- Existing open space (PPRZ)
- Existing open space (Not PPRZ or PCRZ)
- Existing restricted open space (PPRZ)
- Commercial 1 Zone
- Melbourne Water land
- Municipal boundary
- Suburb boundary

Note: If the open space does not have a specific action, it is 'Continue to maintain'.

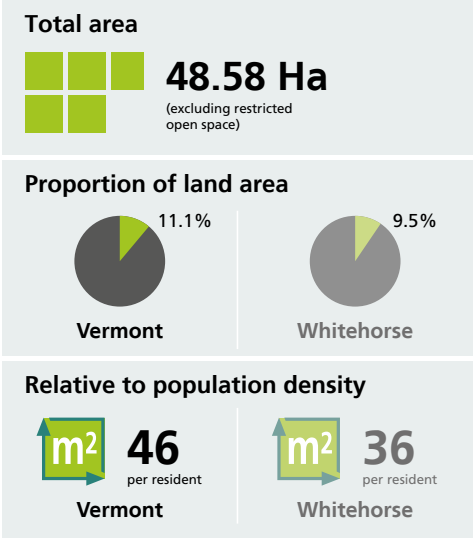


Vermont

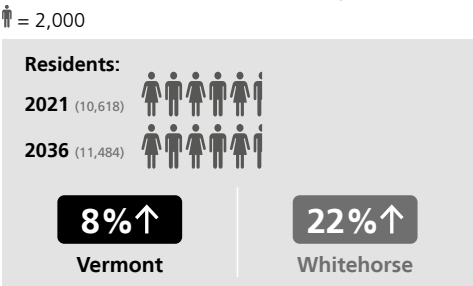


Fast facts

Quantity of open space:



Forecast population change:



Precinct summary

Provision and distribution

Vermont is forecast to experience minimal to moderate change over the next 15 years with 866 new residents forecast to be living here by 2036 which represents an 8 per cent increase. The forecast change is anticipated to be distributed mainly in the area west of Terrara Road in the vicinity of Stephens Reserve and Vermont Reserve. Bellbird Dell is the most popular open space according to the community survey outcomes followed Vermont Reserve, Abbey Walk, Stephens Reserve and Campbells Croft. Other than Vermont Reserve, the other spaces are located along waterway corridors with linear open space connectivity that is popular for walking and running. The distributed network of Neighbourhood and Local open spaces are nominated as being well used and include Buckanbe Park, Eastmont Reserve, Thatcher Reserve and Terrara Park. Gaps in the distribution of open space are mainly north of Canterbury Road and west of Mitcham Road where there is an industrial precinct and the urban layout is quite disjointed. Improved connectivity via the local street network is recommended as further redevelopment

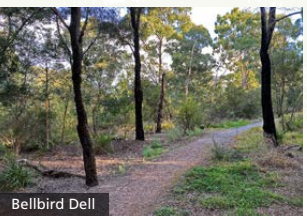
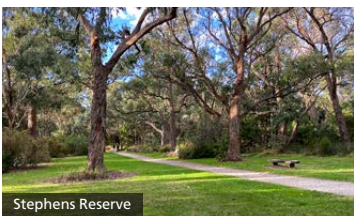
occurs in this area, along with a proposed expansion to Trade Place Reserve. Other gaps south east of the Canterbury Road will be addressed by expanding the existing open spaces to create larger reserves.

The future Healesville Freeway Reserve linear park will strengthen the diversity and overall provision of open space in Vermont and Vermont South.

