Acknowledgements
The City of Melbourne would like to thank the City of Melbourne Parks and Gardens Advisory Committee for their contribution to the Open Space Strategy.

The City of Melbourne Open Space Strategy has been prepared for the City of Melbourne by Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd in collaboration with Environment & Land Management Pty Ltd and Professor Nigel Tapper who provided the directions on urban heat island effect mitigation. The population forecast information was supplied for this project by .id Consulting and Dr Serryn Eagleston of EDGResearch.
Open spaces define Melbourne. Our parks, gardens and reserves help make this city the world’s most liveable. To help us prepare for the future, this plan sets directions for the sustainable care and expansion of our open space to meet the needs of an increasing population.

Melbourne is growing and changing, which presents us with opportunities as well as challenges. We’ve responded in creative ways – completing major stormwater harvesting projects such as Fitzroy Gardens and Darling Street to keep the city green. We’ve created new neighbourhood open spaces and we’re working closely with the state government to secure new areas of open space in proposed urban renewal areas.

The City of Melbourne’s first Open Space Strategy recognises the value of open space in improving community health and wellbeing for our residents, visitors and workers. Significant new open spaces ensure that all residents and workers are within easy walking distance of a park, garden or reserve. In a commitment to a sustainable city, we will also plan our open spaces to ensure they provide shade in summer and cool our city in a changing climate.

We commend the City of Melbourne’s first Open Space Strategy as a guide to sustainable improvements in our city’s cherished open spaces.
Introduction

The purpose of the Open Space Strategy

The *Open Space Strategy* will provide the overarching framework and strategic direction for public open space planning in the City of Melbourne for the next 15 years. The strategy includes consideration of the forecast population change and provides the strategic basis for an open space contributions policy.

Supporting this strategy is the *Open Space Strategy Technical Report*, which contains the technical research, definitions, analysis and recommendations.
Open space is the publicly owned land that is set aside primarily for recreation, nature conservation, passive outdoor enjoyment and public gatherings. This includes public parks, gardens, reserves, waterways, publicly owned forecourts and squares.

Public open space also includes publicly owned major sporting venues and gardens that are managed by or on behalf of the State of Victoria including the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne Park, Zoological Gardens and the Royal Botanic Gardens. Other public land including schools, universities and streets complement the open space network and are guided by other strategies and plans. Throughout this strategy public open space is referred to as ‘open space’.

Melbourne’s diversity and quality of open space creates a range of different experiences and opportunities across the city.
Melbourne is identified as one of the most liveable cities in the world, and one of the major contributory elements to this liveability is the quality and amount of open space. In a recent household survey undertaken during the research phase of this strategy, many people indicated they live in the municipality because of the open space. Open space is also extensively used by the local community and visitors from across Australia and overseas. Open space is important for numerous reasons, some of which are described here.

**Why is open space important?**

- **Social connectedness**
  - Social contact
  - Community events and festivals
  - Meeting places, particularly associated with high density living
- **Mental health and wellbeing**
  - Spaces to relax and unwind
  - Restorative places
  - Social development in children
- **Physical health and wellbeing**
  - Participating in organised sport
  - Exercising informally
  - Contact with nature
  - Being outside in the fresh air and sunlight
- **Mitigation of urban heat**
  - Where the heat can radiate out at night and cool the city following hot weather
  - Space for large canopy trees to grow and provide shade
  - Creating cool spaces by irrigating them with sustainable water supply
  - Permeable surfaces that hold moisture and cool the environment
Why is open space important?

Biodiversity
- Habitat for native fauna including birds
- Protection of remnant areas of indigenous flora
- Selective reintroduction of habitat diversity

Cultural heritage and character
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage values
- World, National and State heritage significance of existing parks and gardens

Economics and tourism
- Permanent and temporary installations
- Visitor destination points
- Commemorative events

Events and Arts
- Performances
- Permanent and temporary installations
- Performances

City of Melbourne Open Space Strategy
The City of Melbourne is located on the traditional land of the Kulin Nation. For the Wurundjeri, Boonerwrung, Taungurong, Djaadjawurrung, and the Wauthaurong groups who form the Kulin Nation, Melbourne has always been an important meeting place for events of social, educational, sporting and cultural significance.

The major open spaces in Melbourne were set aside at the time of European settlement from 1842 onwards on the outskirts of the central city (Hoddle Grid) as part of Governor La Trobe’s vision of a green belt of parks encircling Melbourne. They include Royal Park, Princes Park, Flagstaff Gardens, Royal Botanic Gardens, Fitzroy Gardens, Treasury Gardens, Domain Parklands, Fawkner Park and Carlton Gardens.

These larger original reserves are synonymous with the character of Melbourne, as are some of the more contemporary open spaces including Federation Square, Southbank Promenade and Birrarung Marr. Major festivals and events are held in Melbourne’s open space including Moomba and New Years Eve along the Yarra River, the Australian Open at Melbourne Park, cricket and AFL at the MCG and numerous other major sporting events that form part of Melbourne’s image and identity and contribute to the City of Melbourne’s reputation as one of the world’s most liveable cities.

The waterways flowing through Melbourne include the Yarra River, Maribyrnong River and Moonee Ponds Creek. The Yarra River was one of the main reasons for the establishment of Melbourne, influencing the alignment of the Hoddle Grid and Melbourne’s layout. Early settlers modified the alignment, shape and natural values to suit land use changes, industrialisation and the growing city’s needs.

