

Hobsons Bay Open Space Strategy

2018–28



**HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL**



Traditional Owners

Council acknowledges all language groups of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of these municipal lands. We recognise the first people's relationship to this land and offer our respect to their elders past and present.

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The Project Team would like to thank the following members of Council staff for committing their time to sit on the project control group for the strategy: Kathleen McClusky, Ian Brown, Marg Scanlon, Paris Zenenos, Chris Willard, Bill Millard, Kaylene Johnson, Marc Basilio and Sanjay Manivasagasivam.

Community

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE PURPOSE OF THE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

The Open Space Strategy is Council's key strategic document that will guide the provision, protection, planning, design and management of open space in Hobsons Bay.

The Open Space Strategy provides a framework for Council to set priorities and make decisions on the maintenance, upgrade and development of both existing and new spaces or facilities, which will cater for the current and future needs of the Hobsons Bay Community.

This document incorporates an assessment of the key open spaces across the municipality. This includes (but is not limited to) sport grounds (including fields, pitches, courts and associated infrastructure), sports club pavilions, indoor stadiums, parks for family and social recreation, playgrounds, shared trails, foreshore spaces, conservation and heritage parks.

The Strategy will guide the development of the 10 year capital works program and the equitable, targeted use of the Council Open Space Reserve Fund (Public Resort and Recreation Fund) to accommodate the open space requirements of new communities.

The principles and standards outlined in this strategy for open space provisions together with a costed assessment of projected open space capital works, are critical to the successful development of the Open Space Development Contributions Framework for Hobsons Bay and subsequent Planning Scheme amendment (see attached Developer Contributions Framework report).

This document contains the following information:

Overview of background work to date (including Council's work) and key changes to the municipality, since the last Open Space Strategy (2005) was prepared

Outline of the current provision and demand for open space in Hobsons Bay including an analysis of existing open space and its condition and function

Definition of an open space hierarchy for Hobsons Bay, and classification of its open spaces into the hierarchy

Reference to the findings from the *Sports Facilities Needs Assessment and Open Space Contributions Framework Report*

A clear list of actions for Hobsons Bay (including maintenance, upgrades or new open spaces recommended in future).

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Hobsons Bay City Council last developed an Open Space Strategic Plan in 2005. Over the past decade, the community has grown, demographics and recreation trends have changed, and climate change impacts are better understood.

As a result of rapid changes occurring within the municipality, the pace of open space improvements or provision of new spaces or functions has not been able to keep up.

Recognising this, over the past two years, Council has undertaken a range of investigations (including broad conversations with local residents, workers and visitors) and research to ensure that the new strategy reflects current open space challenges, strategic directions and the needs of the Hobsons Bay community.

A metropolitan and regional coastal recreation destination

Hobsons Bay City Council has two out of three swimming beaches in the western metropolitan area of Melbourne, and two out of three known recreational fishing boat launches. It is a popular tourist and regional destination, for its historic post-colonial architecture and land use in Williamstown.

The municipality is well served by an off road shared trail network including the Hobsons Bay Coastal (Bay) Trail that extends all the way from Spotswood to Seabrook, the Kororoit Creek shared trail, the Laverton Creek shared trail and the Skeleton Creek shared trail. This extensive shared trail network extends through significant coastal and creek conservation zones which is also a key reason for regional visitation and use.

Population and Open Space

The current Hobsons Bay population is 93,390 and the forecast population is set to increase by 20% by 2036, to approximately 112,642 (based on the 2016 Census, as analysed by .id Consulting, 2017).

Almost a quarter of Hobsons Bay's total area is open space: 23.67% within Council's ownership, while a third of all land in the municipality is open space. Compared to other middle ring municipalities, in Melbourne, this more than double the average rate of 13.4%.

Despite this impressive figure, a large proportion of this open space is encumbered (i.e. constrained in terms of use or development for recreational purposes). Here, the proportion of encumbered open space is 13.68%, while the metropolitan average is 5.9%.

Although Hobsons Bay has a higher proportion of open space compared to elsewhere, many high quality, multifunctional open spaces such as Newport Park are located along the coastline. This means that those living in inland parts of the municipality have less access to open space than their coastal neighbours.

Aboriginal Heritage

The Aboriginal people who lived in what we now know as the City of Hobsons Bay are known as the Yalukit-willam, a name meaning “river camp” or “river dwellers”.

The Yalukit-willam are associated with the coastal land at the head of Port Phillip Bay that extends from the Werribee River and includes Altona and Williamstown.

The Environment

Prior to European settlement, the natural botanic environment of Hobsons Bay included coastal saltmarsh, heathland, riparian wetlands and creek tributaries, in addition to significant grassland and scattered woodland communities.

Despite the developments of today, Hobsons Bay continues to support significant marine areas. This includes wetlands and coastal parks such as the Truganina Swamp, and Explosives Reserve, Cherry Lake, the Altona Coastal Park, Jawbone Reserve, Newport Lakes and the internationally recognised Cheetham Wetlands which is Ramsar listed.

Five waterways run through the municipality including Skeleton Creek, Laverton Creek, Cherry Creek, Kororoit Creek and Stony Creek.

The development of petro-chemical industries in the Altona and Altona North areas requires the need for safe residential setbacks which has resulted in the preservation and protection of some significant remnant grassland and coastal conservation open spaces for the City.

VISION AND PRINCIPLES FOR OPEN SPACE PLANNING

The Hobsons Bay Open Space Strategy is underpinned by a vision and set of principles that will guide implementation over the next 10-20 years.

The vision and principles have been prepared in close consultation with Council staff and are based on community priorities identified in Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision and the 2017-21 Council Plan.

Vision

Hobsons Bay open spaces are accessible, connected, safe and inviting places.

The network is well-maintained, well-designed and environmentally sustainable. It is recognised, protected and enhanced for its heritage and cultural importance, its contribution to human recreation and wellbeing, and its biodiversity and conservation values.

Equity and diversity underpin the design and location of open spaces at every scale across the municipality, enabling all Hobsons Bay residents, workers and visitors to delight in local open spaces.

PRINCIPLES OF OPEN SPACE PLANNING

Distribution, Access and Connectivity

Open spaces are equitably distributed within a safe 10-minute walk for 95% of residents, are well-connected, safe and co-located with community infrastructure.

Quality

Open spaces are designed to meet minimum service standards, be multi-purpose, multi-functional and enhance community appreciation, reflect community values and be adaptable to changing needs.

Provision and Diversity

The quantity of open space is sufficient to cater for a diverse range of community uses and groups; the purpose of open spaces also caters for different types of amenity.

Environment

The network of open spaces supports biodiversity and habitat links, while being resource-efficient, sustainable and resilient to climate change.

OPEN SPACE HIERARCHY

For the purpose of this strategy, open space is defined as publicly-owned land that is readily available to the community, and is currently set aside (or has potential to be set aside) primarily for recreation, nature conservation and passive outdoor enjoyment.

Hierarchy of Open Space in Hobsons Bay

The proposed hierarchy of open spaces in Hobsons Bay is generally reflective of the requirements of Clause 56.05-2 (Standard C13) of the Planning Scheme, and contains 5 key categories of open space for the Hobsons Bay network.

The total area of open space land is only one of several key determining factors to establish an open space area's place in the hierarchy. The Victorian State Government planning practice note (PNN70) recommends classification based on the following factors:

Catchment – where people come from to use the park e.g. local walking or regional destination.

Function – important value or purpose of the park e.g. a sports ground, a swimming beach, a conservation park or historic botanic garden.

Landscape setting type – the experience and the character of the space e.g. indigenous vegetation and natural geomorphological features or formal garden designs, manicured lawns etc.

The hierarchy for Hobsons Bay is largely based on catchment and function, however the length of time patrons are likely to spend within an open space, its landscape context (natural or constructed) and the range of facilities or infrastructure contained within it, are also influencing factors.



Figure 1. Open Space Hierarchy

MEETING CURRENT AND FUTURE DEMAND

The following pages highlight that in the context of projected population growth and existing access to open space, the areas at most risk of competition for open space or ongoing challenges accessing open space are **Altona North, Brooklyn, Laverton, and Spotswood-South Kingsville**.

A classification of parks (based on the recommended five-tier open space hierarchy) and subsequent upgrades to infrastructure and facilities may address the open space requirements for the current and projected Hobsons Bay community within particular suburbs. However, acquisition of new open space (either through shared use agreements or land purchase) may be the only way to address gaps in open space provision for some suburbs (based on the 400m walkability standard).

The Open Space Strategy identifies and costs known new and strategic land developments for public open space (e.g. Epsom Street in Laverton, Precinct 15 in Altona North). There is a limited capacity for Council to acquire additional land for open space due to the high cost and (in many instances) the need for significant remediation due to land contamination. The acquisition and disposal of land owned by Council will be guided by the draft Hobsons Bay Property Strategy.

A set of priority criteria has been developed in the Open Space Strategy to assist Council in the determining whether any future strategic opportunities for new land acquisition will fill existing open space deficits and functions (i.e. demonstrated gap in provision, adequate space for sports field's development and/or social and family recreation space, cost, level of contamination and site constraints).

A projected 10-year cost for all open space requirements has been calculated with highlighted actions to address existing

needs of the Hobsons Bay community and requirements due to population growth over the next 10 years.

The program forecasts the expenditure needed to meet identified needs to **passive open space** (e.g. parks), **formal outdoor recreation** (e.g. sports fields) and **indoor recreation** (e.g. sports pavilions).

The total expenditure among the three categories is **projected to be approximately \$145,000,000***. This figure comprises implementation of extensive works needed to improve the open space network for existing Hobsons Bay residents, and to ensure that issues of equity are addressed.

It also includes responding to extensive sport's needs, and addressing the impacts of forecast population growth for Hobsons Bay, which in some locations is more than 50% on existing population to 2036.

The Developer Contributions Framework (DCF)

The DCF has been prepared based on the projected demands for all types of open space provision for the current and future Hobsons Bay Community. An analysis of the level of funds Council has spent on the delivery of renewed, upgraded and new open space infrastructure and facilities over the 5 past years has been calculated at approximately \$7,000,000 per annum.

The DCF applies the previous and projected open space forecast expenditure, together with the Open Space Strategy service and amenity standards and recommended actions to address gaps in open space and future demand. The Framework model recommended is a variable rate based on need and projected demand for each suburb (refer to DCF report).

*Estimate only

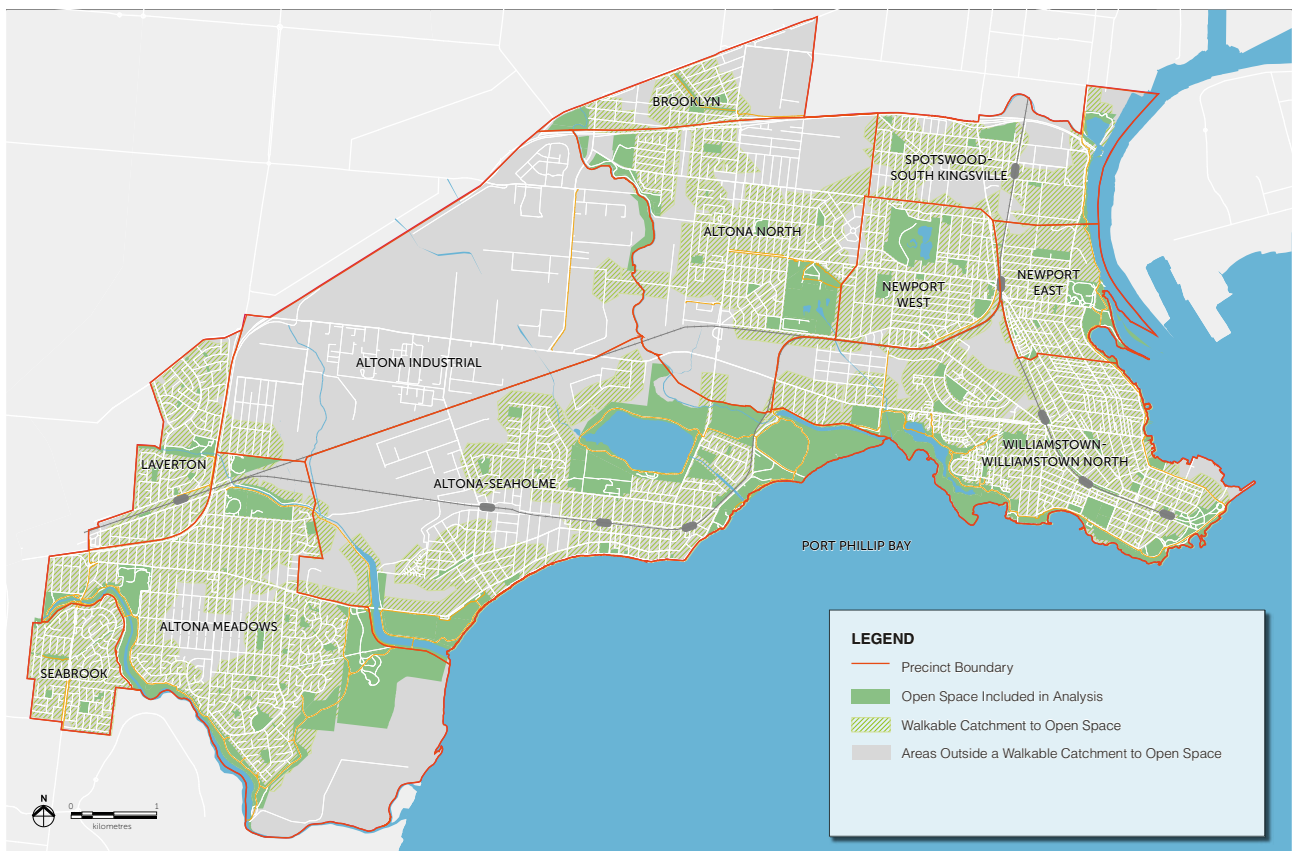
THE EXISTING OPEN SPACE NETWORK

400m Walkability Map

The planning scheme specifies that **95% of all residents should be within a 400m walking distance to open space**; this principle has been adopted as a target for the Hobsons Bay Open Space Strategy.

There are 44,786 lots within Hobsons Bay, allowing for residential development.

Of these lots, 87% are within a walkable catchment to public open space. The remaining 12% are not within a walkable catchment to open space. This is approximately 8% lower than the guidance set out by the public open space standards in the Planning Scheme.



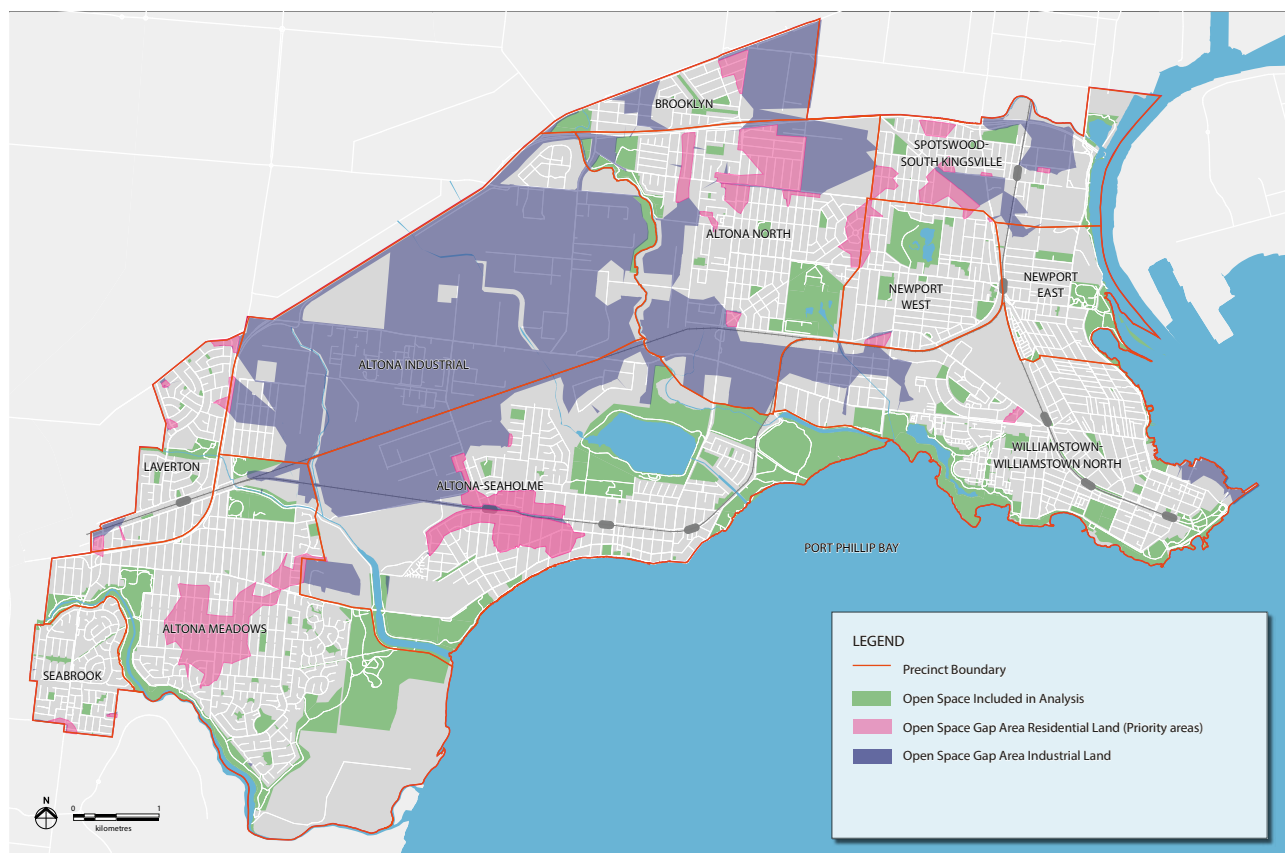
Gaps in the open space network

Residential areas with significant open space gaps include:

- Altona Meadows
- Altona (north and south of the railway)
- Altona North (west of Millers Road and surrounding The Circle Neighbourhood Centre)
- Spotswood-South Kingsville
- Brooklyn.