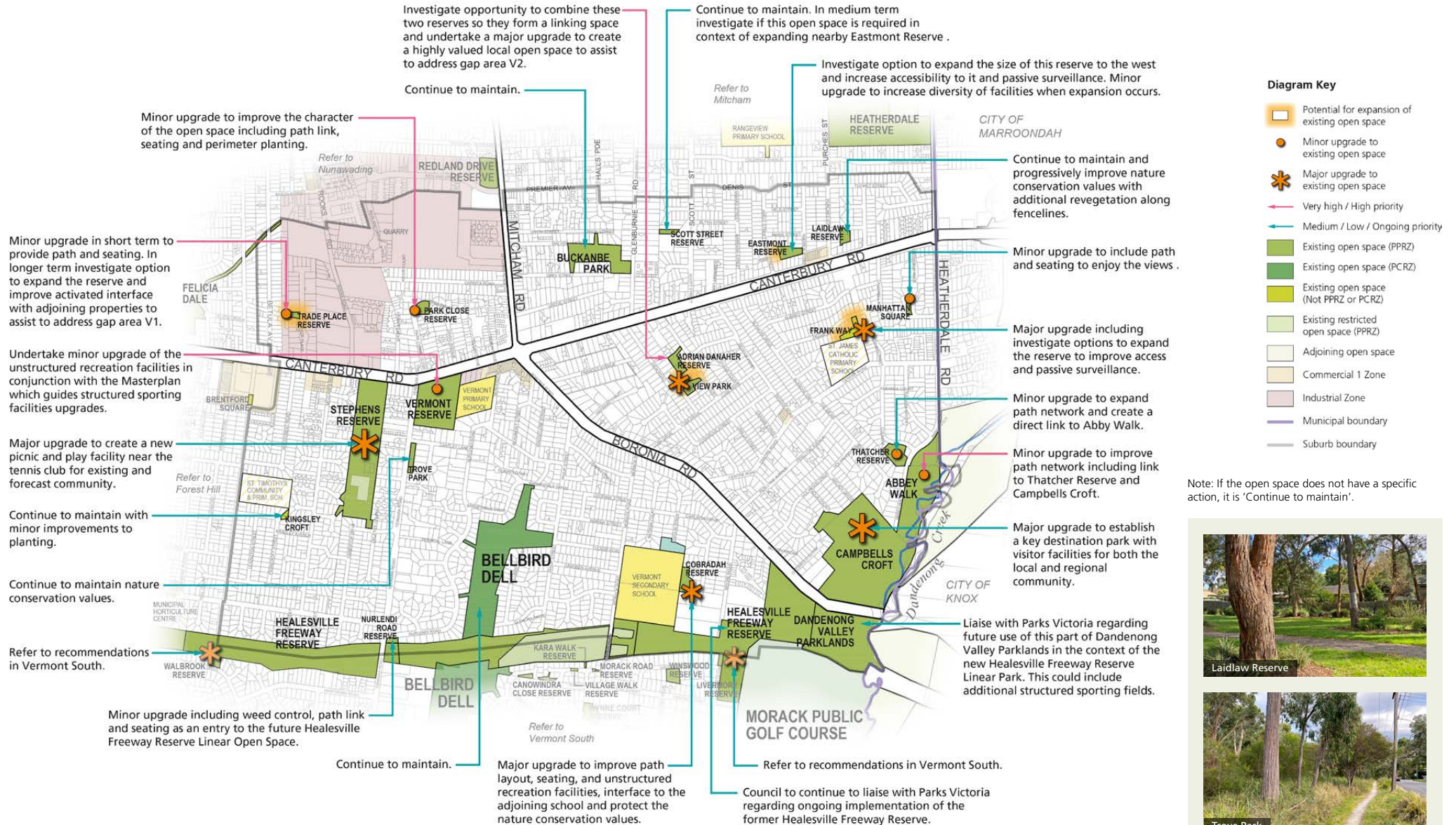
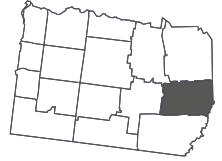
Quality and design

With Dandenong Creek defining the eastern boundary of this precinct and the tributary flowing through Bellbird Dell, waterways and natural bushland character significantly contribute to Vermont's inherent character and sense of place. This is reinforced with other remnant indigenous trees and bushland in other open spaces including Stephens Reserve, Buckanbe Park and Vermont Reserve. Campbells Croft has unique parkland qualities and is proposed to be upgraded to establish a major destination park in this precinct. A major upgrade of neighbourhood

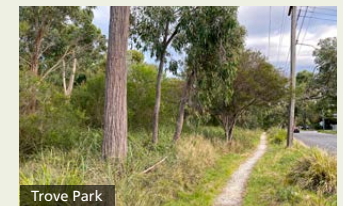
facilities in Stephens Reserve is proposed near the tennis club area to provide a diversity of facilities for both the existing and forecast population. Key changes to the quality and design of open space in Vermont is to focus on expanding some selected open spaces to improve visual and physical access into them, particularly where they are almost completely surrounded by rear boundary fences. The proposed upgrades also focus on increasing the diversity of facilities to encourage more people to exercise and socialise in open space, while protecting and improving the canopy tree cover and nature conservation values.



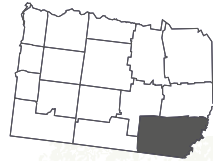
Vermont



Note: If the open space does not have a specific action, it is 'Continue to maintain'.

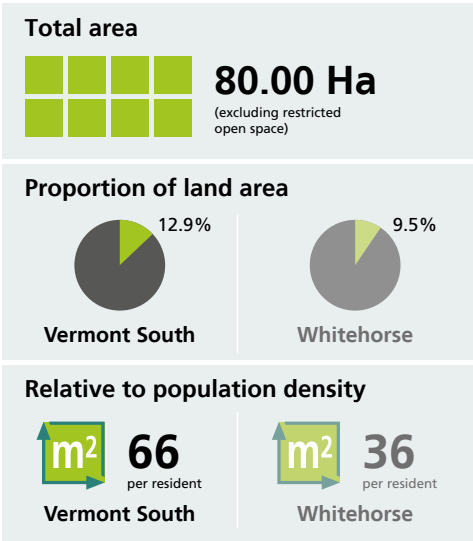


Vermont South

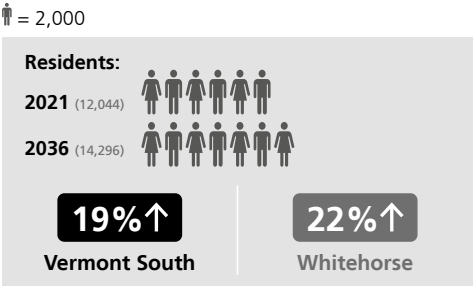


Fast facts

Quantity of open space:



Forecast population change:



Precinct summary

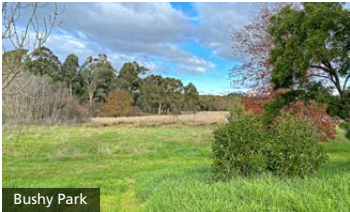
Provision and distribution

Vermont South is forecast to experience moderate change over the next 15 years with 2,252 new residents forecast to be living here by 2036 which represents a 16 per cent increase. The forecast change is mainly anticipated to be distributed along both sides of Burwood Highway. Terrara Park and Bellbird Dell are the most popular open spaces. Tyrol Park and Charlesworth Park are also nominated as being well used in the community survey. The Dandenong Valley Parklands and open space along Dandenong Creek was not well used, which reflects the lack of access and this Strategy recommends improvements to this. Open space is generally well distributed across the precinct with some overlap in the provision in the north-east area and a review of this in the longer term is recommended once the former Healesville Freeway Reserve is developed by Parks Victoria.

Quality and design

With the former Healesville Freeway Reserve defining the northern boundary, combined with the Dandenong Creek along the eastern boundary, the natural bushland character significantly contributes to Vermont South's landscape character. This is reinforced with other remnant bushland areas including Bellbird Dell, Hanover Park, Terrara Park, Tyrol Park and Licola Reserve. Priority projects include a major upgrade to Terrara Park to increase the diversity of unstructured and informal recreation facilities given it is a popular destination and has recent upgrades to the sporting pavilion. Other key priorities include a major upgrade to Bushy Park, Lookout Trail Park and the Dandenong Creek Linear Park as a major regional and neighbourhood destination open space corridor in consultation with Parks Victoria. Dalroy Bend Reserve, Hartland Park and

Billabong Park are also identified for future major upgrades in response to their close proximity to forecast change along Burwood Highway. Livermore Reserve has excellent potential to become a key open space for this local neighbourhood as it benefits from expansive views over Morack Public Golf Course. In the longer term, once Livermore Reserve is upgraded, there an opportunity to potentially reduce the overlap in provision of open space in this part of the precinct. Other changes include a major upgrade to Hanover Reserve which offers expansive elevated views and is located close to Livingstone Primary School.



Bushy Park



Livermore Reserve



Terrara Park



Tyrol Park



Bellbird Dell



Implementation

Overview

The projects in this Strategy will be implemented over a 15 year timeframe. The planning for the expansion to existing open space and proposed new public open spaces will occur early in the timeframe to ensure opportunities to secure new land area are assessed and identified as early as possible, along with the most suitable process for acquiring the additional land area needed.

The new open space projects will be achieved through a combination of securing land area on large redevelopment sites, conversion of government owned land and land acquisition where required.

Upgrades to existing open space will be implemented through the capital works budget process with the Strategy providing the strategic basis for the rationale and priorities.



Responsibilities

Successful implementation of the Strategy will require coordination across all parts of Council and the priority will be to establish a governance framework around this. Functional areas of Council that will play a key role in implementation include:

- Open space, leisure and recreation planning
- Strategic city planning and statutory approvals
- Property
- Parks and natural environment management
- Delivery of major capital projects and asset management
- Financial and corporate management
- Community safety
- Engagement with communities
- Arts and culture planning and events.

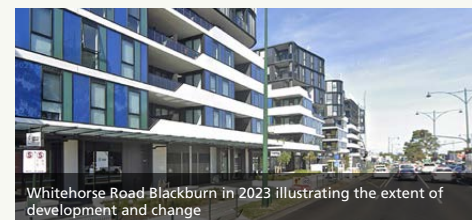


Funding

Funding the capital works and the land acquisition required for the projects identified in this Strategy will be sourced from a combination of:

- Council revenue
- External grants from other State and Federal government agencies
- Public open space contributions.

The public open space contribution rate will be amended in Clause 53.01 of the Whitehorse Planning Scheme to change from the minimum 4 per cent to a rate commensurate with the level of forecast population growth and changing development patterns. An averaged municipal rate in the order of 7.2 per cent and a high density precinct rate in the order of 10 per cent is appropriate. These contributions will be required as a land and/or cash contribution at Council's discretion.



Next steps

- Implement the updated open space contribution rate/s in the planning scheme
- Undertake detailed precinct based assessment to identify suitable opportunities to implement the expansion of existing open space and the provision of new open spaces identified in this Strategy
- Continue to implement existing masterplans and prepare new ones for major parks
- Plan for and upgrade existing open spaces identified in the precinct recommendations in this Strategy.