For many years settlement turned its back on the waterways causing degradation of their natural, cultural and biodiversity values. In the 1980s Melbourne changed its view of its rivers and creeks and development has since turned around to face the waterways and harbours and provide open space along them. Waterways are now used for recreational activities including recreational boating, rowing, jogging, cycling and walking, and are recognised for their biodiversity and habitat corridor values.

The existing open space encourages the community outdoors to participate in organised sport, unstructured recreational activities and informal uses that promote social connectedness and community health and wellbeing. Royal Park, Princes Park, Fawkner Park and JJ Holland Park are some of the key open spaces that support this community use.
Open space network

Overview
The 148 sites in Melbourne’s public open space network totals approximately 555 hectares and represents almost 15 per cent of the total area of the municipality. Each open space has a unique role within the network depending on its location, size, use and character. In developing this strategy the role and character of each open space was assessed and its distribution mapped. This assessment forms the basis for understanding what open space exists now, any deficiencies to be addressed and consideration of future change.

Role
Capital City and State open spaces are iconic and synonymous with the character and identity of Melbourne and often used to stage activities and events of international, national, state and metropolitan importance. Examples include Federation Square (Capital City), Domain Parklands (Capital City) and Royal Park (State). The size varies to suit the identified purpose and urban context in which they are located.

Municipal open spaces are valued and visited primarily by the City of Melbourne population, providing facilities that include organised and unstructured sport and recreation activities. Examples include JJ Holland Park and North Melbourne Recreation Reserve.

Neighbourhood open spaces provide a diversity of character and facilities that appeal to the local community at a neighbourhood level. Examples include Argyle Square and North Melbourne Community Centre.

Local and Small Local open spaces complement the larger reserves and provide smaller more intimate spaces within safe and easy walking distance of the local community. These two types are differentiated by their size. Examples include Golden Elm Reserve in South Yarra and Chapman Street Reserve in North Melbourne.

Character
The larger established parks, gardens and reserves across the municipality have a range of characters and purposes. These vary from historical gardens with a predominantly European character to the primarily Australian character of Royal Park. They provide space for organised sporting use through to informal play and places of contemplation. A range of character types describe the variety of open spaces in the municipality. For more information on the role and character of open space, refer to the Open Space Strategy Technical Report.

Distribution
A key objective in planning the open space network is to provide open space within easy walking distance for the majority of the community. A 500 metre walkable distance is used for State, Capital City, Regional, Municipal and Neighbourhood open space, and a 300 metre walkable distance is used for Local and Small Local open space. Major roads and railways are barriers that limit walkable access. The gap analysis diagram below indicates that when walkable distances are applied to the existing open space network, there are gaps in the distribution of open space. The gap areas are locations where residents and workers lack easy walkable access to open space and include some areas where significant population growth is anticipated. Additional open space is needed to address current and future gaps in provision of open space within walking distance.
Forecast population growth

Overall population change

Residents:
- 2011 (98,162)
- 2026 (164,832)

Workers:
- 2011 (431,502)
- 2026 (603,165)

The population growth and forecast development in Melbourne is significant, resulting in greater than two-thirds more people living in the City of Melbourne by 2026 and approximately a third more people working in the municipality. This forecast is based on the Growth Framework Plan included in the Draft Municipal Strategic Statement (July 2010). The growth is projected across the municipality and is concentrated in urban renewal areas in the west and south of the municipality. These are shown spatially on the Overall Direction diagrams in this report. The largest amounts of open space are located in the north and south-east of the city. Forecast population growth is concentrated in the west and the south with some growth in the north, creating the need for more open space in the west and south.

Open space relative to population density change

Open space per resident:
- 2011 (55.4m²)
- 2026 (33.7m²)

Open space per head of population (resident + worker):
- 2011 (10.5m²)
- 2026 (7.2m²)

The forecast population growth will mean more people living and working in higher density neighbourhoods. Increasing urban densities will result in more people needing to use open space to maintain their physical and mental health and wellbeing. This will place additional demand on existing open spaces and in some areas create the need to provide additional open space. Population growth is already occurring in areas lacking adequate or any open space. Growth will require improvement to the quantity, diversity, quality and natural features of open space to adequately cater to the increased population.

Climate change

Climate change is predicted to result in more extreme weather patterns. Of relevance to open space are the forecast extended dry periods and more intense rainfall and storms resulting in additional periods of drought and flooding. Open space cannot directly influence climate change, but it can play an important role in mitigating the urban heat island effect and assisting the city adapt to more extreme weather patterns.

Urban heat island effect is the build up of heat in urban areas as explained in the diagram below. During Melbourne’s heat wave in early 2009 the urban heat island effect became a serious problem. Where urban renewal drives an increase in urban densities, the future population will generally be accommodated in multiple-level buildings with a focus on compact urban form to promote mixed use, walkable neighbourhoods. Provision of open space with natural features through these new neighbourhoods will help offset the build up of urban heat. Planting additional large canopy trees in open space and streets (as outlined in the Draft Urban Forest Strategy) will also help mitigate urban heat build up.