Non-residential areas with significant gaps in open space provision include the industrial areas in the following suburbs:

- Altona
- Brooklyn
- Williamstown North.



OPEN SPACE GAPS BY PRECINCT

Lowest average cover Lowest walkability/ access	» Altona North » Brooklyn » Spotswood-South » Kingsville	Reasonable total area, poor walkability/access; OR Poor total area, reasonable walkability/access	» Altona-Seaholme » Altona Meadows » Laverton » Seabrook	Higher than average cover (based on metropolitan average), good walkability/access	» Newport East » Newport West » Williamstown- » Williamstown North
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PRECINCT	CURRENT POPULATION 2016	FORECAST POPULATION 2036	PROJECTED GROWTH	ACCESSIBLE OPEN SPACE IN PRECINCT*	OPEN SPACE PER CAPITA 2016 (M ²)	OPEN SPACE PER CAPITA 2036 (M ²)	KEY GAPS/AREAS
Hobsons Bay Total	93,390	112,642	20.61%	7.91%	45.53m ²	37.75m ²	Altona North, Brooklyn and Spotswood-South Kingsville
Metropolitan Average				6.60%			<i>Benchmark: 95% all residential lots should be within 400m walking distance (walkable catchment) of open space.</i>
Altona-Seaholme	13,277	15,031	13.21%	9.16%	82.67m ²	73.02m ²	19.1% residents outside a walkable catchment, physical gaps in northern part of precinct and towards the west
Altona Industrial		5,013		4.86%		0.00m ²	- Gaps profound across entire precinct (e.g. for working population)
Altona Meadows	20,141	20,302	0.80%	21.65%	58.40m ²	57.94m ²	25.1% residents outside a walkable catchment, physical gaps in north-east and south-west of precinct
Altona North	12,916	20,926	62.01%	5.59%	33.74m ²	20.83m ²	20.6% residents outside a walkable catchment, physical gaps in south and central areas
Brooklyn	1,945	2,179	12.04%	6.50%	47.55m ²	42.45m ²	19.6% residents outside a walkable catchment, physical gaps in west and central areas
Laverton	5,050	7,533	49.17%	7.82%	25.88m ²	17.35m ²	4.4% residents outside a walkable catchment, good overall coverage
Newport East	4,608	4,618	0.22%	13.31%	44.54m ²	44.45m ²	0% residents outside a walkable catchment, excellent overall coverage
Newport West	8,822	9,694	9.88%	10.68%	32.14m ²	29.25m ²	1.4% residents outside a walkable catchment, excellent overall coverage
Seabrook	5,439	4,847	-10.89%	6.36%	15.68m ²	17.60m ²	1.6% residents outside a walkable catchment, excellent overall coverage
Spotswood-South Kingsville	4,790	8,841	84.58%	3.00%	22.91m ²	12.41m ²	20% residents outside a walkable catchment, physical gaps in northern and central areas
Williamstown- Williamstown North	16,401	18,669	12.25%	12.18%	38.73m ²	44.08m ²	1% residents outside a walkable catchment, excellent overall coverage


*This figure includes encumbered open space that is accessible (has unrestricted access) to the public and land not in Council's ownership.

APPLYING OPEN SPACE PLANNING PRINCIPLES TO THE ACTIONS


Applying the four key principles of open space planning outlined in the Strategy, the recommended actions from the Hobsons Bay include broad actions that relate to the entire open space network, and specific recommended actions by precinct. A number of the broad actions identify areas where further strategic planning, or where policy development and advocacy by Council to other statutory authorities, may be required. The actions are ranked as either high (1 to 2 years), medium (3 to 5 years) or low (5+

years) priority in terms of implementation. The lead unit or department for each action denotes the responsible Council department, and the partners include other Council departments, state government and statutory bodies for referral. The tables over the following pages provide an example of typical actions and priorities under each of the four open space planning principles, and a full list of actions is contained in Chapter 4 of this strategy.

Distribution, Access and Connectivity

PRINCIPLE	ACTION	PRIORITY	LEAD UNIT/ DEPARTMENT	PARTNERS
<p>Open spaces are within a safe, five minute walk of 95% of residents, are well-connected, safe and collocated with community infrastructure.</p> 	Develop a 10 year local community park upgrade program based on condition of assets, level of amenity, function and accessibility.	High	Active Communities	Open Space Operations Asset Planning Capital Works
	Implement Council's Footpath Policy and review Council's new and replacement footpath program to align with priority walking routes to public spaces.	High	Capital Works	Asset Planning Roads Operations Active Communities
	Undertake an assessment of hazardous pedestrian crossing points to identify priorities for improvement.	High	Capital Works (Traffic Management)	Active Communities Asset Planning
	Investigate the viability of improving open space access to identified residential gap areas, including but not limited to; Spotswood, South Kingsville, Altona North, Altona Meadows.	Medium	Active Communities	Property Services Strategic Planning Asset Planning
	Increase open space access to identified industrial gap areas, including but not limited to Williamstown North and Brooklyn.	Medium	Active Communities	Property Services Strategic Planning Asset Planning


Environment

PRINCIPLE	ACTION	PRIORITY	LEAD UNIT/ DEPARTMENT	PARTNERS
<p>The network of open spaces supports biodiversity and habitat links, while being resource efficient, and responds to climate change adaptation.</p> 	Support the implementation actions from Council's Biodiversity Strategy as they relate to the management and protection of significant conservation open spaces	High	Open Space Operations (Conservation Team)	Sustainability Open Space and City Design Asset Planning Capital Works
	Continue to implement the priority capital works actions identified in the Foreshore Status report 2015.	High	Active Communities (Recreation Planner)	Asset Planning Capital Works Sustainability Open Space Operations
	Develop a Street & Park Tree Strategy that guides the management and protection of trees and increases shade provision and habitat links.	High	City Operations (Open Space) Open Space and City Design	City Operations Statutory Planning Capital Works Sustainability
	Develop a policy on water management in open spaces, detailing when open space and passive parkland is to be irrigated.	High	City Operations (Open Space) Open Space and City Design	City Operations Sustainability Capital Works
	Incorporate the priorities from Council's Integrated Water Management Plan to ensure water sensitive urban design principles are considered in the planning and design of open space.	High	Active Communities	City Operations (Open Space) Sustainability Capital Works

Provision and Diversity

PRINCIPLE	ACTION	PRIORITY	LEAD UNIT/ DEPARTMENT	PARTNERS
<p>There is enough open space to cater for a diverse range of community groups; the variety of open space types also offers differing levels of amenity and multi-function.</p> 	Adopt the proposed hierarchy of open space to ensure a diverse mix of open spaces of varying sizes from regional through to local parks.	High	Open Space and City Design	City Operations (Open Space) Active Communities Strategic Planning Asset Planning
	Adopt the Service Standards linked to the Open Space Hierarchy, to guide the development of open space and ensure diversity between the open space park classifications.	High	Open Space and City Design	City Operations (Open Space) Active Communities Strategic Planning Asset Planning Capital works
	Investigate the possibility of additional Joint User Agreements with local schools, to enable community use for sports purposes.	Medium	Active Communities	Property Services City Operations (Open Space) Open Space and City Design
	Explore and identify suitable potential spaces for designated dog parks, review the off lead status of parks and amend the Local Law to strengthen the protection of vulnerable habitats and reduce conflicts in the use of space (shared trails, play spaces and sports fields).	High to Medium	Open Space and City Design Local Laws	Active Communities City Operations (Open Space & Conservation) Local laws
	Identify suitable locations for urban agriculture/community gardens across the City and develop a policy and process for the establishment and resourcing of these spaces.	High to Medium	Open Space and City Design	Active Communities City Operations (Open Space) Sustainability

Quality

PRINCIPLE	ACTION	PRIORITY	LEAD UNIT/ DEPARTMENT	PARTNERS
<p>Open spaces are designed to be multi-purpose and multi-functional, resilient, accessible, enhance community appreciation and reflect community values.</p> 	Adopt and incorporate the design principles for park and play spaces as outlined in Council's Universal Design Policy Statement.	High	Open Space and City Design	Active Communities City Operations (Open Space) Capital Works
	Develop an integrated design manual for open space and infrastructure (include a review of Council's current standard furniture & infrastructure technical notes). Incorporate standards for provision and Universal Design Principles.	High	Open Space and City Design	Active Communities City Operations (Open Space) Capital Works Statutory Planning Sustainability
	Review the Public Toilet Strategy and incorporate actions for the next 10 year period.	High	Open Space and City Design Capital Works	Active Communities Capital Works Asset Planning City Operations
	Incorporate the recommendations from The Sports Facilities Needs Analysis & the Tennis Needs Assessment reports to guide and priorities future investment in sports facilities.	High	Active Communities	Capital Works Asset Planning City Operations
	Develop public realm master plans for the enhancement and revitalisation of Council's key activity centres as per the recommendations of the Structure Plans for Newport, Spotswood and Altona Beach.	Medium	Strategic Planning Open Space and City Design	Asset Planning Capital Works City Operations Sustainability

TYPES OF FUNDING AND EXPENDITURE

Chapter 5 of the Open Space Strategy outlines an implementation plan, monitoring and review processes for Council.

As part of the project, a 10-year capital works budget was prepared to identify where funding, and what types of expenditure, are required to achieve the Strategy’s goals. Figures 2 and 3 illustrate the types and proportion of expenditure that have been allocated to works in open spaces.

Figure 2 shows how the proposed budget for the next 10 years provides for works in open spaces that are new, renewal (e.g. asset replacement), or upgrades. The works proposed respond to existing or future demand, based on current needs and future population projections.

Figure 3 shows how money will be apportioned among key capital works programs for:

- Sportsfields
- Foreshore
- Shared Trails
- Play Spaces
- Local Open Space upgrades
- Conservation upgrades
- Open Space Hierarchy Change/New Open Space Development.

Figure 2. Funding apportioned between new, upgrade and renewal works

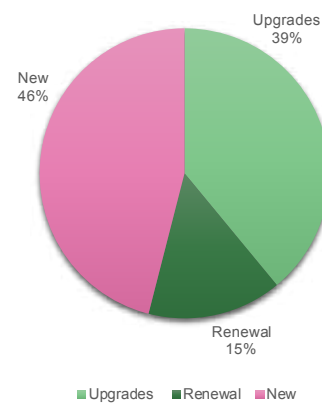
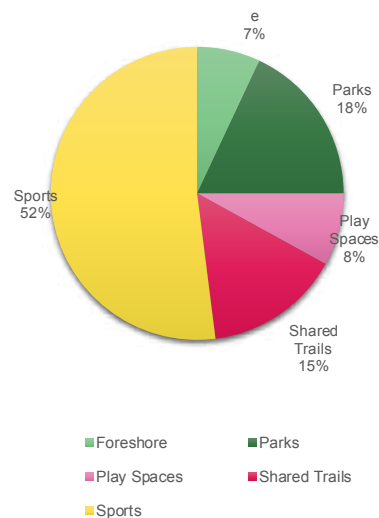


Figure 3. Key capital works program expenditure



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1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 WHAT IS PUBLIC OPEN SPACE?

DEFINITION OF OPEN SPACE

For the purpose of this strategy, open space is defined as publicly owned land that is readily available to the community, and is currently set aside (or has potential to be set aside) primarily for recreation, nature conservation and passive outdoor enjoyment.

Open space can be classified into two types:

- Public open space (defined above); and
- Private open space: Land privately owned, that provides recreation and leisure benefits.

Within an overall network of different types of open spaces, some may also be considered as 'encumbered' or 'ancillary'.

- Encumbered open spaces are defined as constrained from being developed for passive or formal recreation in some way. Examples include rail corridors, easements for pipelines, sewer, gas, waterways/drainage, retarding basins/wetlands, conservation or cultural heritage areas.
- Ancillary open spaces are defined as publicly accessible spaces that are privately owned, or set aside for another primary purpose, such as a school.

Both encumbered and ancillary open spaces can contribute to the open space network by providing benefits for the community and environment. This may be achieved through a joint-use agreement.

Despite physical constraints or ownership arrangements, many of these spaces are integral to the regional connectivity of the open space network.

As illustrated at Figure 4 overpage (Open Space Definitions), some areas of open space are encumbered and cannot cater for a full range of recreational opportunities. It is important to highlight areas within the network that are encumbered, to reveal any gaps in recreation opportunities (including sporting and play spaces) that might need to be addressed locally, as a result of encumbrances.

Public Land Ownership

Council does not own or manage all public open space within Hobsons Bay, some open spaces may be owned or managed by other authorities such as Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water or the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Council is responsible for the management of land it owns or is vested in or under its control. As such, the primary focus of the Hobsons Bay Open Space Strategy is council owned and managed land, as Council has direct control and responsibility for this land.

Public land not owned or managed by Council is a secondary focus of this study, with the exception of conservation areas (e.g. Truganina Swamp).

Public land under the control of other public authorities will be considered in part by this study, particularly its impact on the quantity and distribution of open space, as well as its potential future role in providing open space opportunities. The ownership and management of open space in Hobsons Bay is identified on Figures 12 and 13.

Open space is important

Open spaces are where people of any age, cultural origin or ability can meet and feel part of a community. Great open spaces improve mental and physical well-being by motivating people to leave their home or workplace to exercise, reduce stress levels, be in contact with nature, meet others and play with children or pets. Open spaces help prevent illness and provide settings for social development in children. They support economic vitality with more people choosing to visit a shopping destination because it is next to a park.

Open spaces are essential refuges for people, plants and animals, particularly as housing density in our cities increases. Open spaces cool our city, clean our air and water, and support biodiversity. Open spaces can teach us about history, culture, and nature. They are places of civic and cultural celebration, performance and art and a source of pride for the community.

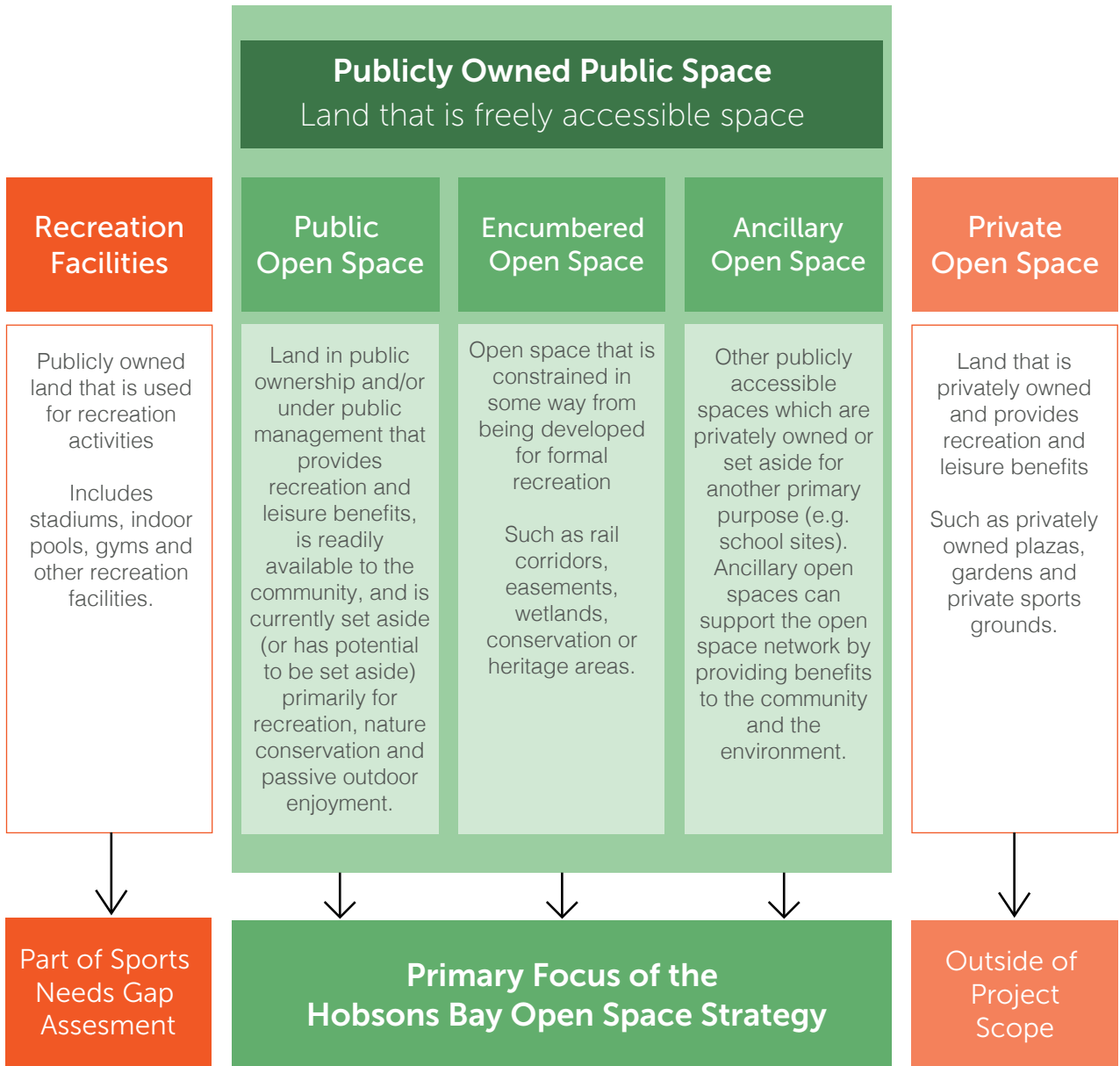


Figure 4. Open Space definitions

1.2 HOBSONS BAY COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

UNDERSTANDING HOBSONS BAY TODAY AND IN FUTURE

The demographic composition of a population has a variety of implications for the delivery of open space. Factors such as the quantity, distribution and function of open spaces should all respond to the population characteristics of an area. A more detailed community profile is included in **Appendix B**.