Urban Heat Island and open space diagram

The paved and built surfaces absorb heat during the hot summers

Overnight the lack of open space traps the stored heat radiating from the built surfaces

The open space provides a cooler space during the hot summers

Overnight the open space allows the city to cool with evapotranspiration from the moisture in the trees and natural surfaces
Maintain and expand a quality open space network

Melbourne enjoys a diverse, high quality and greatly valued open space network. As the city changes and grows, positive actions are required to upgrade existing and provide additional open space to maintain the role open space plays in shaping Melbourne’s image and liveability. This will require:

• commitment, involvement and partnerships between key players including the City of Melbourne, the Victorian Government and the development industry to deliver additional well located and designed open space relevant to the new community

• adding open space to the network to provide a diversity of open space for multiple uses, expanding the capital city functions into the new open space in the west and mitigate urban heat build up

• improvements to the design and function of some existing open spaces, achieving the objectives noted above and improvements to their natural features, character and biodiversity.

The diagrams of the proposed major and smaller open spaces illustrate where additional open space is required and these are described further in the precincts.

Provide distributed open space within easy walking distance

The beneficial effects of open space for communities living in urban areas supports the general planning principle that people including children, young people and those with limited mobility should have easy access to public open space. This means:

• the community is able to easily walk to open space within 300 metres of them, being approximately a 10 minute walk

• no need to cross major barriers to reach the open space including major roads and railways.

A key strategy objective of providing open space within easy walking distance of the majority of residents and workers will be achieved by:

• additional open space is to be established in gap areas, refer to the Gap Analysis Diagram. In some cases the smaller spaces will be achieved by utilising wide road reserves

• additional green open spaces in urban renewal areas across the municipality.

The diagrams of the proposed major and smaller open spaces illustrate where the additional open space is required and these are described further in the precincts.

Improve community health and wellbeing

Research confirms there are health and wellbeing benefits for the community when open space is readily accessible. This includes:

• participation in organised sport when it is available nearby

• encouraging people outside into open space to participate in informal recreation activities including walking, cycling, jogging, informal games, active unstructured sports

• open spaces with a diversity of facilities that encourage people of all abilities and ages to participate in social and physical activities and events

• children visiting nearby open space independently of adults improving their self-confidence and physical development

• places that are green with natural features to which people can escape and which provide a visual relief from built form with physical benefits from the localised microclimate effects of shade, greenery and cooler spaces

• presence of natural features in open space mitigating urban heat island effect.
Additional Capital City open space in urban renewal areas

- Historically in the west of the municipality open space has not been provided due to the predominantly non-residential land use.
- With the forecast change to mixed land use and a much larger population of residents and workers, Capital City open space will be required in the west to expand the open space network to a standard that exists in the east and to support new activities such as events and festivals held in Melbourne.
- A key objective is to provide Capital City open space in the western areas of the municipality in the future. Over time these will become iconic spaces synonymous with the character and identity of Melbourne, and the size will vary to suit the future identified purpose and urban context. The locations are illustrated on the proposed additional major open spaces diagram.

Additional Municipal open space in urban renewal areas

- With extensive growth to be accommodated in the municipality, additional Municipal open space will be needed for organised and unstructured outdoor sport and recreation use.
- The larger spaces required for this use, particularly outdoor sports fields, are best achieved by setting aside parcels of land early in the future planning process for the urban renewal areas.
- Negotiation for larger land parcels with the Victorian Government, as a major land holder during the early planning stages for urban renewal areas, is critical. These locations are illustrated on the proposed additional major open spaces diagram.

Urban heat island effect mitigation and environmental improvements

- Open space is proposed to be distributed through urban neighbourhoods with natural features such as large canopy trees and planted surfaces which absorb moisture, to offset some impacts of increased urban heat and promote health and wellbeing.
- These spaces will benefit from irrigation where it is available from sustainable water sources.
- Increased biodiversity will be achieved from a range of environmental improvements including the introduction of water and large canopy trees in open space, and revegetation and habitat improvements along waterways.
- Treatment of urban runoff will improve the quality of receiving waters including Victoria Harbour, the waterways and Port Phillip Bay, consistent with other City of Melbourne strategies and policies.
Overall direction – proposed additional major open spaces

This diagram illustrates symbolic locations for the proposed additional or expanded major open spaces required to cater for the forecast growth described in the Draft Municipal Strategic Statement (July 2010) and summarised in this report. These additional major quality open spaces will have either a Capital City, Regional or Municipal role in the future open space network providing a diversity of active sport, recreation and informal facilities and spaces, as well as supporting festivals and events. They will be linked via a system of existing and proposed on and off-street trails encouraging cycling and walking access to and between them.

The precinct summaries provide more information on the intent and purpose of each proposed open space. The additional open spaces shown here and on the precinct plans are diagrammatic only and indicative of the general location and relative (not actual) size. The final location, size and configuration of new open space will be determined during the strategy implementation and will be influenced by factors such as the rate of population growth, land acquisition opportunities, surrounding land use and urban layout, open space design and community feedback.