The information included in this section and Appendix B is taken from population forecasts prepared by .id Consultants, on behalf of Hobsons Bay City Council. The population projections are taken from 2016 Census data.

According to .id Consultants, 'in 2016, the dominant age structure for persons in Hobsons Bay City was ages 30 to 34, which accounted for 8.0% of the total persons. The largest increase in persons between 2016 and 2026 is forecast to be in ages 10 to 14, which is expected to increase by 916 and account for 5.5% of the total persons. The largest 5 year age group in 2026 is 30 to 34 years, with a total of 7,979 persons.'

Population Estimates

In 2016, Hobsons Bay had an estimated resident population of 93,390 people, which was an increase of just under 2% since 2015 and close to 8% since the Census in 2011.

By 2035, the Hobsons Bay population is forecast to increase by 19.37% (or an additional 19,252 people) at an average of approximately 0.9% per year. This is considered relatively average growth for an inner metropolitan Melbourne municipality.

Where Do People Live?

Currently, Altona Meadows has the highest share of the city's population (21.57%), closely followed by Williamstown-Williamstown North (17.56%). Brooklyn has the lowest share of existing population (2.08%). However, the main population growth to 2030 and beyond will be in Altona North (+62.01%), Spotswood and South Kingsville (+84.58%) due to the rezoning of former industrial land to residential land. Laverton is also projected to grow by 49.17% by 2036.

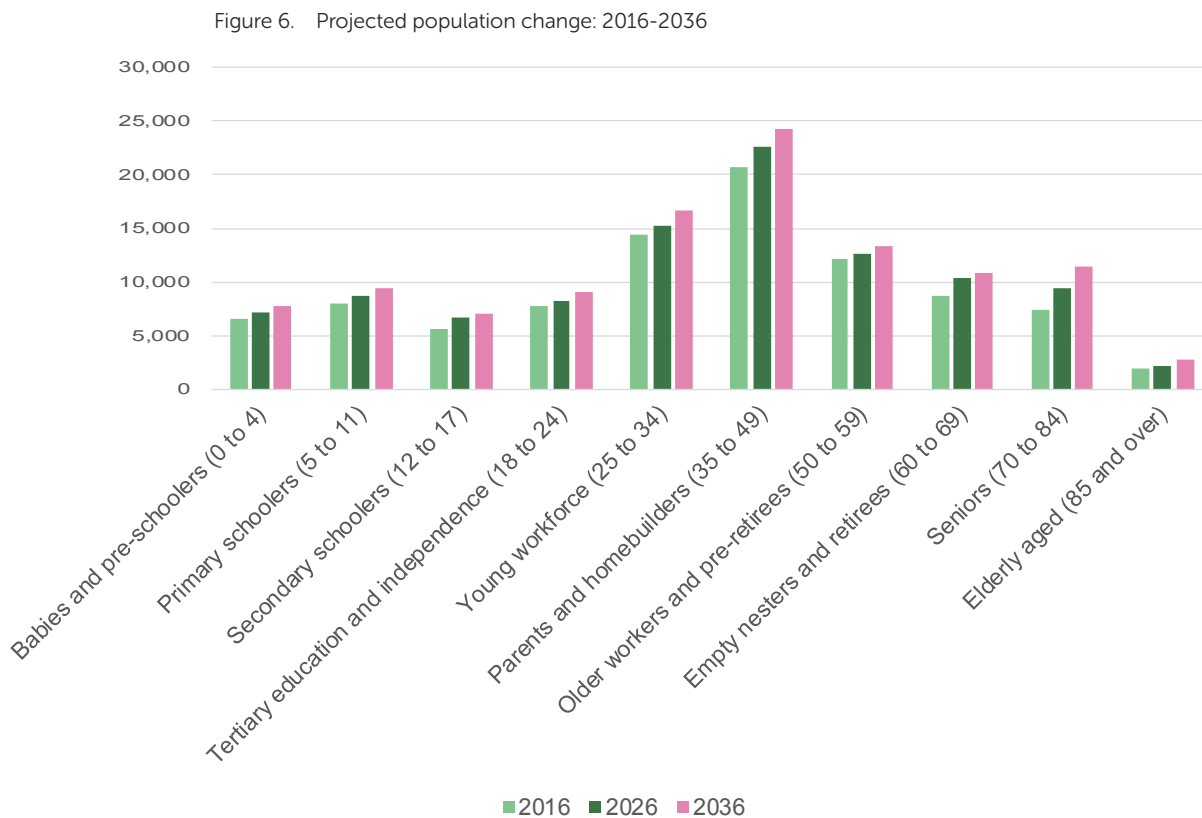
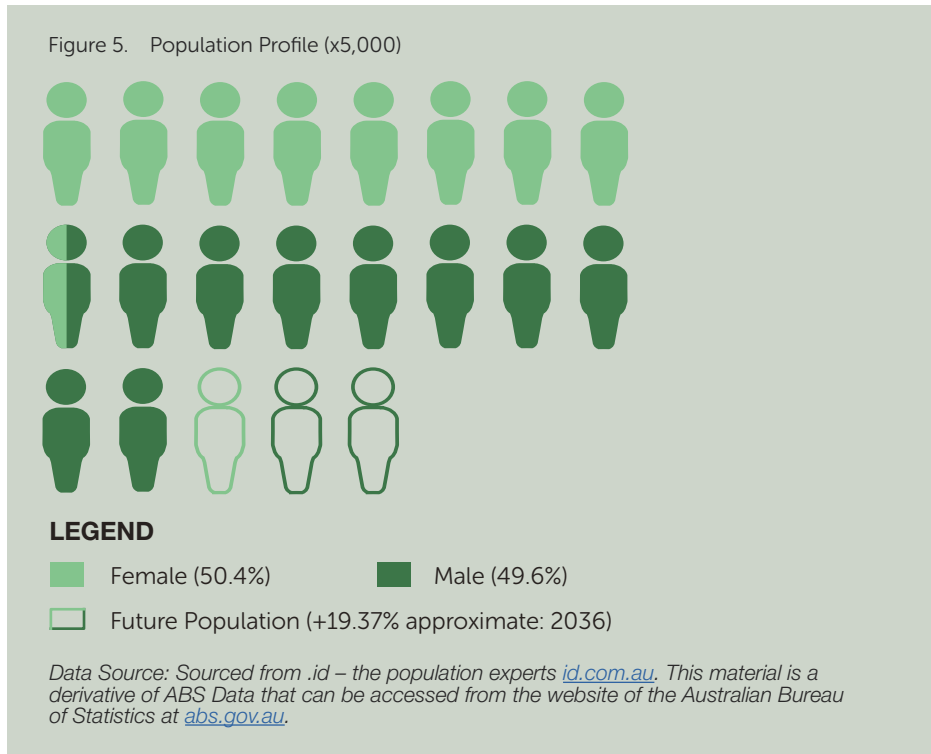
Who Lives in Hobsons Bay?

Thirty one per cent of Hobsons Bay residents were born overseas and 23% born in non-English speaking countries, with over 100 languages spoken across the municipality.

Hobsons Bay has an ageing population, with increases in most age groups 50 years and over. Almost 22% of the Hobsons Bay population is aged between 50 and 69 years of age.

The number of school aged children has decreased over the past five years.

However, regeneration will occur with the number of young children and adults in the 25 to 34 years age bracket increasing due to new development in our city.



Data Source: Sourced from .id – the population experts id.com.au. This material is a derivative of ABS Data that can be accessed from the website of the Australian Bureau of Statistics at abs.gov.au.

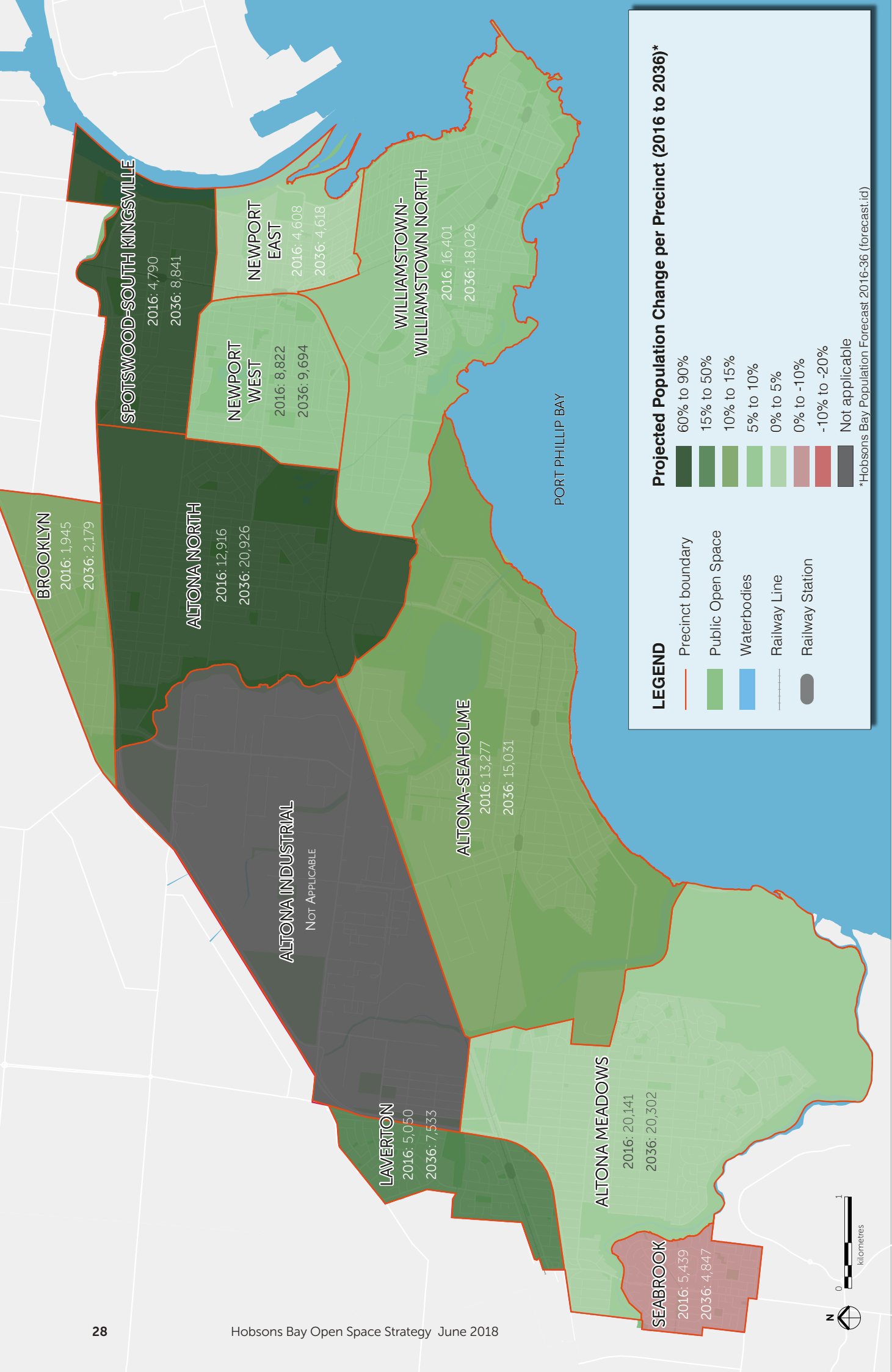


Figure 7. Projected Population Change

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

The population in Hobsons Bay is projected to grow by almost 20% by 2036. The proportion of growth is likely to be spread differently across different areas, reflecting the current trend that some suburbs can accommodate more people than others. Existing open spaces and facilities within those spaces that are already highly urbanised will mean those spaces are placed under a greater burden. Pockets of increased demand for open space will become evident in some areas, resulting in more competing demand between different park users and increased wear on infrastructure.

In addition to the net population growth expected, Hobsons Bay is likely to have more older people, and fewer younger people and young families in future. A greater focus on physical accessibility will be needed - both in terms of getting to parks (footpaths, public transport links, etc.) but also in terms of facilities within parks. That means more seating, and facilities that are designed for gentle exercise (such as walking and cycling).

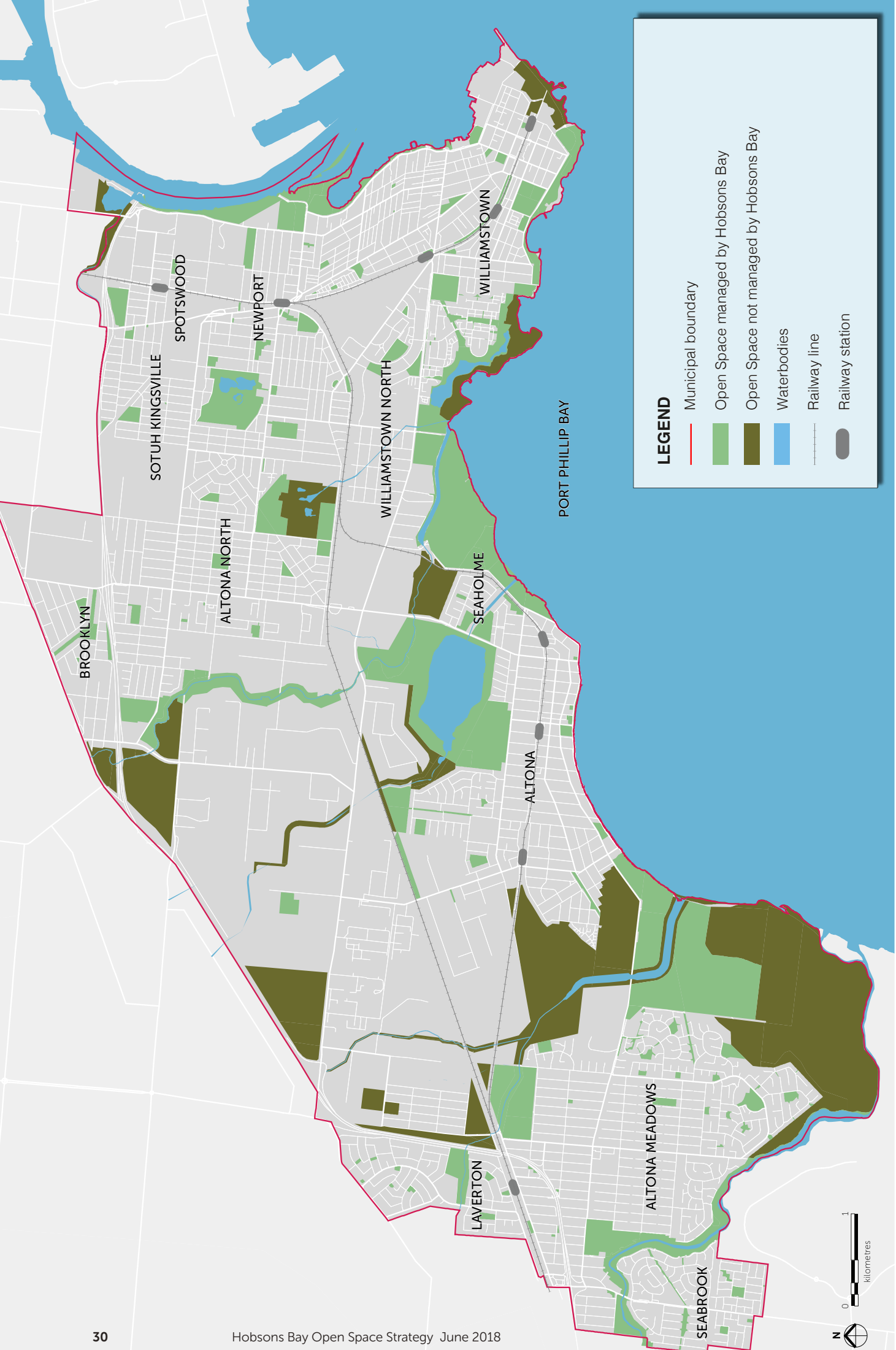
Hobsons Bay's multicultural population will also grow, meaning there will be a greater need than ever to ensure there is space for different sports and types of open spaces, as well as multi-functionality within open space design.

It is noted that in summer, Hobsons Bay is a regional destination for tourists. Seasonal facilities such as the Newport and Altona boat ramps, swimming beaches and foreshore reserves attract a significantly higher number of visitors during the warmer months. Other popular spaces of regional significance such as Cherry Lake and the Williamstown Botanic Gardens also attract visitors all year round, with greater numbers in summer.

As metropolitan Melbourne's population grows overall, visitation rates to Hobsons Bay's unique and beautiful open spaces are also likely to increase. The open space network will need to be ready to accommodate this growth to protect local assets for local residents as well.

Edwards Reserve,
Spotswood





LEGEND

- Municipal boundary
- Open Space managed by Hobsons Bay
- Open Space not managed by Hobsons Bay
- Waterbodies
- Railway line
- Railway station

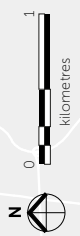


Figure 8. Existing Open Spaces in Hobsons Bay

1.3 EXISTING OPEN SPACE

LAND AREA

Almost a third of Hobsons Bay's total area (excluding the Altona Industrial Precinct) is public open space (27.4%). Compared to other middle ring municipalities in Melbourne this is double the average rate (13.4%). A large proportion of the 27.4% is encumbered open space i.e. it is constrained in terms of use or development for recreation purposes. Hobsons Bay has a much higher proportion of encumbered open space than other municipalities. The metro municipal average is 5.9% of that total land area whereas Hobsons Bay has 11.9%.

Most encumbered open spaces in Hobsons Bay have sensitive conservation values and public access is prohibited to certain areas (e.g. Cheetham Wetlands). In some cases the terrain physically prevents access and use (e.g. dense vegetation and swampy areas at Altona Coastal Park or the waterbody at Cherry Lake). Encumbered open space can also be subject to flooding or is set aside as an easement, which limits development for other recreation purposes, but conversely serves to protect its natural features consistent with the endeavours of our Biodiversity Strategy.