Diagram Key
- Indicative location for proposed Capital City open space – refer to page 6 description
- Indicative location for proposed Municipal open space, to be a minimum of 3 hectares
- Indicative location for proposed Capital City & Regional open space along the Maribyrnong River that provides a range of environmental and recreational improvements by increasing and varying the width of the open space corridor
- Improved open space corridor along Moonee Ponds Creek including environmental values and linear recreational use
- Symbolic existing and future strategic open space links between proposed Capital City and Municipal open space
- Existing open space
- Restricted open space
- Urban renewal areas
  (Source: Draft Municipal Strategic Statement July 2010)
- Existing Port of Melbourne land use
- Waterways/Harbour
Overall direction – proposed additional smaller open spaces

This diagram illustrates the proposed additional smaller open spaces required to address some existing deficiencies and to cater for the forecast growth described in the Draft Municipal Strategic Statement (July 2010) and summarised in this report. These additional smaller quality open spaces will have either a Neighbourhood, Local or Small Local role in the future open space network and provide a diversity of local recreation and informal facilities and spaces. These spaces serve local use and are located within an easy and safe walking distance for the majority of the community.

The precinct summaries provide more information on the intent and purpose of each proposed open space. The additional open spaces shown here and on the precinct plans are diagrammatic only and indicative of the general location and relative (not actual) size. The final location, size and configuration of new open space will be determined during the strategy implementation and will be influenced by factors such as the rate of population growth, land acquisition opportunities, surrounding land use and urban layout, open space design and community feedback.

NOTE:
The actual location of new open space will be subject to further investigation as future development occurs.
Overview
The open space analysis has been undertaken on a precinct basis to allow more detailed assessment of the existing situation and forecast future change. The precincts are broadly based on the suburb areas, with some suburbs combined where there are commonalities between them. A separate page for each precinct is included, and they have been assembled in alphabetical order.

Forecast future growth
Throughout all precincts, the urban renewal areas are illustrated on the diagrams. These urban renewal areas are based on the City of Melbourne Growth Framework Plan in the Draft Municipal Strategic Statement (July 2010), and in some cases have been refined through the development of structure plans. The forecast population figures included in these precincts are consistent with the forecasts prepared by the City of Melbourne and consistent with the Growth Framework Plan. The open space analysis and directions are based on these forecasts.

Additional open spaces
The additional open spaces are shown symbolically on the precincts plans. The final location, size and configuration of new open space will be determined during strategy implementation and will be influenced by factors such as the rate of population growth, land acquisition opportunities, surrounding land use and urban layout, and preparation of open space designs and community feedback.

Existing open spaces
Some of the existing open spaces are recommended for upgrade as shown on the precinct diagrams. The open spaces not recommended for upgrade will continue to be maintained with minor improvements as required to retain the quality of the open space network.

Existing master plans
Master plans are in place for the major open spaces in Melbourne, and there is a progressive program of implementation works and scheduled reviews arising from these plans. When the master plans are reviewed, the overall directions in this strategy will be taken into consideration and inform the updated master plans.

Structure Plans
Structure plans guide future development and change in the urban renewal areas. Where structure plans were final and in place for precincts such as Southbank, these are reflected in the precinct recommendations of the strategy. The open space component of future structure plans will be informed by this Open Space Strategy.

City of Melbourne Open Space Strategy
**Precinct summary**

The characteristic open spaces in this precinct include Princes Park, Carlton Gardens and Argyle Square. Forecast change is planned to occur in Carlton with the City North urban renewal area encompassing part of Carlton and other major urban renewal associated with the public housing redevelopments. Additional Local open spaces are to be provided in the urban renewal areas and designed to complement the facilities already provided in Lincoln and University Squares. Additional Small Local open spaces are either already set aside or will be provided as part of the public housing redevelopment projects. Carlton Gardens North and South will continue to be managed to protect its World Heritage status, and Carlton Gardens North will also be managed for local use and regional needs. Princes Park will continue to be managed primarily for organised sporting, unstructured recreational activities and informal use.

**Forecast in population change**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Carlton</th>
<th>Carlton North</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residents</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>(14,644)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2026</td>
<td>(23,773)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workers</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>(7,825)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2026</td>
<td>(24,147)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

= 5,000 people

**Gap Analysis**

Walking distance access to existing open space (gaps shown in white – Note: there are none in this precinct)
Docklands

Gap Analysis walking distance access to existing open space (gaps shown in white)

Forecast in population change

 Residents:
• 2011 (6,134)
• 2026 (14,205)

 Workers:
• 2011 (33,503)
• 2026 (44,000)

Precinct summary

Docklands is entering its second decade of development. The vision for the open space system is to increase its diversity including natural features, its connection to the water and harbour, and improve recreational opportunities for the Docklands community. This includes a Municipal open space with active organised and unstructured community sporting facilities, and other Local open spaces with unstructured recreation facilities encouraging physical fitness. A new Local park in the New Quay area is to be developed along with additional Local open spaces in the Yarra’s Edge and Victoria Harbour precincts. These spaces are proposed to be connected with a continuous public open space reserve along the waterfront with access to the water’s edge celebrating Victoria Harbour and the Yarra River as key strengths of Docklands. Moonee Ponds Creek linear open space corridor will continue to be improved providing recreational and habitat connectivity to the future Municipal open space; north to E-Gate and Arden Macaulay urban renewal areas and to New Quay Promenade.
Docklands

Achieve a public open space promenade link to the future Municipal open space

Continue to improve the riparian and linear open space function values of Moonee Ponds Creek

New Local open space already agreed to by the Victorian Government

New Municipal open space to provide structured and unstructured sport and recreation facilities for the community

New Local open space already agreed to by the Victorian Government

New Local open space connected to public open space along the Yarra River and complement the facilities in Point Park