Under Clause 52.01 of the Planning Scheme, Councils can only accept open space that is unencumbered and unrestricted and can be developed for a range of passive and formal recreation uses as part of the percentage open space contribution from development.

Although encumbered open space is not included in the formal calculation of available open space, the contribution that some accessible encumbered open space makes to the network in terms of passive recreation (viewing, rest and relaxation, nature play), environmental function (water harvesting, urban cooling, habitat), and connectivity (shared trails along waterways) is still recognised. Encumbered open space is often accepted by Council however it is not included as part of the open space contribution.



DISTRIBUTION

It is important that adequate open space, with a variety of functions for both passive and active recreation, is available to the majority of residents and workers in Hobsons Bay.

A key factor influencing equity and accessibility is that spaces are located within comfortable walking distance to facilitate exercise and social interaction.

Comfortable walking distance is defined as the distance that people are able to easily walk in approximately 10 minutes, being 400 metres. This distance is accepted as an industry benchmark by the State Government and internationally. For children and the elderly, a comfortable walking distance is closer to 300 metres.

Although Hobsons Bay has a higher than average provision of open space compared to other metropolitan areas, many high quality, multifunctional open spaces such as Newport Park are located along the coastline. In effect, there is less equitable distribution of open space for those living in the more 'inland' parts of the municipality. In addition, a significant proportion of Hobsons Bay's industrial and commercial areas do not have access to open space within comfortable walking distance.

In Brooklyn, access to open space is not evenly distributed across the precinct. In industrial areas, open space is more than a kilometre away, making it the most disadvantaged precinct in terms of total distribution/access.

The residential population of Spotswood-South Kingsville and Altona North are least connected to open spaces. Nearly 34% of people do not have access to open space within 500 metres of their home or workplace.

In addition to the residential population, 31,475 people work in Hobsons Bay (i.d Population Experts, 2011). Approximately 9,319 (29.6%) of these workers also live in Hobsons Bay, with the remaining 22,156 (70.4%) of workers live outside of Hobsons Bay.

Many people who work in Hobsons Bay visit open space near their workplace to be outdoors as a break from work (64%) with informal fitness/exercise activities and use of cycling paths on the way to work being popular reasons to visit.

Figure 9. Proportion of encumbered open space in Hobsons Bay, and by Precinct

PRECINCT/AREA	TOTAL OPEN SPACE*	TOTAL ENCUMBERED OPEN SPACE*
Hobsons Bay	27.4%	11.9%
Metropolitan Average	13.4%	5.9%
Altona-Seaholme	33.9%	24.7%
Altona Industrial	-	-
Altona North	16.2%	6.1%
Altona Meadows	53.5%	41.1%
Brooklyn	16.9%	10.3%
Laverton	7.8%	1.7%
Newport East	21.4%	10.1%
Newport West	17.7%	7.4%
Seabrook Precinct	6.5%	1.2%
Spotswood-South Kingsville	13.3%	7.7%
Williamstown-Williamstown North	17.6%	8.3%

*Area calculations based on % of land area in each precinct.

DIVERSITY OF OPEN SPACES

As shown in the Figure 9 graph, some... some precincts in Hobsons Bay have a higher proportion of 'high level' open spaces, such as regional or district, than others. This distribution has important implications for the future, both in terms of:

- Existing visitation (more visitors are likely come to regional than local open spaces, and the number of visitors may grow in future), and
- Competition for open space with existing residents, which may become more profound in the context of population growth (especially for high-growth precincts).

Types of Open Space

As illustrated in the Figure 10 pie chart, there... there is a high proportion (34%) of local open spaces across Hobsons Bay. Typically, such spaces service a population living within a five-minute walk (300-400m) from the open space, and have an area less than 1ha.

In addition, 21% of open spaces are classified as Linear, Link or Buffers, which may contain trails but may also constitute green spaces with limited functionality for a broad population of residents, workers and visitors to Hobsons Bay.

The graph overpage (Figure 11) illustrates... illustrates the types of open space provided in each precinct.

Figure 10. Proportion of Open Spaces in Hobsons Bay by Open Space Type

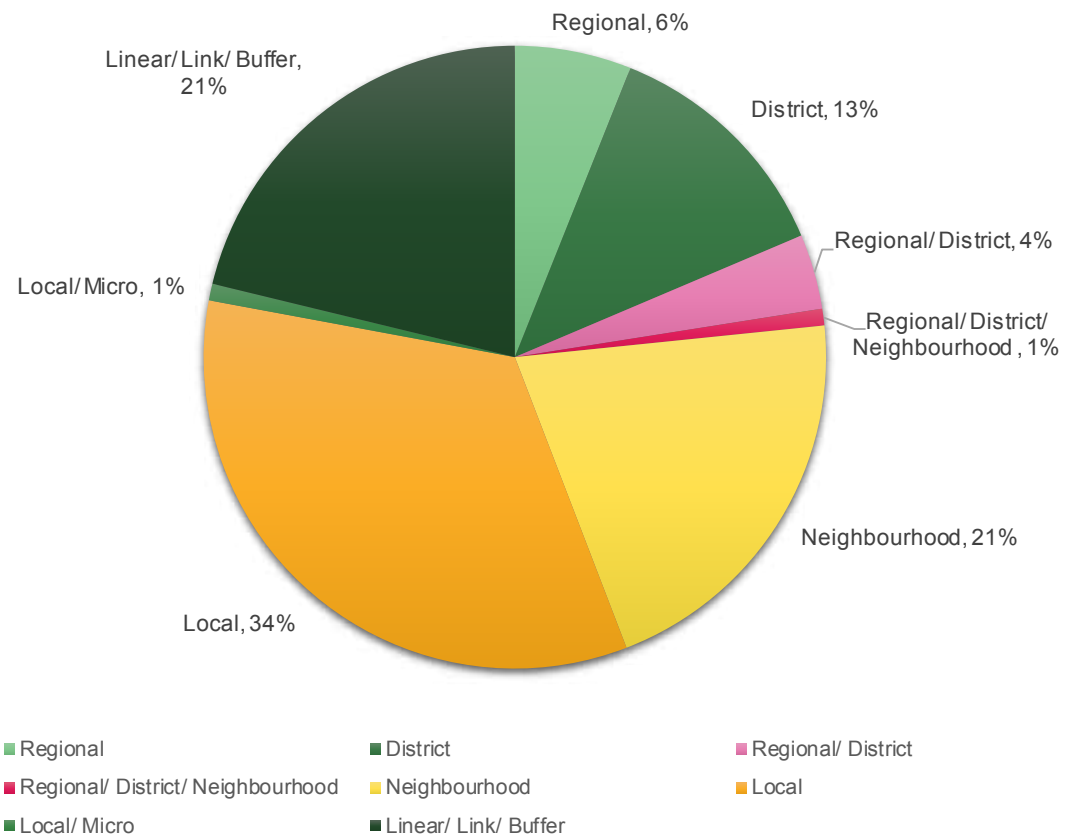
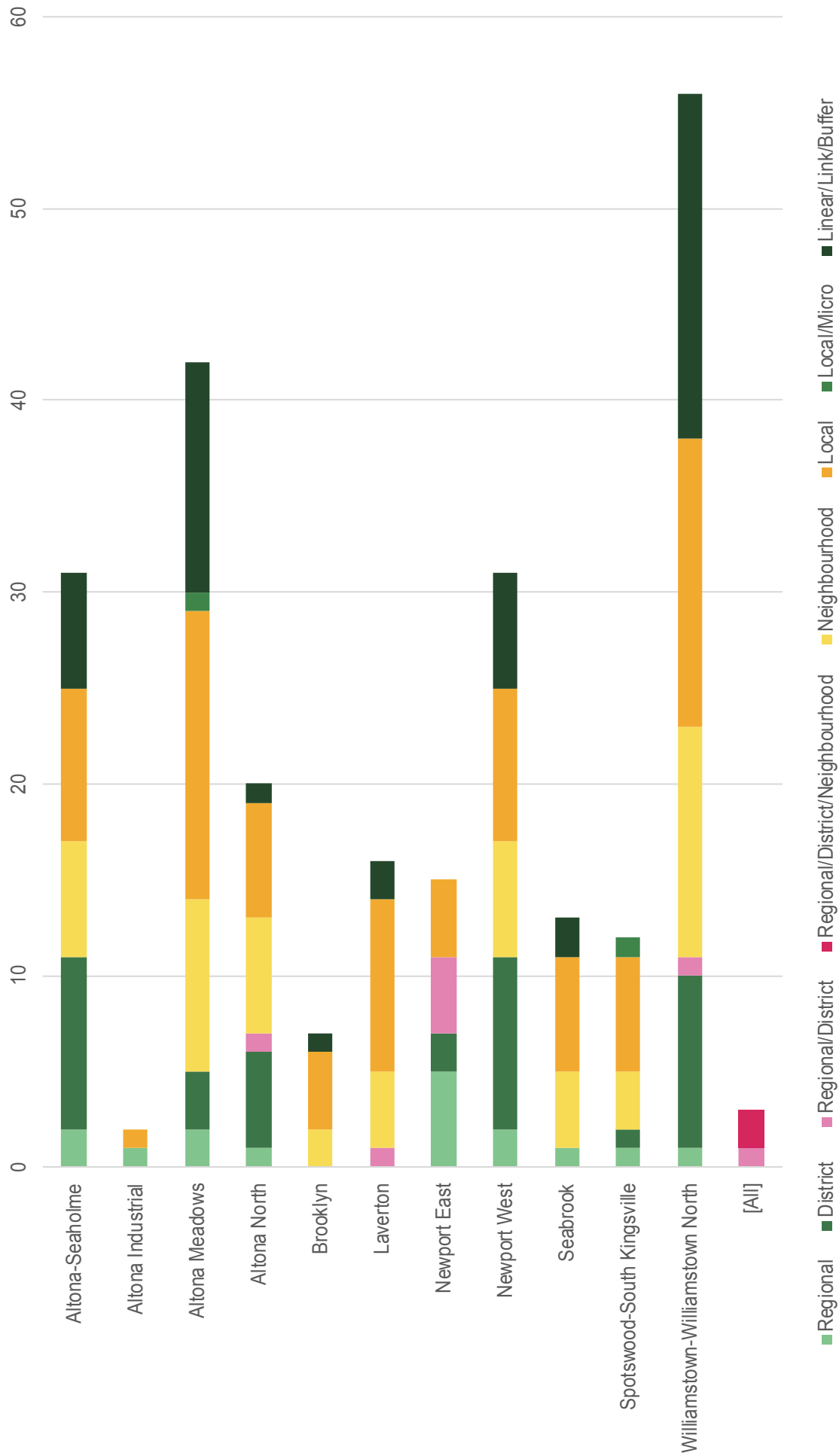


Figure 11. Number of Open Spaces in each Precinct, by Open Space Type



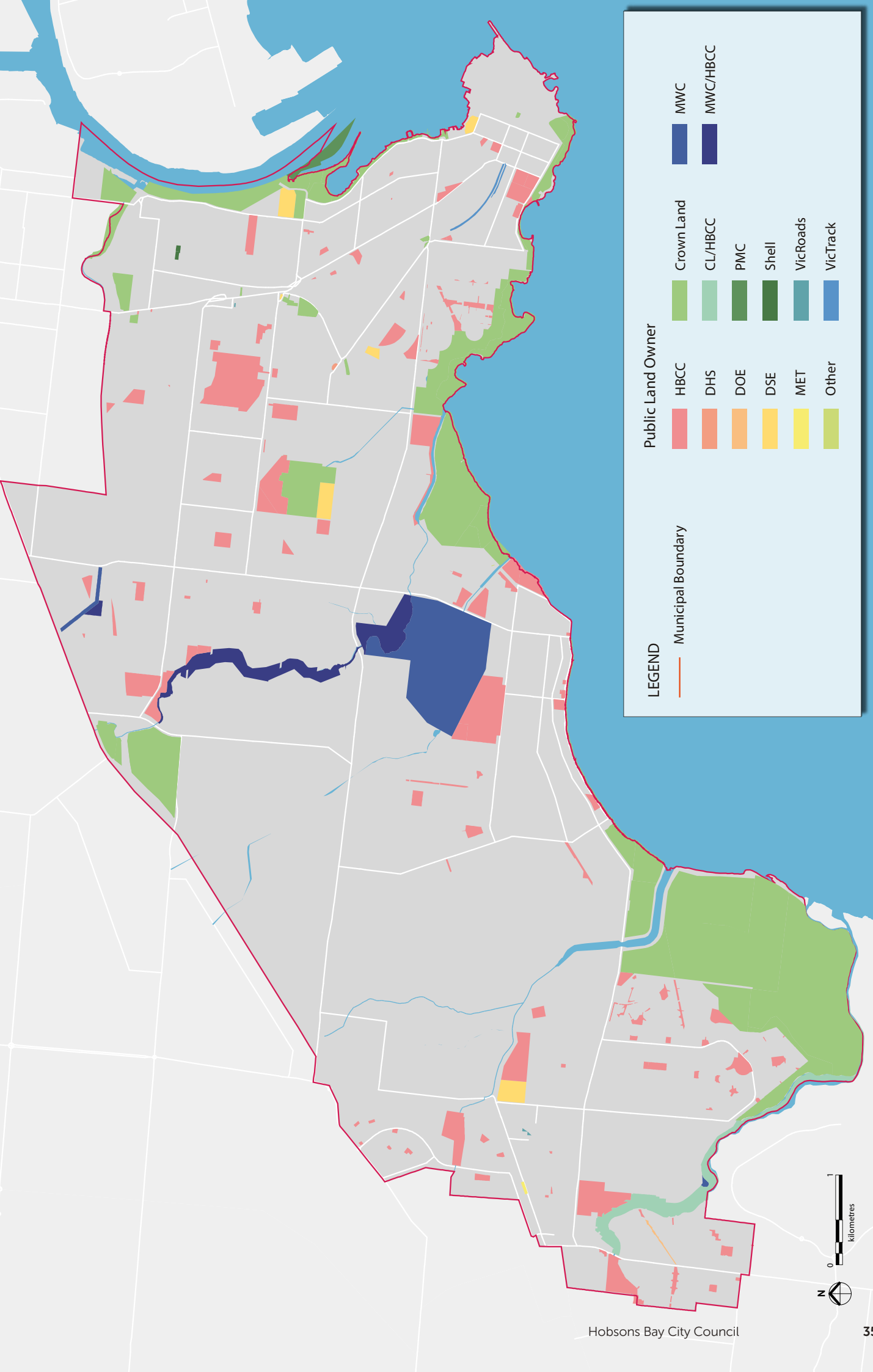


Figure 12. Publicly owned land within the Hobsons Bay Council area.

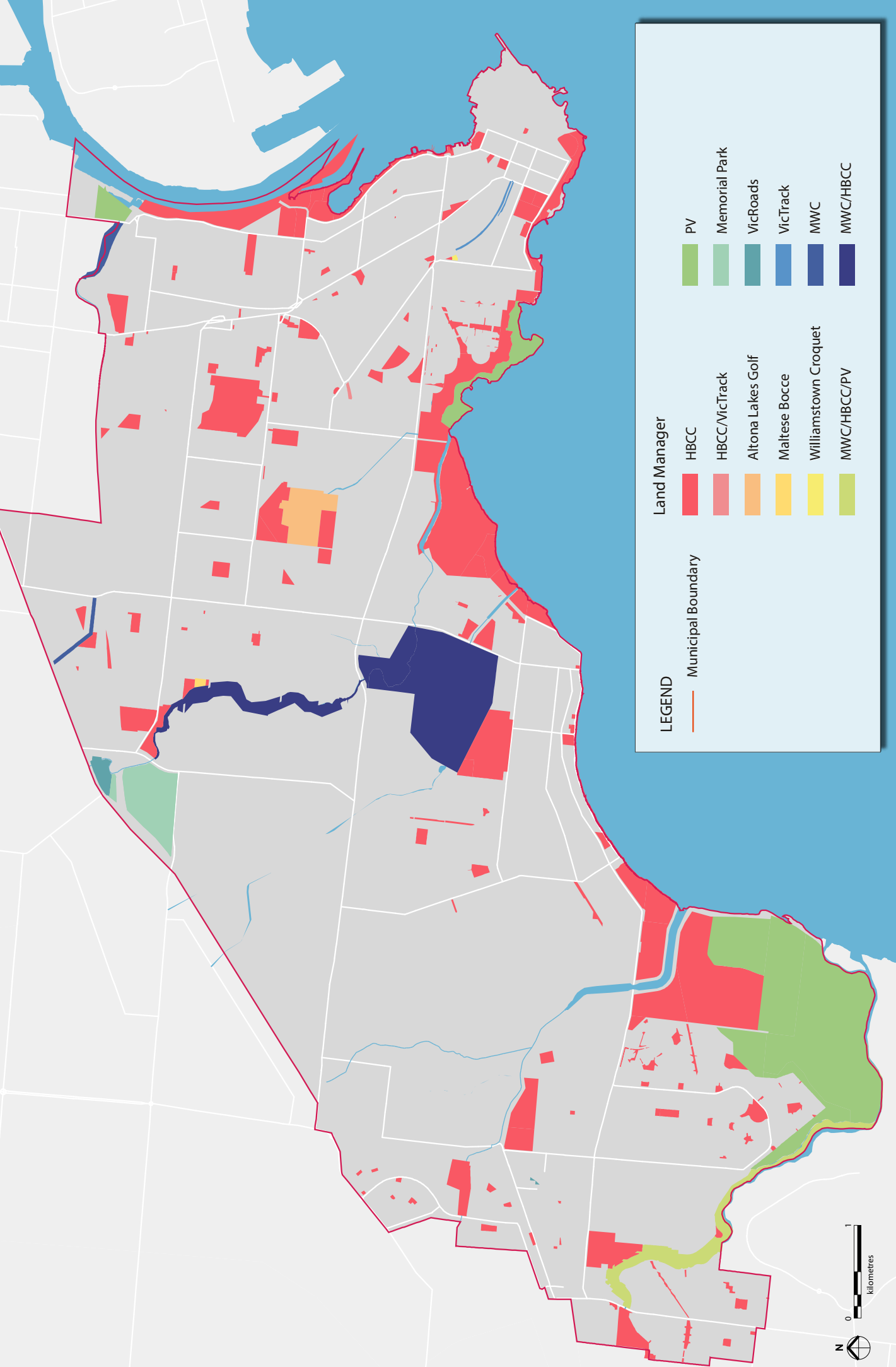


Figure 13. Management Authorities of Open Spaces in the Hobsons Bay Council area.

DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVE OPEN SPACE

A full analysis of the distribution, demand and gaps in active open space provision is detailed within the *Sports Needs Analysis* at Appendix E. Key challenges and future directions for active open space provision are also included in that report.

According to the sports needs analysis, more than 10,000 Hobsons Bay residents of all ages participate in a diverse range of sporting activities on a weekly basis, using local sporting clubs and venues across the municipality. Another 10,000+ residents from neighbouring municipalities (particularly Wyndham and Maribyrnong) visit Hobsons Bay facilities to participate in regular sporting activities.

As highlighted in the *Sports Needs Analysis*, formalised sport is an integral part of the local community and has a strong future focus across the inner western region of Melbourne. Many opportunities for active recreation and formalised sport occur within Hobsons Bay's broader passive open space network.

There are fewer designated parks catering for active recreation than passive open space, meaning that opportunities for formal sport are more sparsely distributed across the municipality.

The *Sports Needs Analysis* found (see Executive Summary at Appendix E):

- There is a good range and variety of formal sporting and competition opportunities via established club networks.
- Local clubs, venues and providers currently offer a good range of competition levels across the mix of available sports, with most sports providing pathway opportunities from introductory levels through to semi-professional sport.
- In general terms, the quality of community and club level sporting venues is adequate to service the basic needs of clubs and sports.

The *Sports Needs Analysis* also found that many of Hobsons Bay's active open space reserves are clustered in precincts with multiple sports fields in the one location, such as Paisley Park, J. T. Gray Reserve, Donald McLean Reserve, J. K. Grant Reserve, and AB Shaw Reserve. Typically, the clustering of these spaces has been centred around facilities and community infrastructure to enhance accessibility to a range of services and facilities in one place. However, the implication of this is that the distribution of active open spaces has gradually become unequal.

According to the *Sports Needs Analysis*, spatial distribution of active open spaces is not the only factor influencing sports facility need.

Factors such as transport connections, socio-cultural influences and team performance all influencing decision-making in sports participation. While this is the case, the need for additional spaces for active recreation remains to be an important part of recreation needs for Hobsons Bay residents, workers and visitors.

Areas with less access to active open space than other precincts within the municipality were found to be Laverton and Altona North.

Other areas with generally good provision of active open space but some less well-connected areas are Newport, Spotswood, Williamstown and Altona Meadows.

Of particular relevance to this strategy was the *Sports Needs Analysis* finding that, over time there may be demand for more outdoor sports facilities to cater for soccer, AFL and cricket (refer to full report at Appendix E).

When implementing the recommendations of this Open Space Strategy with the *Sports Needs Analysis*, it will be important to explore opportunities to deliver active open spaces that address formal sports needs, while also creating shared use of space, particularly in areas with less overall access to open space (active or passive).

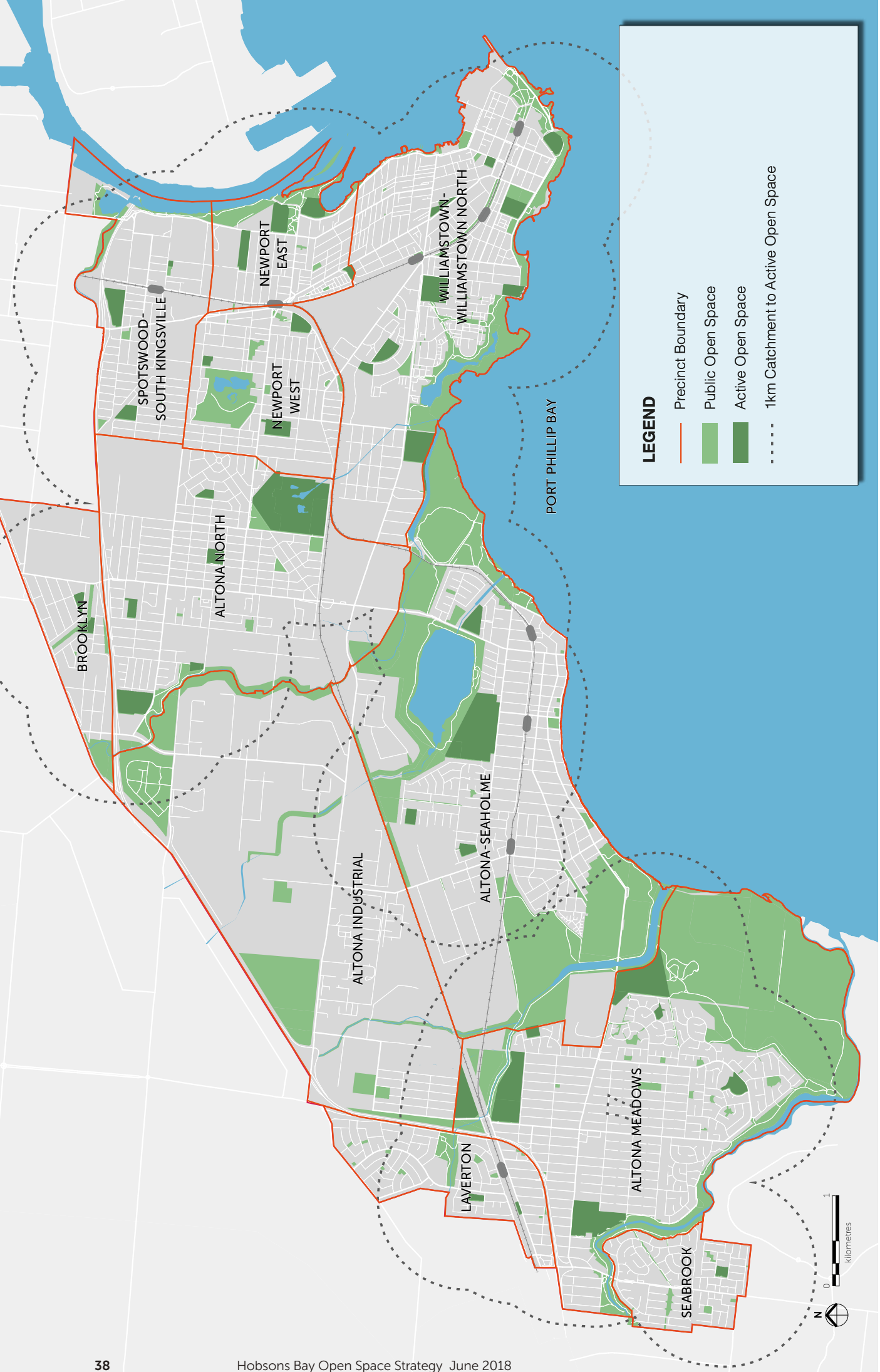


Figure 14. Active Open Space Distribution

2

CONTEXT

2.1 DEMAND FOR PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Census Data

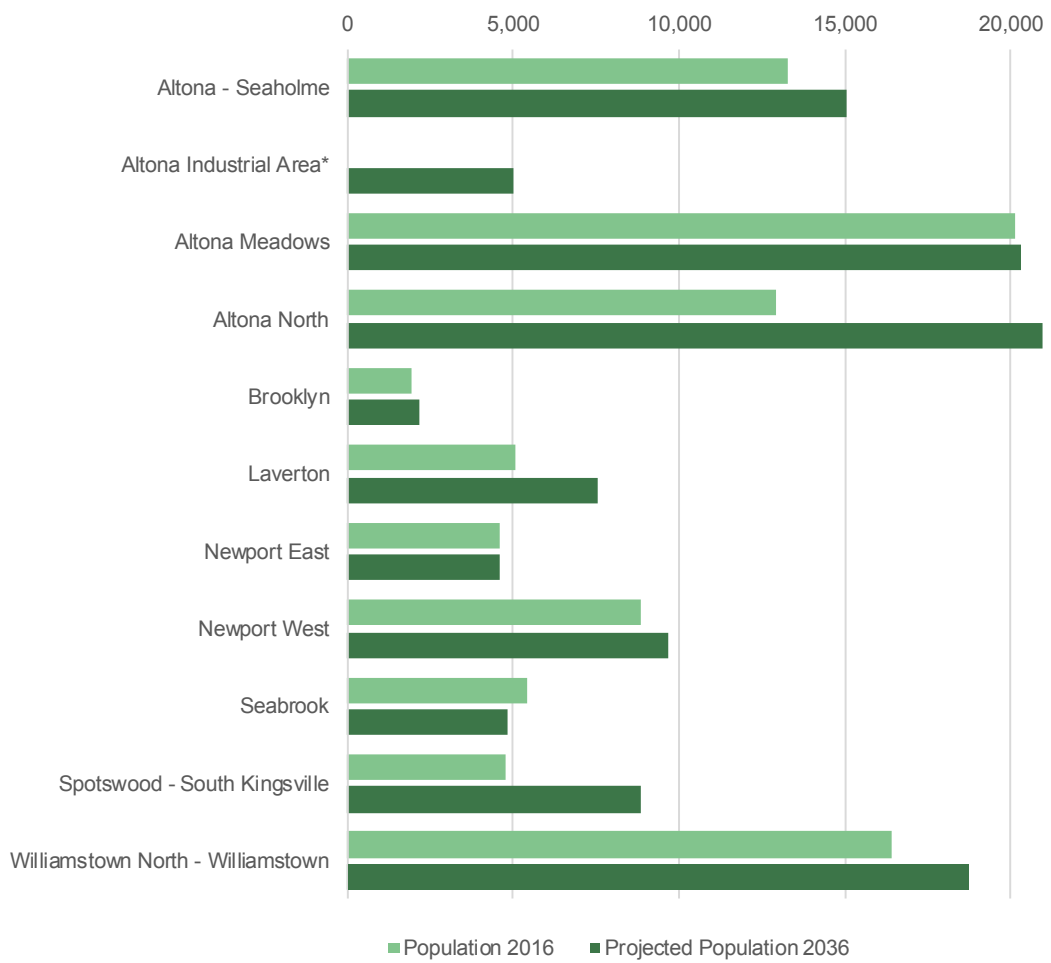
The current and future community needs presented in this strategy are derived from the Hobsons Bay Community Profile prepared by .id Consulting (Forecast.id), using 2016 Census data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). This information was updated in late 2017, and shows the projected population growth in Hobsons Bay by 2036 may be up to 20%; twice the projected growth from the previous 2011 estimate. Accordingly, it is recommended that the demographic profile information be confirmed by Council prior to commencing a planning scheme amendment process to ensure the Strategy's actions appropriately reflect the degree of forecast population growth.

Population Growth

As highlighted earlier in this document, Hobsons Bay may undergo 20% population growth by 2036 from 2016 figures. The precincts most impacted by population change will be Altona North (62%), Laverton (49%) and Spotswood-South Kingsville (85%). Population growth is projected to be significantly higher than other precincts due to strategic redevelopment sites and post-industrial redevelopment. In those areas, both the resident and worker populations are forecast to grow, in some cases by an additional 40% or more.



Figure 15. Projected population growth per precinct: 2016 to 2036



*2016 data for the Altona Industrial area's existing population unknown; projected population based on .id Consultants' estimate.

DEMAND DRIVERS

Demand for public open space is driven by a number of factors. Broadly, there are two types of demand for open space:

- Demand generated by the ordinary daily needs of people
- Demand generated by open spaces with special features or attractions which encourage people to visit an open space.

As the population grows, the reasons people want to use open spaces will diversify and change, and existing infrastructure will be placed under a greater burden.

In addition, it is well understood that key sporting facilities or passive open spaces with particular cultural significance (e.g. the Altona foreshore, the Williamstown Botanic Gardens) already attract visitors from outside Hobsons Bay, and will continue to do so in future. These types of spaces therefore have much larger catchments and maintenance requirements associated with their popularity.

Demand for existing public open spaces is influenced by many factors, including:

- Functions/uses
- Proximity of a space to home or workplaces
- Scale (e.g. size proportionate to desired use)
- Cultural significance
- Urban design (including accessibility, lighting, perceptions of safety)
- Services.

It is also noted that the nature of local demand will likely change over time as the population grows and demographic profile changes, meaning it will be more important than ever to ensure spaces are designed with multi-functionality in mind.

Based on the existing provision of public open spaces (e.g. each space's function, design, size, location and cultural significance), the demand for open space and different open space typologies differs across the municipality. The detailed audit of open spaces has also revealed that some areas may have good access to open space, while the quality or level of maintenance of that space will need to be improved in future as the demand increases or changes.

To better understand nuances between demand drivers across the municipality, the study area is broken into precincts. This provides clarity between local, district and regional demands on public open space (see Figure 7 for precinct boundaries).

To ensure the municipality is prepared for a population increase of 20% by 2036, a municipal rate of open space provision needs to be determined that can be used to levy open space contributions and guide Council acquisition of land.

For new subdivisions, Council is legislated to request a contribution for open space from subdivision applicants under the Subdivision Act (1988). Decisions that the Council makes now in this regard will leave a legacy for future generations.

Three key factors are considered in determining how much open space is needed to meet the current and future recreation needs of the community:

1. Land area – The proportion of the catchment the open space is serving
2. Population density – How many people will use the open space
3. Usage requirements – The level of development and subsequent land area required to meet the needs of the community.

Population Density

The combined resident and worker population of Hobsons Bay was estimated at 124,238 in 2015. The worker population, not including residents who work in Hobsons Bay, is approximately 30%. The graph overpage illustrates that

Hobsons Bay has an average 7.1% open space provision rate. The level of accessible (i.e. unencumbered) open space varies substantially across the precincts, where five have more than 8% accessible open space, while others sit below the municipal average. The lowest provision is in Spotswood-South Kingsville, with 2.9%.

Due to significant challenges in acquiring new land in Hobsons Bay, the recommendations will also include other ways to address gaps in particularly challenged areas. Establishing a figure alone will not give an accurate indication of the impacts that the current and future population may have on the availability of open space, or the quality, type and function of open space that is likely to be required.

Hobsons Bay already has an open space provision rate is higher than the metropolitan average of 2.5ha/1000 people or 25m² per person, with a local average of 34m² per person. However, as outlined above, the spatial distribution of open spaces is not equitable.

State, national and international benchmarks vary considerably (e.g. in the US 4ha of open space per 1000 people is considered the norm, compared to 2.83ha per 1000 in the UK).

Australian standards vary again, with the National Capital Commission (Canberra, 1981) giving a standard of 4ha per 1000, Queensland having 4-5ha/1000 people and the Victorian Government provision for growth areas being 2.6ha/1000 people. This variation highlights the need for a locally derived open space contribution rate that is relevant to the needs of the Hobsons Bay community.

Based on the current Hobsons Bay and metropolitan population figures, six of the eleven precincts have below-average provision of 34m² per person.

The maps in this section illustrate the open spaces that are accessible within a 400m safe walking distance to open space or 200m for a Micro Park as discussed over page (approximate 5 minute walk, according to the Heart Foundation *Healthy by Design* benchmarks).

Existing Open Space Per Capita (M²)

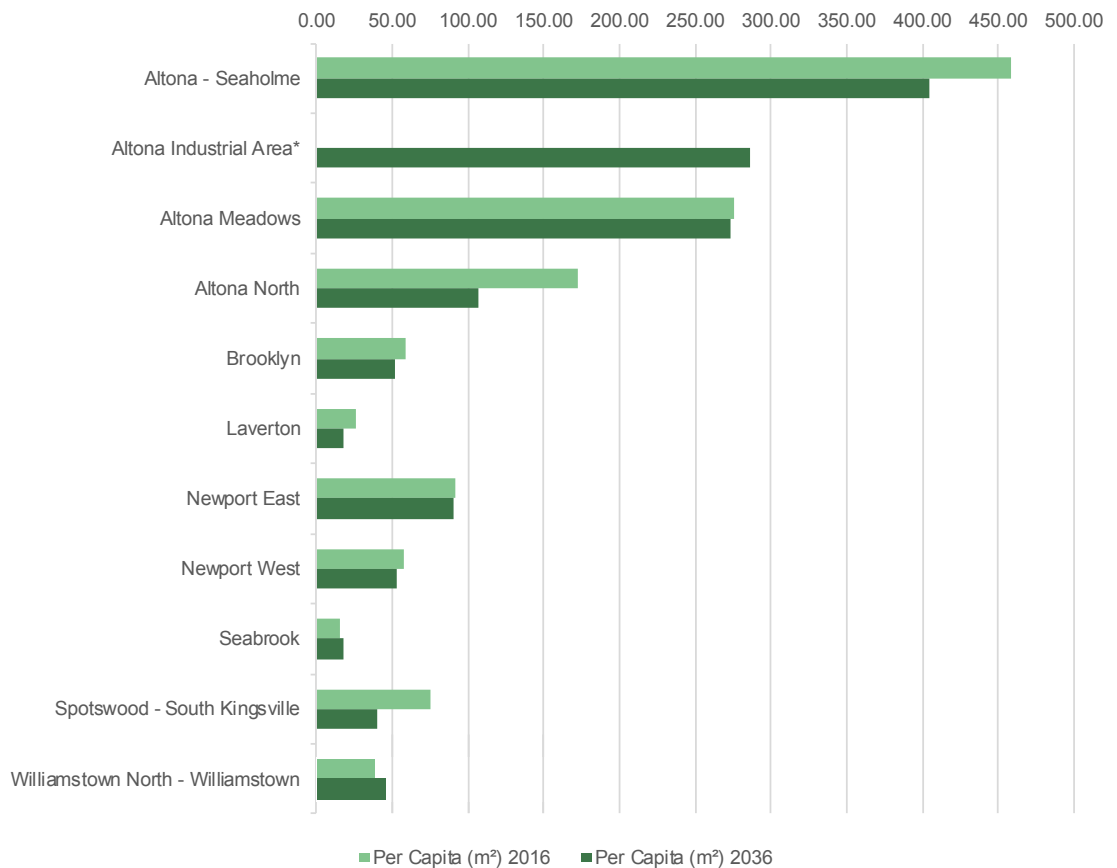
Figure 16 illustrates the change in open space provision per capita across Hobsons Bay, based on the projected population growth rate of approximately 20% from 2016 to 2036.