New Small Local open space within easy walking distance of future development with access to Yarra River frontage for connectivity

Provide public open space along the south bank of the Yarra River

Establish a new Local open space in this location

New Small Local open space already agreed to by the Victorian Government

Proposed public access along the north bank of the Yarra River between Collins Landing and proposed new open spaces

New Local open space already agreed to by the Victorian Government at the intersection of Collins and Bourke Streets

New Municipal open space to provide structured and unstructured sport and recreation facilities for the community

New Local open space already agreed to by the Victorian Government

Future open space link to have a more interactive edge with the Harbour including different levels of access to the water

New local open space already agreed to by the Victorian Government

Review the design to better meet the local community needs

New Small Local open space already agreed to by the Victorian Government

New Small Local open space accessible to the nearby population

New Small Local open space already agreed to by the Victorian Government

New Local open space already agreed to by the Victorian Government at the intersection of Collins and Bourke Streets

New local open space already agreed to by the Victorian Government

Establish a new Local open space in this location

New Small Local open space already agreed to by the Victorian Government

New Local open space already agreed to by the Victorian Government

New Municipal open space already agreed to by the Victorian Government

Provide public open space

Complete the upgrade works

New Municipal open space to provide structured and unstructured sport and recreation facilities for the community

New Local open space already agreed to by the Victorian Government

Achieve a public open space promenade link to the future Municipal open space

Docklands

Sub-precinct for proposed Local and Small Local open space

Indicative location for proposed Municipal open space

Refer to diagram key on page 12 for additional information.

City of Melbourne Open Space Strategy
**East Melbourne**

**Forecast in population change**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Residents:</th>
<th>Workers:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Melbourne</td>
<td>(5,162)</td>
<td>(5,770)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2026</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(21,080)</td>
<td>(25,000)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

= 5,000 people

**Jolimont Railway urban renewal area**

There are no population forecasts available as the timeframe for this development is beyond 2026.

**Gap Analysis** walking distance access to existing open space (there are no gaps in this precinct)

**Precinct summary**

East Melbourne is an established area with significant State and Capital City open space including Fitzroy Gardens, Treasury Gardens, Yarra Park and the MCG. Established neighbourhoods are forecast to grow with a larger worker population and a slight increase in the residential community. The precinct is well provided for with a variety of open space types and character and these will continue to be managed and maintained. Demand for unstructured recreation activities and informal use from the forecast additional worker population will continue to be accommodated in the key existing open spaces. Upgrades are proposed to some of the smaller open spaces, and it is recommended that improved access to Weedon Reserve be investigated. Fitzroy Gardens is the most popular open space and continued implementation of the updated Master Plan will be a priority. The Jolimont Railway Corridor urban renewal area is forecast for redevelopment beyond the timeframe of this Strategy. It is likely that additional open space may be required as part of any redevelopment.

Future proposed Jolimont Railway Corridor urban renewal area may require additional Local open space subject to further details

Maintaining connectivity for this area over the railway to Birrarung Marr and open space along the Yarra River will continue to be important.

City of Melbourne to continue to advocate on behalf of the local community to maintain public access and use of Yarra Park whilst recognising its role in supporting the MCG.
**Precinct summary**

Melbourne Showgrounds and Flemington Racecourse are the major land uses in this precinct and there is currently no residential community living in these suburbs within the City of Melbourne. The Racecourse Rail Corridor urban renewal area is forecast to accommodate nearly 5,000 residents by 2026 and some additional workers. New open space is proposed including neighbourhood level facilities provided in a proposed Capital City open space adjoining the Maribyrnong River, and two Small Local parks within walking distance of the development area.

**Gap Analysis**

- **Residents:**
  - 2011 (0)
  - 2026 (4,950)

- **Workers:**
  - 2011 (367)
  - 2026 (500)

**Diagram key**

- Sub-precinct for proposed Local and Small Local open space
- Indicative location for proposed Capital City open space

Refer to diagram key on page 12 for additional information.
### Kensington

#### Forecast in population change

- **Arden Macaulay urban renewal area**
  - **Residents:**
    - 2011: 365
    - 2026: 2,741
  - **Workers:**
    - 2011: 1,459
    - 2026: 12,000

- **Kensington remainder of suburb**
  - **Residents:**
    - 2011: 10,095
    - 2026: 10,488
  - **Workers:**
    - 2011: 3,808
    - 2026: 8,000

- **Gap Analysis**
  - Walking distance access to existing open space (gaps shown in white)

#### Precinct summary

Substantial change in the Kensington Arden Macaulay urban renewal area is forecast to increase the resident and worker population. Two new Neighbourhood parks and some smaller open spaces are proposed to cater to the community needs. These will cater for a diversity of unstructured recreational activities and informal use, and include green spaces and natural features as a contrast to increased urban densities assisting with urban heat mitigation. The importance of the Maribyrnong River is recognised with the opportunity to create a linear open space link between the Maribyrnong River and Moonee Ponds Creek, increasing the network of open space available to the community. On the east banks of the Maribyrnong River a new Capital City open space will expand on the existing linear reserve creating high quality open space near the river. Improvements to and consolidation of the linear open space along the Moonee Ponds Creek will connect proposed new Municipal open space in E-Gate and Docklands.
Kensington

Continue to implement existing Master Plan

Future Capital City open space overlooking the Maribyrnong River mainly for the new population in Arden Macaulay urban renewal area and to create high quality open space that celebrates the river outlook

Future open space link between Moonee Ponds Creek and the Maribyrnong River

Moonee Ponds creek linear link south to Proposed Capital City & Municipal open space at E-Gate and Docklands

Improve the Moonee Ponds Creek linear open space, habitat and biodiversity values

New Local open space for the community protected from the noise of City Link

New Neighbourhood park with a diversity of facilities and natural features for the community north of Macaulay Rd

Upgrade existing open space to cater to community needs

Minor upgrade

Improves east-west cycle and pedestrian connection

New Neighbourhood park with a diversity of facilities and natural features

Improves east-west cycle and pedestrian connection

If this area substantially redevelops, a new Small Local open space will be needed

Diagram key

- Sub-precinct for proposed Local and Small Local open space
- Indicative location for proposed Capital City open space
- Improved open space corridor along Moonee Ponds Creek
- Refer to diagram key on page 12 for additional information.
**Precinct summary**

The Melbourne 3000 central city area was originally designed with a ring of open space around the central grid rather than within it. The inherent strength of the larger open spaces around the grid will continue to be the main areas of open space for this community into the future. Gardens and forecourts to buildings have formed an integral part of the public realm, and more public open spaces in this form is encouraged through the central city as it continues to intensify. This is to accommodate an expanding community of workers and residents in Melbourne 3000. There will also be an increasing number of small green oases provided as retreat spaces within the central city grid. These spaces will not interrupt the strength and value of the grid but expand on the existing highly valued public open spaces such as the Library Forecourt, City Square and Federation Square. These spaces will encourage people outdoors close to where they live and work and provide places to pause, observe and rest. The green character will be driven by sustainable water harvesting and reuse with the intention to create moist and cool spaces in summer that have a role in urban heat island effect mitigation.

**Gap Analysis** walking distance access to existing open space (gaps shown in white)

**Diagram key** (Refer also to page 12)

- Sub-precinct for proposed Local and Small Local open space

**Forecast in population change**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Residents</th>
<th>Workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>21,080</td>
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<tr>
<td>2026</td>
<td>35,264</td>
<td>323,885</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

= 30,000 people

Investigate potential open space in the vicinity of the Queen Victoria Market which complements existing cultural and retail activity while also catering to the needs of the growing community of City North urban renewal area. This has potential to include upgrades to existing open spaces and/or the utilisation of road reserves.

Provide new Small Local open spaces through the core area of the central grid that form green oases and encourage people to spend time outside.

Investigate opportunities to provide Small Local open space as green oases in the central grid in these major redevelopment sites.

Provide additional Small open spaces through the core area of the central grid that form retreats and encourage people to spend time outside.

Continue to maintain some of the informal character to this open space in any future redevelopment, particularly the open grassed areas, and protect the space from further overshadowing to retain sunlight access to the north bank of the Yarra River.

Investigate the potential to secure at least part of the church grounds as public open space, as part of the future network of green oases within the central grid.

Future Small Local open space associated with the Elizabeth Street/Victoria Street intersection redesign.

Investigate the potential to secure at least part of the church grounds as public open space, as part of the future network of green oases within the central grid.

City of Melbourne Open Space Strategy
Precinct summary
This significant system of parklands includes the Alexandra Gardens, Queen Victoria Gardens, Domain Parklands, the Royal Botanic Gardens and Fawkner Park. The Yarra River is a unique and central natural and cultural feature for Melbourne. It is highly valued for sporting and cultural events, habitat corridor values, and the linear reserve along it is popular for cycling/walking, informal recreation, picnics, events and festivals. These significant parklands will continue to be improved and managed for their Capital City and Regional function catering to international, national and Victorian visitors, as well as the local community. Increased visitation is forecast for the central city and this will place increasing demands on these spaces. The population living and working in this precinct is not forecast to change substantially, however increased use will occur from the central city population. Ongoing open space upgrade works and management will focus on providing for visitors balanced with maintaining the character and facilities for the local and central business district population.

Gap Analysis walking distance access to existing open space (gaps shown in white)

Forecast in population change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Precinct</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2026</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Melbourne 3004</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents</td>
<td>1,630</td>
<td>2,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workers</td>
<td>23,411</td>
<td>28,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>South Yarra</strong></td>
<td>4,702</td>
<td>4,724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents</td>
<td>23,411</td>
<td>28,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workers</td>
<td>23,411</td>
<td>28,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Improve pedestrian/cycle connection between Yarra Park, Goschs Paddock and The Tan/Royal Botanic Gardens

Recognise the important role Melbourne Park has in holding major sport and entertainment events including the Australian Open

Continue to advocate to retain informal public access and use of this open space when not in use for training purposes

Continue to maintain The Tan Track around the Royal Botanic Gardens which is extremely well used by both the worker and residential population

Royal Botanic Gardens are recognised as one of the most popular open spaces in Melbourne

Continue to implement the existing Master Plan for Fawkner Park
Substantial change is proposed in two urban renewal areas in North Melbourne: Arden Macaulay in the west and City North in the east. In the east, a range of new open spaces are proposed along with upgrades and expansion to existing parks. In the west new open spaces of different sizes in the Arden Macaulay urban renewal area will meet a variety of recreational needs. These will incorporate natural features as a contrast to higher urban densities, providing green spaces that contribute to mitigating urban heat build up and for the community to enjoy.