While some precincts are expected to undergo a slight decline in population (Newport East and Seabrook), others will undergo population growth as a result of strategic redevelopment sites and post-industrial land use changes. The impact of such growth will result (as illustrated in the graph at right) in greater competition among residents, visitors and workers, for open space in future.

In addition, some of the areas (e.g. Altona North, Brooklyn and Spotswood-South Kingsville) expected to undergo the greatest population growth over the next 20 years are already those areas least serviced by existing open spaces.

The following section illustrates spatial open space gaps. The information is based on physical accessibility and the how far people live from existing open spaces.

Figure 16. Projected Change in Open Space Per Capita, Per Precinct: 2016 To 2036 (m²)



*2016 data for the Altona Industrial area's existing population unknown; projected population based on .id Consultants' estimate.

2.2 OPEN SPACE GAPS

CAN PEOPLE WALK THERE?

A walkable catchment has been applied to all publicly accessible open spaces in Hobsons Bay. The purpose of this analysis is to identify areas where people live or work beyond easy and safe walking distance of open space (i.e. gap analysis). This analysis primarily seeks to identify issues relating to provision and access and establish a baseline level of open space provision, rather than identify issues relating to quality and function.

Walkability Methodology

A catchment of 200 metres has been applied to open spaces identified as Micro Parks with all other open spaces in the proposed open space hierarchy having a 400 metre walkable catchment applied (as shown in Figure 18).

The distance of 400 metres is established at Clause 56 of the Planning Scheme as the preferred maximum walking distance to open space for minimum/baseline open space provision. Micro Parks have a smaller walkable catchment applied to reflect different expectations in terms of length of stay and the role of these spaces in the open space network.

Using a geographic information system (GIS) analysis a detailed and accurate 'on the ground' walkable catchment using the road and trail network has been created.

Walkability is affected by factors such as freeways, major roads, railway lines and high pressure oil pipelines, all of which can form physical barrier. The analysis took into account major arterial roads that act as barriers to safe and convenient pedestrian access to open space.

This method has been used in order to provide an accurate representation of access to open space as opposed to an 'as the crow flies' buffer, which does not take into account circuitous road networks, or barriers which limit or prevent easy access to open space.

Only publicly accessible public open space has been included in this analysis. Open space has been excluded from the analysis on the following basis:

- Where public access is prohibited or where an entire open space is inaccessible through fencing or other natural or constructed barriers. Including areas such as: conservation grasslands; creek corridors without paths or restricted by fencing; and swamp, wetland or drainage areas.
- Where an open space area is a buffer or roadway median
- The Altona Memorial Park has been excluded as its primary function as a cemetery is not consistent with the objectives of open space.

Semi-restricted or partly accessible open space such as areas set aside for conservation and drainage purposes have been included on the following basis:

- Where an open space area fulfils a coastal, drainage or conservation function but is partly or fully accessible to the public (through the provision of a stopping point, path, trail or boardwalk). Generally the edge closest to residential land is publicly accessible and won't skew the walkability analysis.
- Open space land not owned by Hobsons Bay (Melbourne Water, DELWP or Parks Victoria) that is fully or partly accessible to the public and not used purely for conservation or drainage purposes (e.g. has a recreational function).
- Open space associated with schools where Council has a Joint Service Agreement (e.g. Bayview College - Williamstown).

OVERALL DISTRIBUTION

The analysis shows that Hobsons Bay generally has a good level of distribution and access to public open space, with 87% of residential lots being within 400m safe walking distance to open space. The majority of the municipality is within a safe walking distance to open space, however there are some pockets of the municipality without safe and convenient walkable access to open space. Residential areas with significant open space gaps include:

- Altona Meadows
- Altona (north and south of the railway)
- Altona North (west of Millers Road and surrounding The Circle Neighbourhood Centre)
- Spotswood-South Kingsville
- Brooklyn.

Non-residential areas with significant gaps in open space provision include the industrial areas in the following places:

- Altona
- Brooklyn
- Williamstown North.

Accessibility

The accessibility of open space in Hobsons Bay was compared with the guidance of the Planning Scheme (Clause 56) which outlines that 95% of all residents should be within a 400 metre walking distance to open space. Residential lots within Hobsons Bay (Commercial 1 Zone, General Residential Zone, Mixed Use Zone & Comprehensive Development Zone) were identified and the proportion of these lots falling within the walkable catchment areas were calculated.

There are 44,786 lots within Hobsons Bay allowing for residential development. Of these lots 39,042 (87%) are within a walkable catchment of public open space, the remaining 5,744 lots (12%) are not within a walkable catchment to open space. This is approximately 8% lower than the guidance set out in Clause 56 of the Planning Scheme.

Figure 17. Residential areas outside a safe walking distance to public open space

PRECINCT	TOTAL NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL (RES.) LOTS	NO. RES. LOTS OUTSIDE WALKABLE CATCHMENT	% RES. LOTS OUTSIDE WALKABLE CATCHMENT
Altona - Seaholme	6988	1335	19.10%
Altona Industrial	-	-	-
Altona Meadows	9600	1974	20.56%
Altona North	5662	1423	25.13%
Brooklyn	1169	229	19.59%
Laverton	2477	109	4.40%
Newport East	2039	0	0.00%
Newport West	4296	59	1.37%
Seabrook	1864	29	1.56%
Spotswood - South Kingsville	2605	522	20.04%
Williamstown North - Williamstown	8084	80	0.99%
TOTAL	44784	5760	12.86%



Figure 18: Open Space Walkable Catchment Map

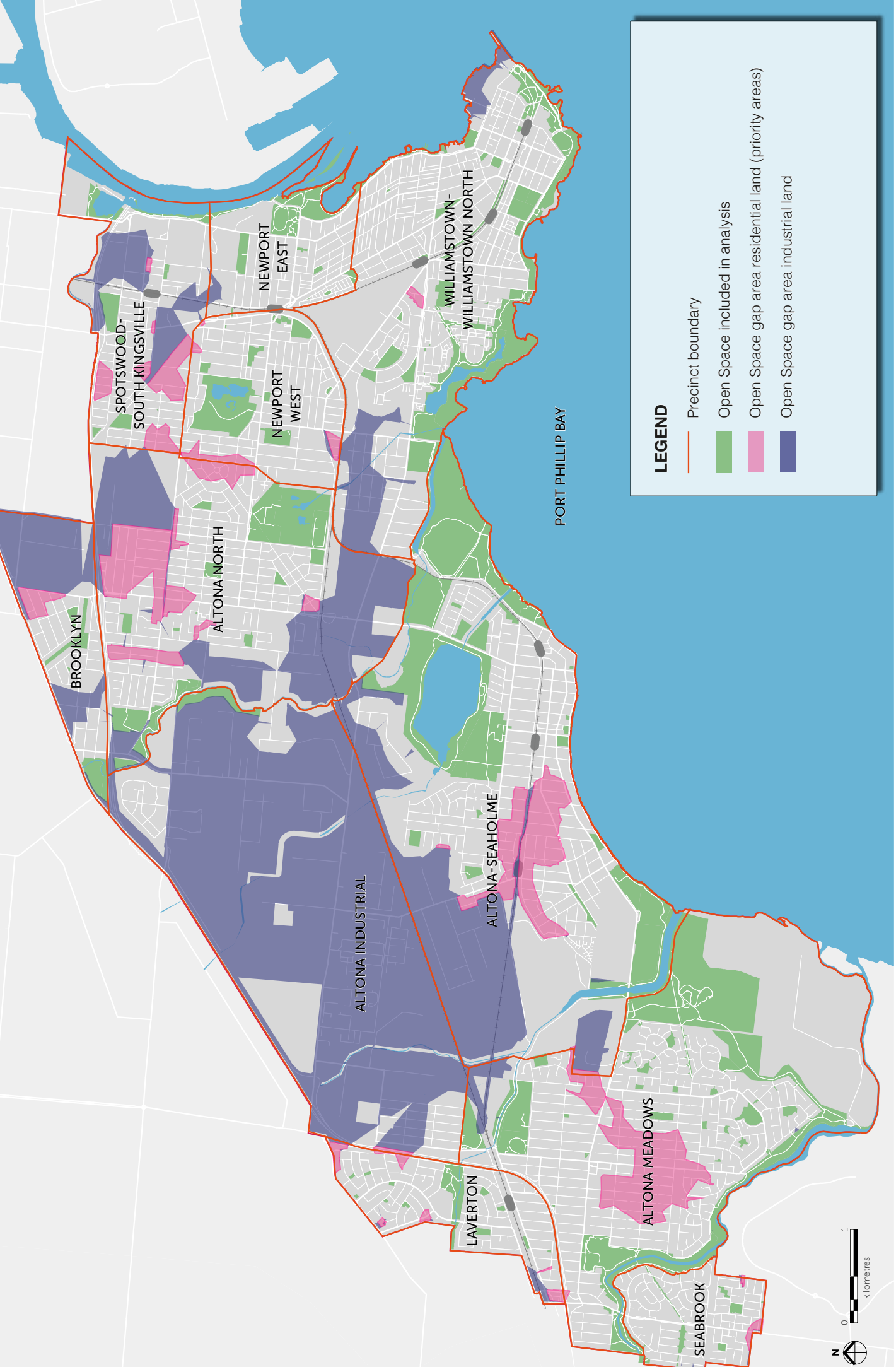


Figure 19. Residential and Industrial Open Space Gap Areas

2.3 SUMMARY OF OPEN SPACE GAPS BY PRECINCT

Lowest average cover	» Altona North » Brooklyn » Spotswood-South » Kingsville	Reasonable total area, poor walkability/access; OR Poor total area, reasonable walkability/access	» Altona-Seaholme » Altona Meadows » Laverton » Seabrook	Higher than average cover (based on metropolitan average), good walkability/access	» Newport East » Newport West » Williamstown-Williamstown North
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PRECINCT	CURRENT POPULATION 2016	FORECAST POPULATION 2036	PROJECTED GROWTH	ACCESSIBLE OPEN SPACE IN PRECINCT*	OPEN SPACE PER CAPITA 2016 (M ²)	OPEN SPACE PER CAPITA 2036 (M ²)	KEY GAPS/AREAS
Hobsons Bay Total	93,390	112,642	20.61%	7.91%	45.53m ²	37.75m ²	Altona North, Brooklyn and Spotswood-South Kingsville
Metropolitan Average				6.60%			<i>Benchmark: 95% all residential lots should be within 400m walking distance (walkable catchment) of open space.</i>
Altona-Seaholme	13,277	15,031	13.21%	9.16%	82.67m ²	73.02m ²	19.1% residents outside a walkable catchment, physical gaps in northern part of precinct and towards the west
Altona Industrial		5,013		4.86%		0.00m ²	- Gaps profound across entire precinct (e.g. for working population)
Altona Meadows	20,141	20,302	0.80%	21.65%	58.40m ²	57.94m ²	25.1% residents outside a walkable catchment, physical gaps in north-east and south-west of precinct
Altona North	12,916	20,926	62.01%	5.59%	33.74m ²	20.83m ²	20.6% residents outside a walkable catchment, physical gaps in south and central areas
Brooklyn	1,945	2,179	12.04%	6.50%	47.55m ²	42.45m ²	19.6% residents outside a walkable catchment, physical gaps in west and central areas
Laverton	5,050	7,533	49.17%	7.82%	25.88m ²	17.35m ²	4.4% residents outside a walkable catchment, good overall coverage
Newport East	4,608	4,618	0.22%	13.31%	44.54m ²	44.45m ²	0% residents outside a walkable catchment, excellent overall coverage
Newport West	8,822	9,694	9.88%	10.68%	32.14m ²	29.25m ²	1.4% residents outside a walkable catchment, excellent overall coverage
Seabrook	5,439	4,847	-10.89%	6.36%	15.68m ²	17.60m ²	1.6% residents outside a walkable catchment, excellent overall coverage
Spotswood-South Kingsville	4,790	8,841	84.58%	3.00%	22.91m ²	12.41m ²	20% residents outside a walkable catchment, physical gaps in northern and central areas
Williamstown-Williamstown North	16,401	13,656	12.25%	12.18%	38.73m ²	44.08m ²	1% residents outside a walkable catchment, excellent overall coverage

*This figure includes encumbered open space that is accessible (has unrestricted access) to the public and land not in Council's ownership.

2.4 CHALLENGES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Hobsons Bay is expected to experience approximately 10% population growth by 2030. The established nature of existing residential areas means that few new growth areas are available to accommodate this population change. As a result, most residential growth may occur via the subdivision of existing lots. This will provide one or two additional dwellings in already established residential areas, rather than new strategic redevelopment/growth area sites identified by Council for more appropriate densification over time.

If greater ad hoc subdivision occurs as described above, there is potential for a net loss of private open space. Poor design and limited private green space will lead to an increased demand for access and use of public open spaces.

This section provides an overview of challenges and future directions relevant to open space in Hobsons Bay. Many of these challenges and future directions have been identified in Council's *Municipal Strategy Statement (MSS)* within the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme, in the *Community Plan, Hobsons Bay 2030*, *Biodiversity Strategy 2017-2022* and other strategic documents.

It is noted that the Open Space Strategy cannot specifically address building facilities, as it recommends changes and improvements to the open space network. However, it can identify conflicts and the need for expansion to accommodate change.

CHALLENGES

Community Values

- The amount of available land per person will decrease over time as population grows
- There are a number of privately owned open spaces (e.g. golf courses) that Council's can't control/improve
- There is spatial inequity with the current distribution of open spaces
- Changing patterns development of some areas (particularly in areas that are transitioning from industrial to residential) poses a particular challenge where a legacy of open space provision is not present
- Environmentally sensitive conservation areas such as wetlands require additional investment and protection beyond general open spaces
- The rate of change within the municipality has occurred at a rate faster than the monitoring and delivery of upgraded/new open spaces.

Land Use/Function

- Lack of multi-functional spaces and implementation of service standards to ensure consistent level of amenity is provided across all spaces
- 25% of residents feel existing open spaces do not appeal to them or their family and 29% reported feeling unsafe (Source: 2014 survey conducted by Hobsons Bay City Council)
- Some multi-use spaces see conflict between different groups (e.g. cyclists and pedestrians, dogs and children), while limited offer of specialised spaces (e.g. dog parks) create overflow issues and competition for space
- Maintenance issues exacerbated by high and ongoing demand for popular open spaces (e.g. overflowing bins, run down facilities)

Urban Design

- Many spaces in Hobsons Bay have not been upgraded to contemporary design and amenity standards, risking underutilisation
- The regional nature of many landmark open spaces within Hobsons Bay such as the swimming beaches and recreational boat ramps require greater investment from Council and its owner/manager partner authorities, where there are policies, such as the State Government's "Target One Million" fishers by 2020 that put pressure on existing facilities and resources.
- The urban heat island effect (UHI) caused by large areas of urban development without sufficient trees and green spaces is contributing to higher temperatures in Hobsons Bay open spaces
- Safety standards that support feelings of safety (e.g. lighting or visibility through spaces) are not always evident
- Park furniture and paths are degraded or lacking in some areas and require upgrading to meet universal design principles
- Pedestrian spaces are not always clean and usable.

Built form and Infrastructure

- Some highly used spaces lack amenities such as shade, drinking water and public toilets
- Poor condition of noisewalls exposes some open spaces beside major roads/freeways to reduced amenity due to traffic noise
- Ageing infrastructure, paired with increasing and diverse demands for multi-functions, puts greater pressure on already ageing facilities

- Not all existing buildings and pathways to and within existing open spaces comply with the accessibility needs of all residents
- Rate capping and other resource demands creates difficulty for Council in setting capital works priorities
- Some buildings and spaces have been designed for single uses; they are vulnerable to under-use if an activity becomes less popular/ or cannot be easily adapted
- Pressure from residents in neighbouring municipalities can put pressure on existing infrastructure, particularly if already limited for local residents.

Landscape

- Drainage, flood mitigation, dense vegetation and conservation, mean 43% of open space within Hobsons Bay is encumbered and cannot be further developed
- There is a risk of physical loss of open space from climate change-related erosion and loss of sand in vulnerable foreshore areas
- Water scarcity as a result of climate change will increase maintenance burden on significant spaces such as historical landscapes, turf sportsfields and irrigated parks, as well as threatening tree health
- Pressure on the biodiversity of Hobsons Bay open spaces like the Cheetham Wetlands due to increasing human access and pests (both plants and animals)
- Fragmented natural vegetation makes it difficult to maintain and extend ecological connectivity and habitat linking
- Inappropriate waste dumping, inappropriate construction and inappropriate planting encroaches into usable open spaces.

Movement

- Cycling network connections missing in a number of areas; this disadvantages areas where rail lines and freeways make it difficult to access open spaces
- Some open spaces like the beach are not accessible for people of all abilities (Residents' feedback in Council survey, 2014)
- Some residents do not have access to open space that they can comfortably walk to, and as a result rarely visit them.

Open Space Contributions

- Hobsons Bay currently has no set percentage of open space contributions specified in its Planning Scheme (Clause 52.01)
- At present, assessments for contributions occur on a case-by-case basis, making the process more resource-intensive
- Although the planning scheme sets a default rate of up to 5%, this can be varied at VCAT through an appeal, increasing uncertainty about future open space provision
- Without a locally-tailored contributions rate, Hobsons Bay may get a lower contribution than it otherwise may need, particularly for areas expected to experience major urban renewal that will need more open spaces.