The focus in the west is a major new Capital City open space near the proposed Arden Metro Station creating a focus and meeting place, large enough to support a variety of informal recreational uses including festivals and events. Organised and unstructured sport and recreational needs of the future population will be provided for at the proposed Municipal open space in Dynon Rail Corridor (West Melbourne) and at E-Gate.

Combined, the new and improved open spaces will contribute to the health and wellbeing of the community and assist with urban heat island mitigation.
North Melbourne

Two new Local open spaces with good north/south access between them and with natural features and a sense of escape from busy traffic noise and movement

Major upgrade

Upgrade in the context of the new open space proposed in this local area

Investigate potential expansion of Clayton Reserve and North Melbourne Recreation Reserve to form a larger open space to meet population forecasts beyond 2026 as per the Arden Macaulay Structure Plan

New Local park designed to complement the other nearby open spaces

New Capital City open space near the proposed Metro for staging future events and for local recreation use

New Small Local open space linked to Moonee Ponds Creek linear trail for local use

Improve the Moonee Ponds Creek linear link south to proposed Capital City and Municipal open space at Docklands

Upgrade to potentially improve sporting use, picnic facilities and continue to support the community garden

Investigate improving access across Flemington Road to Royal Park

New open space within walking distance of the local community

Upgrade

Upgrade and investigate opportunities to increase its size

Proposed expansion and upgrade

Minor upgrade

New Local open space for forecast population as part of City North Structure Plan

Investigate increasing the size of this open space to create a functional Small Local park

Utilise part of a road reserve to establish a new Small Local open space incorporating natural features providing an escape from traffic noise and movement

Diagram key

- Sub-precinct for proposed Local and Small Local open space
- Indicative location for proposed Capital City open space
- Improved open space corridor along Moonee Ponds Creek
- Refer to diagram key on page 12 for additional information.

City of Melbourne Open Space Strategy
Parkville

Forecast in population change

- 5,000 people

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parkville</th>
<th>Residents:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 2011 (5,773)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 2026 (5,826)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workers:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 2011 (27,109)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2026 (29,221)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Precinct summary

Royal Park is the major open space in Parkville and comprises the majority of this precinct. This extensive parkland provides for local community use as well as statewide and international visitors to the Zoological Gardens and the State Netball and Hockey Centre. Levers Reserve provides an important local open space for the community in the south, and the Galada Avenue Reserve and the system of smaller open spaces provide for the community living and working in the Parkville Gardens area. While the population is not forecast to increase substantially in Parkville, the forecast population growth in the north and west areas of the municipality are likely to result in increased visitors to Royal Park. With the ongoing implementation of the Royal Park Master Plan, improvements that benefit the local community will need to be prioritised in balance with works to the Municipal level facilities.

Gap Analysis: walking distance access to existing open space (there are no gaps)

Diagram key

- Continue to implement Royal Park Master Plan
- Continue to develop existing Small Local and Local open spaces as the population grows
- Capital City Trail link to Princes Park, Hardy Gallagher Reserve, and Merri Creek
- Investigate improved pedestrian and cycle links across Flemington Road – refer to North Melbourne Precinct
- Some land adjacent to Gatehouse Street, currently occupied by the Royal Childrens Hospital, to be returned to parkland in the future
- Minor upgrade

Diagram (Refer to page 12)
**Precinct summary**

The non-residential land use and worker community is forecast to continue to expand in Port Melbourne. The existing precinct is characterised by wharf and port related activities associated with the Yarra River and Hobsons Bay. If this current land use pattern continues, two additional Local open spaces are proposed in the vicinity of Turner Street. A future open space link is proposed between the proposed new Local open spaces and Westgate Park that includes a combination of off-road and on-road links. Additionally, the Yarra River frontage, which is currently accessible between Pier 35 and Westgate Port, is to be upgraded, along with potential improvements to Westgate Park in consultation with Parks Victoria. In the longer term if the port related activities change at the South Wharves, a future continuous public open space is to be established on the south bank of the Yarra River between Docklands and Westgate Park however, there are no plans for the port operations to change in the future. Additional open space, including consideration of Municipal and Municipal open space, would need to be considered if there is a land-use change to include residential use in Port Melbourne and increased urban density.

**Gap Analysis**

Walking distance access to existing open space (gaps shown in white)

**Future change**

There is no major change forecast in Port Melbourne. If this were to change in the future, additional open space may be required.

**Precinct summary**

The non-residential land use and worker community is forecast to continue to expand in Port Melbourne. The existing precinct is characterised by wharf and port related activities associated with the Yarra River and Hobsons Bay. If this current land use pattern continues, two additional Local open spaces are proposed in the vicinity of Turner Street. A future open space link is proposed between the proposed new Local open spaces and Westgate Park that includes a combination of off-road and on-road links. Additionally, the Yarra River frontage, which is currently accessible between Pier 35 and Westgate Port, is to be upgraded, along with potential improvements to Westgate Park in consultation with Parks Victoria. In the longer term if the port related activities change at the South Wharves, a future continuous public open space is to be established on the south bank of the Yarra River between Docklands and Westgate Park however, there are no plans for the port operations to change in the future. Additional open space, including consideration of Municipal and Municipal open space, would need to be considered if there is a land-use change to include residential use in Port Melbourne and increased urban density.