Sports facilities

For detailed information regarding the sports facilities challenges, please refer to **Appendix E** (*Sports Needs Analysis, 2017*).

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Community Values

- Use principles of connectivity, diversity, Universal Design and multi-functional spaces to explore innovative ways to improve access to open space in areas that have limited land available for new spaces
- Explore opportunities to partner with private facilities (e.g. schools, sports clubs and community organisations) to increase the offering of public spaces in areas with less available open space
- Identify opportunities to include the community in the design and development of new open spaces
- Embed best-practice principles in new developments to encourage open spaces to be delivered ahead of time, where possible, to foster social interaction and community-building.

Land Use/Function

- Review the demand and suitable development locations for different uses in open space including: community horticulture and community gardens, organised formal sports and event spaces.
- Avoid collocation of less-compatible uses such as dog off-leash areas and play spaces or conservation areas/habitat
- Investigate the potential for physical responses to use conflicts such as including buffers between competing uses
- Invest significantly to ensure open space sites are well-maintained, fit for use and multi-functional (where possible)

- Explore opportunities for new open space sites to be special use or for the collocation of specific, complimentary uses that face conflict elsewhere
- Explore best-practice models for open space design to reduce the potential for conflict between open space user groups (e.g. path widths or dedicated path areas for cyclists and pedestrians)
- Enhance visitor comfort by providing drinking fountains, well-spaced seating and other park furniture, secure trip-end bicycle parking facilities, and assessing the need for public toilet provision
- Use best practice urban design techniques to mitigate any amenity impacts from busy roads and freeways where spaces are exposed.

Urban Design

- Use water sensitive urban design (WSUD) treatments wherever possible, and minimise use of dark surfaces to address the UHI effect
- Ensure best-practice benchmarks for open space accessibility are used, including the principles of universal design
- Use open space catchments based on a benchmark accessibility to 95% of residents within a 400m comfortable walking distance
- Use the Heart Foundation's Healthy By Design guidelines to ensure people are able to access open spaces within safe walking distances
- Use the crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principle to address public perceptions on safety; avoid solid fencing or perimeter walls and encourage visibility and accessibility
- Align edges of new parks with streets to facilitate passive surveillance from nearby housing, businesses or people passing by
- Identify and plan for multiple visible entry and exit points to enhance accessibility and promote parks as part of a wider, safe, pedestrian network
- Locate clustered activities within or on the edge of parks or open space

Built form and Infrastructure

- Use benchmarking to identify the minimum service and infrastructure requirements within open spaces (refer to Hierarchy in **Chapter 3**)
- Identify key opportunity sites where infrastructure can be upgraded, or requires replacing and prioritise works accordingly (refer to recommendations in **Chapter 3**)
- Ensure new buildings within open spaces are designed to be flexible and multi-purpose (e.g. integrate multiple sporting clubs/codes, or traditional sports with passive recreation)
- As part of the Open Space Strategy's implementation, monitoring and review program, regularly review the service standards and local benchmarks and update actions as required
- Explore opportunities for self-sustaining infrastructure initiatives (e.g. solar panels and water reuse) to reduce maintenance costs.

Landscape

- Investigate a range of protective strategies for maintaining vulnerable open space and significant cultural landscapes.
- Protection strategies should include mitigation of climate change impacts, selection of drought tolerant vegetation and responsible selection of building materials.

- Implement findings of the *Biodiversity Strategy* to enhance management and protection of areas of significant environmental values.
- Identify sites for potential enhancement of ecological connectivity and habitat linking through careful placement and selection of plant and tree species.
- Investigate best practice management of enforcement of encroachment laws and public education regarding local laws
- Create a greening and street landscape strategy with prioritised actions for both street and park trees (e.g. an urban forest strategy)
- Ensure all landscape design incorporates principles that parks should be pleasant places for people to sit, meet and talk as well as having active recreation areas (as relevant)
- Plant tall trunk, broad leaf, broad canopy trees to provide useful shade for park users and an aesthetically pleasing environment
- Avoid planting trees that require frequent watering and pruning and choose low-maintenance plant varieties
- Select appropriate species and locate trees to maximise access to shade through the day, in both winter and summer
- Provide natural shade within open spaces to promote sitting, meeting and talking and to maintain a comfortable micro-climate for human activity.
- Improve walkability by creating safe, dedicated pedestrian priority crossing points to overcome identified barriers such as roads and railway lines, creating walkable streets along identified priority walking routes
- Provide off road cycling connections; and implementation of wayfinding treatments, including signage.
- Work with City Strategy and Transport (Traffic) to implement safe on road cycle networks within neighbourhoods and districts.

Open Space Contributions

The following options for introducing a new rate into Clause 52.01 of the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme have been identified:

- A flat rate across the municipality;
- A variable rate by suburb;
- A variable rate for high-growth or urban renewal areas;
- A variable rate for different types of land use (i.e. industrial); or
- A combination of the above.

For more information regarding proposed methodologies that can be used to determine an appropriate open space contribution for Hobsons Bay, refer to **Appendix F** (*Contributions Framework Report, Urban Enterprise*).

Sports facilities

For detailed information regarding the sports facilities future directions, please refer to **Appendix E** (*Sports Needs Analysis, InsideEdge 2017*).

Movement

- Continue to implement the shared trails currently being constructed (e.g. the Laverton Creek Trail and the Kororoit Creek Trail) to help fill in missing cycle network connections

Implement the relevant open space design from the Council's *Universal Design Policy*.

**OPEN SPACE
FRAMEWORK**

3.1 THE VISION

THE VISION

Council's 2030 Community Vision highlights that residents in Hobsons Bay want to embrace local heritage, environment and diversity. According to the plan, the community will be an inclusive, empowered, sustainable and visionary community led and supported by a progressive Council of excellence. The following priorities relate directly to Council's Open Space Strategy:

- **Priority 1:** Urban planning is visionary, vibrant and accountable, and a key consideration under this priority is the provision of open community spaces.
- **Priority 2:** Community well-being and connection, where services are accessible and visible for all.
- **Priority 4:** Proactive environmental and urban enrichment, expansion and conservation will occur. This includes a Council commitment to responsive and timely promotion of an active quality of life, beautification, equity, safety and well-being. Critically, in achieving this priority, integrated green initiatives into urban access corridors and around local industry are to be sought.
- **Priority 5:** Activate sustainable practices that address climate change and other environmental management concerns.

In mid 2017 the Council Plan 2017-2021 was also released. Work undertaken to prepare the plan further emphasised that the Hobsons Bay community loves the area for its beaches, parks and green spaces, its vibrant atmosphere and sense of community, as well as the proximity to Melbourne's Central Business District, its character housing and its people.

Fundamentally, the local community and the organisation has identified that Hobsons Bay is a great place to live, work and visit. In the context of the 2030 Community Vision, developed by the community, and the Council Plan for 2017-2021, the Hobsons Bay Open Space Strategy has been recast, as follows:

Hobsons Bay open spaces are accessible, connected, safe and inviting places.

The network is well-maintained, well-designed and environmentally sustainable. It is recognised, protected and enhanced for its heritage and cultural importance, its contribution to human recreation and well-being, and its biodiversity and conservation values.

Equity and diversity underpin the design and location of open spaces at every scale across the municipality, enabling all Hobsons Bay residents, workers and visitors to delight in local open spaces.

3.2 PRINCIPLES FOR OPEN SPACE PLANNING

The Open Space Strategy will guide delivery of new open spaces, maintenance and improvement of existing open spaces for the next 20 years, and will be regularly reviewed by Council; this process of monitoring and review will be set out in the implementation plan in the next stage of the project.

The principles outlined in Figure 20 provide a framework upon which the implementation and action plan has been developed. They have been informed by Council’s work for the *Open Space Discussion Paper*, the *Council Plan*, and the *Community 2030 Vision*, as well as planning for the *Metropolitan Open Space Strategy*.

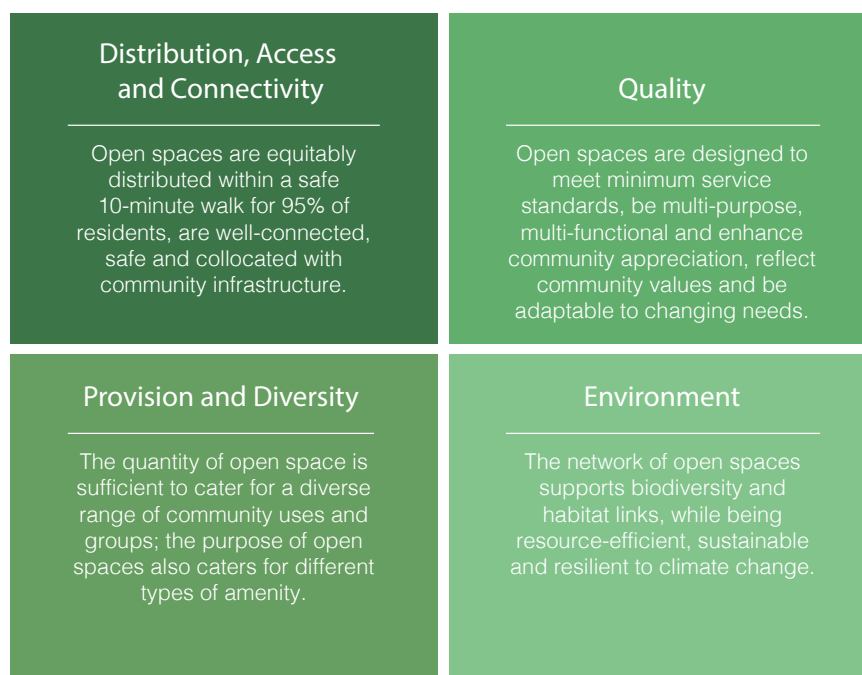
The principles are:

- Distribution, Access and Connectivity
- Quality
- Provision and Diversity
- Environment.

There are areas within the existing open space network that will require further investigation under the open space planning principles. For example, areas within Hobsons Bay that do not have sufficient access to distribution, quality, quantity, or diversity of open spaces. The principles also address:

- Strategies to maximise resources for best results
- Improving planning and development processes, asset management and service standards
- Urban cooling functions of open space
- Habitat and biodiversity values.

Figure 20. Principles of Open Space Planning for Hobsons Bay



The principles of open space planning shown in the diagram on the previous page were crafted using detailed background studies completed by Council from 2014-2016 and the first stage of work completed by Planisphere in 2017.

DISTRIBUTION, ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY

- The community will have an equitable distribution of open spaces and be able to easily access open space from all locations in Hobsons Bay; including people of all ages, abilities, health, gender and cultural backgrounds.
- Open spaces will be designed to be welcoming and inclusive, so that people feel safe; through lighting, universal design and good connectivity to the surrounding area.
- Habitat, recreational and sustainable commuter transport links will be supported and strengthened in the open space network.
- Where possible, open spaces will be collocated with community infrastructure to provide opportunities for the community to meet, socialise and participate in a variety of activities that are accessible and safe for all.

QUALITY

- Open spaces will be designed to meet the minimum service standards.
- Open spaces will be designed to be multi-functional or flexible, to adapt to changing environmental, social and recreational needs and expectations.
- Design of open spaces will acknowledge, protect and celebrate indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage and contemporary values.
- Spaces will be designed for longevity and environmental resilience, ease of maintenance and to ensure a high quality environment that engenders community appreciation.
- Spaces will be comfortable and inviting, providing a micro-climate that supports human activity and activated public spaces.
- Spaces will be designed with multi-functionality in mind, to cater for different demands, uses and events both during the day and at night.



PROVISION AND DIVERSITY

- There quantity of enough open space through area or design, will be sufficient to support the community's diverse open space and recreation needs.
- Open spaces will be provided, designed and managed to encourage the whole community to be outside, exercise, keep fit and play sport to improve their health and wellbeing.
- Open spaces will be equitably funded across the municipality for all parts of Hobsons Bay's diverse community.
- The diversity of open space character will support habitat for a range of native flora and fauna and meet the difference recreational, cultural and social characteristics and needs of the community.

ENVIRONMENT

- The open space network will be designed and managed to improve biodiversity, mitigate climate change and improve sustainable outcomes.
- Planning for open space design and management will consider climate change adaptation and the protection of biodiversity values.
- Urban ecology and natural area management practices will be used to prevent the loss of species within open spaces and recognise the important role open spaces play in habitat and biodiversity management.
- Self-sustaining infrastructure initiatives will be explored to reduce operational costs and enhance the environmental sustainability of assets within open spaces.



3.3 CELEBRATING UNIQUE OPEN SPACE VALUES

Hobsons Bay is fortunate to have many special places and landscape values that are highly valued by the community and visitors. Preserving and promoting these values through education and reinvention is an important way of creating interesting and diverse spaces. Additional benefits can include economic growth for local businesses from tourism, enhancement of community pride and ultimate protection of these values through stewardship.

SIGNIFICANT VALUES TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE

The following values are identified by both the Council and the community for protection and enhancement:

Views and Vistas

61% of people surveyed in 2014 for the background Open Space Strategy said they value open spaces for their views of the sea and coastline. 'Availability of views and vistas' was also listed among the main reasons people will visit open spaces that are beyond walking distance from their home.

As identified in the key themes and principles for this Strategy, planning and design guidelines should identify when and how these views can be protected and enhanced.

Places of Heritage and Environmental Significance

There are numerous sites and features throughout Hobsons Bay with indigenous cultural heritage and post-settlement heritage values. Many of these are identified in the *Hobsons Bay Heritage Study* (reviewed 2015).

Places and features of heritage significance can range from a lamp, fountain, indigenous midden site or group of trees to a whole site or place, for example Commonwealth Reserve in Williamstown.

Heritage significance can include natural values such as geomorphological features

or remnant vegetation communities and trees. Truganina Explosives Reserve is an example of a place that has a range of natural and cultural heritage values, as well as biodiversity and conservation values (identified in the *Biodiversity Strategy, 2017-2022*).

Some trees or groups of trees of local significance were recognised in the Heritage Study, however people can also develop an emotional relationship to trees over time.

Environmental values should also be recognised and celebrated for their cultural significance. They can be different to natural heritage significance as they can be introduced to a landscape that was previously degraded or of little conservation or biodiversity value. For example, a constructed wetland system can attract frogs, insects, birds and other fauna as well as improving water quality. Biodiversity and environmental values are discussed in the principles of open space planning (refer to **Section 3.1**), taking reference from the Goals within the *Biodiversity Strategy 2017-2022*.

One of the main threats to heritage, environmental and conservation values in Hobsons Bay is inadvertent damage due to lack of awareness. This is demonstrated at sites such as Doug Grant Reserve, where dog owners may let animals access the foreshore where they disturb sensitive shorebird habitat. Another instance is dirt bike riders damaging coastal vegetation.

If values are not identified and recorded, evidence of a place's history can be inadvertently lost when sites are altered or developed.

Identification and Protection of Significant Places

As highlighted in the open space hierarchy discussion (**Section 3.4**, over the following pages), the start of a recognition and conservation process is to identify these values within a space's open space classification. The values can then be maintained, protected and enhanced through future works within those open spaces.

Complementary strategies such as the *Biodiversity Strategy* will also assist in preservation and enhancement of the unique and significant values that many of Hobsons Bays' open spaces possess.

An effective way of protecting values is through education and awareness-raising. In the first instance, research and planning such as the development of cultural heritage management plans need to be undertaken to ensure the extent of values are recognised and recorded. Following this, interpretation of these values can be enhanced in a variety of ways, including:

- Storytelling
- Reinvention of sites to tell the story of their past (e.g. changing the use in a way that reflects past uses)
- Landscape treatments (e.g. using materials and stencils in paths that reference past uses)
- Public art installations and performance art
- Local events
- Signage
- Guided tours
- Displays (e.g. at community centres and libraries)
- Online information and interactive tools.



Truganina Park

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Landscapes vary considerably from place to place but have a number of common characteristics. The interplay of geology, topography, vegetation, water bodies and other natural features combined with the effects of land use, built form and various cultural influences make one landscape differ from another. In an urban context, landscapes may include cityscapes or 'natural spaces' such as parks and gardens, as well as specially identified heritage areas based on built form character.

The process of identifying character helps to:

- Understand the various layers which contribute to defining an area;
- Understand where sensitivity to change through modifications to the landscape or development may exist; and
- Assist to inform the conditions required to manage future change.

Character can be identified through a study of key landscape character elements including landform, waterform, vegetation and land use and built form, together with a detailed field survey. For the purpose of the Open Space Strategy, the character will be understood based on the context of different open spaces and the form and function within.

Contact with nature

'Contact with nature' is regarded as a critically important requirement of urban landscapes, as reinforced by the Hobsons Bay community's key values, acknowledging that 'access to nature through local parks and open spaces is vital for everyone's health and wellbeing' (2030 Community Vision Plan).

As part of the Open Space Strategy, the role, character and function of each open space within Hobsons Bay will be identified, providing Council and the community with direction regarding areas that require greater input into the natural character and values of open spaces.

'Natural' values may relate to:

- The idea of 'pristine' wilderness (e.g. conservation reserves, creek corridors and protected parts of the foreshore);
- Cultural landscapes (e.g. urban areas, parks identified as having heritage significance); and
- Parks and gardens in general (e.g. green spaces as having a natural form or function).

The notion of nature and function will play a role in the future design and maintenance of open spaces, and may have implications for Council where a function or context is recommended for change, upgrading or reclassification through public works.

3.4 OPEN SPACE CLASSIFICATION

PROPOSED HIERARCHY

The proposed Hobsons Bay open space hierarchy builds on objectives from Clause 56.05-2 (Public Open Space Provision), *Planning Practice Note 70* (PPN70: Open space planning), and the *Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines* (Victorian Planning Authority). The proposed hierarchy provides a detailed framework for open space classification by drawing on categories of open spaces from existing policy guidance and other adopted strategies (as outlined in the discussion above).