**Future change**

There is no major change forecast in Port Melbourne. If this were to change in the future, additional open space may be required.

**Gap Analysis**

Walking distance access to existing open space (gaps shown in white)
Southbank is forecast for continued redevelopment, attracting more people to live and work in the precinct. The Southbank Structure Plan 2010 sets a vision for improving the sustainability and liveability of Southbank accommodating this forecast growth. Additional open space located within Southbank will contribute to this vision. Sections of the wide road reserves are proposed to be converted to small open spaces while other new open spaces will be located amongst the high density areas providing quality small green spaces that are protected, creating a respite away from traffic noise and movement. The Structure Plan identified the opportunity to deck over the Burnley tunnel entrance to improve pedestrian connectivity in Southbank. If this occurs, this Strategy recommends a large open space be established as part of the reclaimed area, providing organised and unstructured sport and recreational facilities and a range of other informal facilities to create a community recreation hub in Southbank.

**Forecast in population change**

- **Southbank**
  - Residents:
    - 2011: 13,107
    - 2026: 23,282
  - Workers:
    - 2011: 37,796
    - 2026: 46,000

**Gap Analysis** walking distance access to existing open space (gaps shown in white)

**Diagram key** (Refer also to page 12)

- Sub-precinct for proposed Local and Small Local open space
- Sub-precinct for proposed Neighbourhood open space
- Indicative location for proposed Capital City open space
- Indicative location for proposed Municipal open space

**Precinct summary**

Reconfigure Southbank Boulevard to establish new Local open space

Establish a new Neighbourhood park at the former Boyd School site including natural features, green space and a diversity of facilities for the local community

New Small Local open space within safe walking distance for the local community

Upgrade with improved facilities for local use and urban heat island mitigation

Reconfigure Southbank Boulevard to establish new Local open space

Investigate potential to reconfigure and redesign to improve the function of these open spaces

Investigate the potential to expand the size and redesign to better meet the needs of existing and forecast population

If the future deck over the Burnley tunnel proceeds, a large Capital City and Municipal open space is to be established with community sport, recreation and informal use

- **Sturt Street cultural spine** will potentially provide additional Capital City open space
- **Improve shade**
- **Investigate the potential to expand the size and redesign to better meet the needs of existing and forecast population**

City of Melbourne Open Space Strategy
Forecast in population change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011 (1,397)</th>
<th>2026 (6,877)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residents:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Melbourne balance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workers:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Precinct summary

Change is forecast in parts of West Melbourne, including at E–Gate and in the Dynon Rail Corridor urban renewal area. A new Municipal open space is proposed in the Dynon Rail Corridor to provide organised and unstructured sport and recreation facilities for the future population in the north-west.

In E–Gate new Capital City and Municipal open space is proposed. The Municipal open space accommodates organised and unstructured sport and recreation facilities and informal use. The Capital City open space will be used for major events and festivals.

A series of other smaller open spaces are proposed in West Melbourne to improve accessibility and diversity of open space for the existing and future population. This includes providing additional open spaces that are protected from through traffic with natural features as a contrast to the built urban character. Flagstaff Gardens will remain a key area of open space that is highly valued and well used by people living and working in West Melbourne and Melbourne 3000 central city.
West Melbourne

Diagram key

- Sub-precinct for proposed Local and Small Local open space
- Indicative location for proposed Capital City open space
- Indicative location for proposed Municipal open space

Refer to diagram key on page 12 for additional information.
Implementation

Overview
The projects in this strategy will be implemented over a 15 year timeframe. To achieve the major new open spaces the City of Melbourne will work in partnership with the Victorian Government and the development industry. The planning for the major new open spaces needs to occur early in the planning process for urban renewal areas to ensure that adequate land area is set aside. Smaller open spaces will be created through site redevelopment and conversion of government land.

Responsibilities
The City of Melbourne will take a lead implementation role. Successful implementation will require the following:
- The Victorian Government contributes to the future Capital City and Regional open space network on behalf of the international and statewide visitors.
- The Victorian Government converts state owned land to provide the land area for the additional Municipal open space network.
- The development industry provides open space contributions (cash or land) on behalf of the forecast population towards additional land area and capital works to achieve the strategy outcomes.
- The City of Melbourne provides facilities and open space land area on behalf of the existing community open space needs.

Funding
Funding for the capital works and 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.
- Open space contributions with rates of 8 per cent and 5 per cent to be established in the City of Melbourne Planning Scheme. These contributions will be required as a land and/or a cash contribution at Council’s discretion.

Next steps
- Implement the open space contribution rate/s in the planning scheme.
- Undertake detailed investigations into the provision of additional open spaces identified in the strategy in existing and urban renewal areas.
- Continue to implement master plans for major parks including upgrade works.
- Plan for and upgrade existing open spaces as identified in the precinct recommendations.
How to contact us

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(public holidays excluded)

**Translation services**

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03 9280 0718  Ελληνικά
03 9280 0719  Bahasa Indonesia
03 9280 0720  Italiano
03 9280 0721  阿語
03 9280 0722  سومناالی
03 9280 0723  Español
03 9280 0724  Türkçe
03 9280 0725  Việt Nguyễn
03 9280 0726  All other languages

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