The proposed hierarchy of open spaces in Hobsons Bay is generally reflective of the requirements of Clause 56.05-2 (Standard C13), and contains:

- Linear/Link/Buffer: Open space that may be adjacent to a road reserve or create connectivity between streets and reserves
- Local (includes Micro/Pocket): Open space less than 1ha in size with a catchment between 200-400m
- Neighbourhood: Open space with a minimum area of 1ha and 500-800m catchment
- District: Open space (with a focus on active recreation) with a size of 5-15ha and a catchment of 2km
- Regional: Open space (defined by multiple uses and functions, larger playgrounds and sometimes cultural significance) with a size of 15-50 hectares and a catchment of 5km.

An open space hierarchy with five categories is proposed. The hierarchy is a tool that can be used to capture the unique features and attributes of the Hobsons Bay existing open space network, while also establishing benchmarks for maintenance and service standards that need to be provided in each open space within the municipality.

The categorisation of open spaces into the hierarchy enables the analysis of the spatial distribution of open space, the development of appropriate types of activity and the appropriate management of open space.

Each category includes a description of each classification, likely functions/use for that type of space, its size and catchment (see diagram at Figure 21). In summary, the elements of classification are outlined in the list below.

Factors Influencing a Space's Role in the Hierarchy

- Size: The total land area of an open space is not the only determining factor in determining an open space area's place in the hierarchy. For instance, a neighbourhood sized oval with higher order infrastructure may fulfil the role of a district or regional open space.
- Function/uses: A description of the role of the open space in facilitating activity
- Catchment: The distance open space patrons are expected to be willing to travel to a type of open space.
- Length of stay: The length of time patrons are likely to spend within an open space guided by the range of uses and service standards.
- Example open space: Example of an open space area in Hobsons Bay
- Definition: Description of the key attributes and defining features of each category of open space
- Typical Service Standards: Outlines the type of facilities or infrastructure that might be contained within an open space based on its role in the hierarchy.

Classification

The classification of each open space within the hierarchy takes into account all elements (see list above) and is not determined by one factor alone. For example, while the Williamstown Botanic Gardens may not be of a size that automatically means it is classified as a 'regional' open space. However, its cultural and heritage significance, function, service standards and catchment do align with the regional scale of open space.

It is noted that the designation 'regional' could signify a catchment from the western region of Melbourne, or a catchment that only extends to adjoining municipalities.

Factors such as conservation values, environmental significance, biodiversity hotspots may also be identified as other factors that would contribute to the final individual classification for an open space as part of the audit of existing spaces.

The classification of open spaces may also be affected by the role certain facilities play within the space. For example, some open spaces may have a limited range of uses within the passive open space portion of the land (i.e. land accessible to everyone and without access restrictions).

Meanwhile, a sports facility within the public open space area may be part of a regional, State or even national competition, drawing players and spectators from other municipalities, the western region, or even from around Australia. Where this is the case, the classification of an open space more broadly may be elevated to acknowledge such a role.

Classification of each open space that was audited as part of the Open Space Strategy is included at Appendix G to this report. This illustrates how the categories were applied and help Council make funding or infrastructure decisions on a nuanced, case-by-case basis.

Open Space Provision

While the hierarchy is useful to determine an appropriate mix of open spaces and gaps in provision, it does not, in itself, enable an assessment of the appropriateness of various open types, quality or locations.

It does enable a common language that can be used throughout this report, and which can flow on to be used across Council's other related strategic and service-provision documents as relevant.

Conservation Areas

Conservation areas and areas of environmental or biodiversity significance are included in the hierarchy and are generally categorised as Regional open space. Designations for special conservation areas will be allocated under the landscape setting, public access and use classifications.

Where areas are not available for public use, this is noted, and these areas are not then included in any public open space calculations. This does not undermine the contribution such spaces make to biodiversity or habitat links within the municipality, but acknowledges that such spaces should be managed based on implementing the key actions from the *Biodiversity Strategy 2017-2022*.



Figure 21. Proposed Hobsons Bay Open Space Hierarchy

NB: Colours Relate to **Figure 22**: Open Space Hierarchy Map, overpage

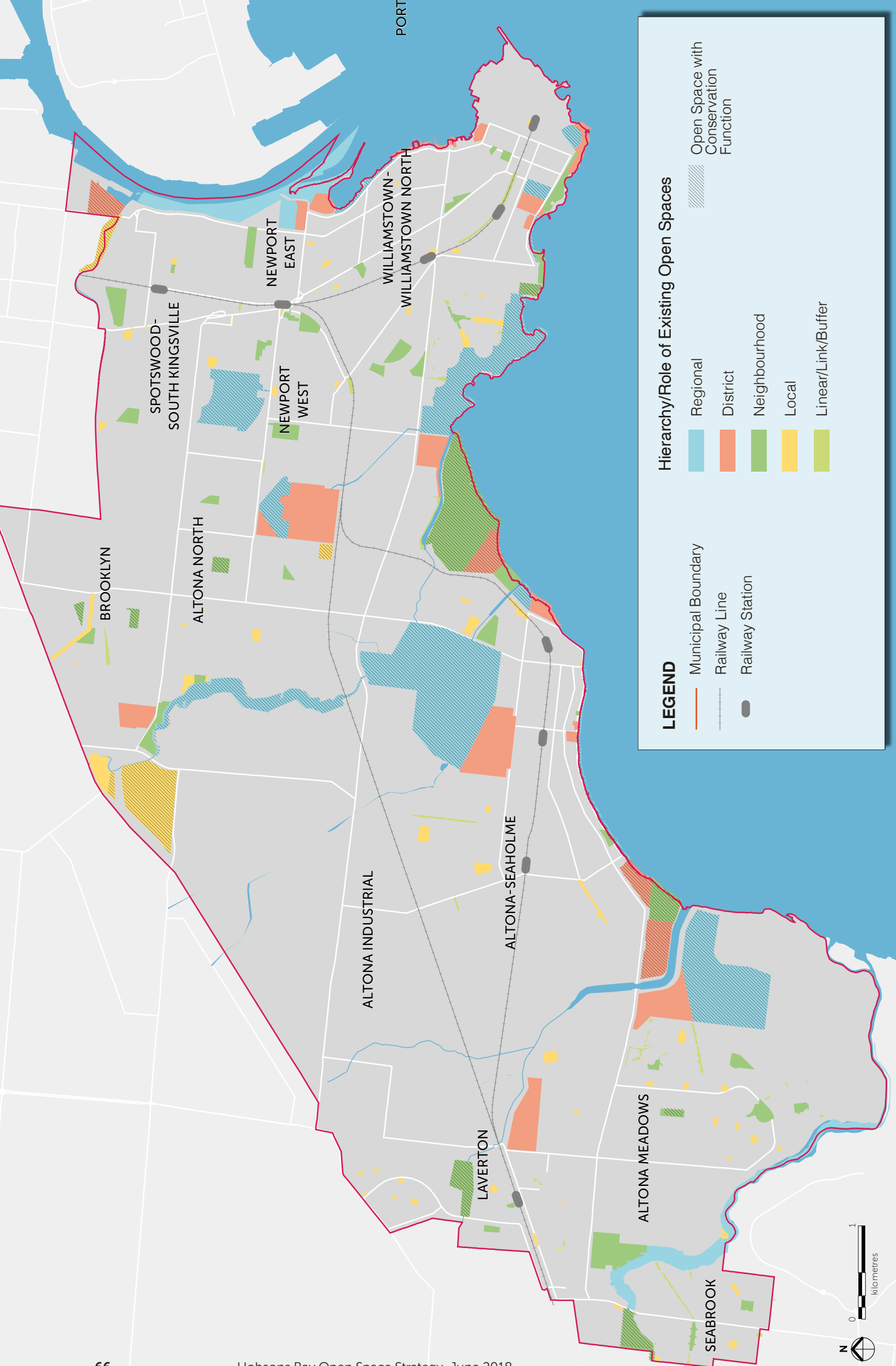


Figure 22. Proposed Open Space Hierarchy

3.5 PRIORITY-SETTING AND MAINTENANCE

EXISTING PRIORITY-SETTING

Workshops with Council staff in various departments engaged in delivery and maintenance of open spaces, identified four key factors influence open space maintenance/upgrades:

- Condition (i.e. ageing infrastructure, worn out)
- Participation (i.e. popular location, popular feature requiring more regular attention or regional destination)
- Risk (i.e. broken/dangerous features, hazard)
- Public demand.

In future, the open space hierarchy will be used to guide decision-making, while working with a matrix to assess:

- Which works have the highest priority
- Timeframe for implementation
- Responsibility for implementation.

When the above is set, the Framework will be applied to the existing open spaces audit conducted as part of the preliminary Open Space Strategy work. This will enable Council to consider the scale of 'major' and 'minor' upgrades required across the municipality.

In Council's previous work, it was recommended that Council focuses on the following priorities:

- Address immediate renewal priorities (backlog areas)
- Implement a program of hard-surface walking paths and connections within reserves, with tree planting and wayfinding signage to be provided at the same time, to create a comfortable and user-friendly path network

- Work towards equitable distribution of good quality, walkable open space that addresses renewal priorities as well as improving accessibility and opportunities for social interaction and self-directed activities.

MAINTENANCE

It is important to note that ongoing maintenance associated with open spaces, including botanic features, also needs to be considered by Council. Increased facilities and works triggered within open spaces (i.e. to upgrade them to play a higher-order function in the hierarchy) will create a higher maintenance requirement. Accordingly, consideration must be given to understanding the impacts regarding:

- Frequency: Will the recommended changes affect how often maintenance needs to occur?
- Extent: Will the recommended changes affect how much work is required on each site?
- Specificity: Are there additional features recommended that require a special type of maintenance?
- Consideration of the above will enable the maintenance areas to assess the resources required to implement and manage the implications of the Strategy.
- Operational maintenance costs need to be factored into the annual and projected budget.

SERVICE STANDARDS

Council currently uses the following service standards:

- Australian Standard (AS) (includes Accessibility Standards, and specifications for infrastructure)
- Play Space Strategy 2013-2023 (2013)
- Urban design guidelines
- Infrastructure design manual.

The Play Space Strategy classifies play spaces into two types (see Figure 23). In addition to the play space hierarchy, the Strategy includes the features, planting/ landscape, access and facilities/ amenities expected in a local or destination play space. The service standards are divided into four considerations: 'must have', 'might have', 'should not have', and 'must not have'.

Figure 23. Play Space Strategy Hierarchy

CLASSIFICATION/ DESCRIPTION	
Local Play Space	
»	Small in scale with simple play opportunities targeting a specific age group and their carers.
»	Provide basic facilities that cater for short duration and more frequent visits.
»	Primarily service a 500 metre catchment.
»	Local residents will primarily walk or ride to the play space.
»	A diversity of local play spaces should be planned for within each precinct.
»	Budget Estimate \$50-70,000.
Destination Play Space	
»	Larger in scale with a diversity of play opportunities for children of all ages and abilities.
»	Provide facilities and amenities that cater for a large number of long duration visits.
»	Provide facilities and amenities to meet the needs of parents and carers.
»	Primarily service a 2 kilometre or precinct catchment.
»	Parents, carers and older children will use local transport, their car, walk or ride to the play space.
»	The budget allocation for these spaces will reflect their increased scope of provision and may well be developed in a staged manner over a period of years.
»	Budget Estimate \$150,000 - \$500,000.

3.6 SETTING NEW STANDARDS FOR OPEN SPACE

OVERVIEW

As highlighted earlier in the report, Council last drafted an open space strategy in 2005. The population is projected to grow by 10% by 2030. Accordingly, current planning activities are already underway to identify the most appropriate places for new development to occur that will cater for new residents by 2030.

This Open Space Strategy will enable Council to ensure that existing gaps in the open space network are addressed in the short-term, while also identifying opportunities and delivering projects that will also cater for the projected future population.

Planning, development and maintenance of open space should consider:

- Whole of life asset management across all areas of design, construction, maintenance and disposal
- Climate change and adverse effects on the environment
- Council's resource capacity in the future
- Changing community needs over time, demographics, leisure participation and leisure trends.

With these considerations in mind, it is recommended that the following high-level process be followed for determining when works are required:

1. Assess open space against existing hierarchy and related service standards
2. If the standards are not met, assess whether this is related to backlog works or future demand

3. Identify whether a gap can be addressed through partnerships
4. If there are no partnership options, identify what extent of works, or whether acquisition and establishment of a new space, is required
5. Apply the nominated service standard (determined by the space's role in the hierarchy)
6. Cost the project.

A flow chart illustrating this process is included overpage (see Figure 24).

Priority-Setting

Given the above, it is recommended that decision-making for works and facilities should use the following principles to prioritise the delivery of actions from this strategy:

- Existing demand (i.e. backlog)
- Opportunities to improve linkages and access to more people
- Equity of distribution
- Long-term need or demand
- Cost and cost-recovery method.

Given the considerations above, the flow-chart at Figure 24 (overpage) illustrates how priority setting should occur for works upgrades to existing open spaces.

OTHER FACTORS

Principles of Open Space Planning

The Open Space Strategy contains four key principles for open space planning. The principles should also be used to inform high-level actions when implementing open space, as follows:

- Access and Connectivity – Is the distribution of open space equitably distributed, can everyone access open space easily and are the spaces physically well-connected?
- Quality – Does the open space design support multi-use and multi-functionality, is it accessible and connected, does it enhance community appreciation and reflect community values?
- Quantity and Diversity – Is there enough open space to cater for a diverse range of community uses, and is there a variety of open space types that offer differing levels of amenity?
- Environment – Does the network of open space support biodiversity and habitat links, is it resource-efficient?

Existing Demand

Is works previously... previously identified by another Council strategy, previous open space upgrades. Managing existing parks and infrastructure and the renewal of assets is considered a high priority. Accordingly, 'works request' is also in this category as an urgent request may be received to address a safety issue or hazard.

Future Demand

Future demand is anticipated population (total number) and demographic (population profile) changes that will have an effect on existing spaces in future, or may trigger the need for new spaces. These priorities may be medium to long-term but require resourcing and incorporation in a robust implementation plan as they will also cater for the existing population as they are delivered.

Intervening Options

Intervening options are opportunities that may address an open space need that cannot be filled by Council acquiring new land where it is needed – either due to an unreasonable cost impost or lack of suitable options for acquisition. Here, opportunities for public-private or public-public partnerships should be explored in the area – for example, public use of school grounds and ovals outside school hours.

Degree of Upgrade Required

This consideration refers to 'major' or 'minor' upgrades:

- A major upgrade may be a large extent of works required, either to:
 - Elevate the role of an existing park in a hierarchy to the tier above (i.e. local to neighbourhood) responding to few local spaces available, or future population growth/change;
 - To address a deficit of works in the past that has led to the open space being significantly degraded; or
 - In response to another Strategy's direction, such as implementing a 'Neighbourhood Play Space'.
- A minor upgrade would be less significant works required to maintain a park at its current status, for example repairs, replacements and minor landscape works.

Determining Quality

Several factors influence perceptions about the quality of open space. 'Quality' of open space relates to the service standards Council wishes to achieve in each space based on its role in the hierarchy, which should be established as benchmarks in a similar way to the Play Space Strategy. Council's approach to determining, and subsequently enhancing, the quality of open spaces will be based on a number of factors, which include:

- Natural features
- Provision of opportunities for social interaction
- Addressing competing demands for open space and reducing the potential for conflict
- Increasing amount of outdoor activities, especially aimed at young and older people.

The factors above can also be linked to the principles within the Open Space Strategy, and wherever possible, those principles should underpin decision-making as considerations about how park design, location and connectivity are addressed, for example.

Factors affecting quality in open spaces include:

- Traffic
- Business activity
- Anti-social behaviour and crime or evidence of
- Poor design
- Conflicting roles
- Privatization of the public realm (including perceived).

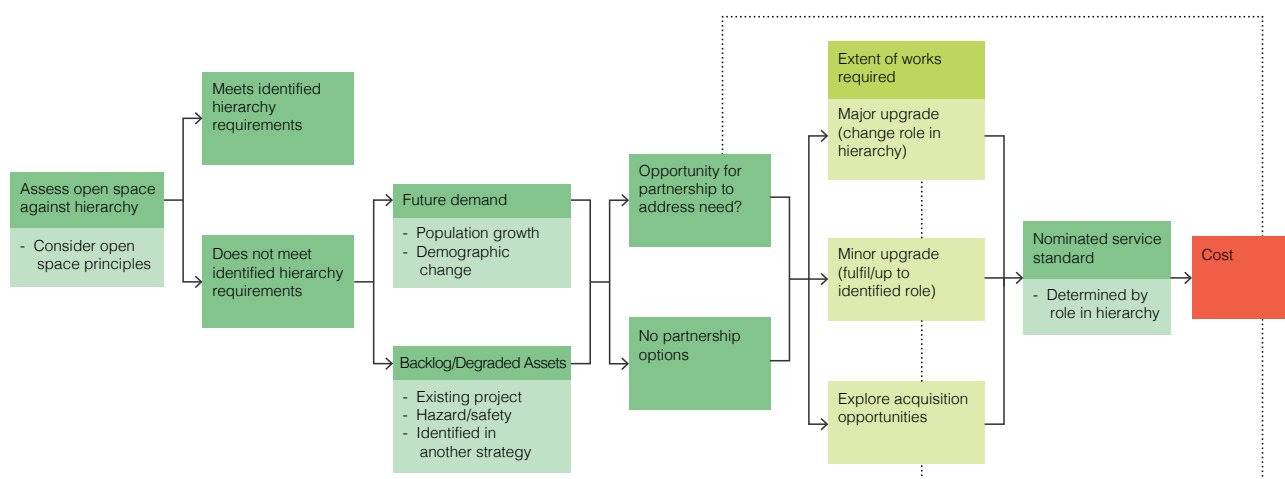


Figure 24. Proposed Decision-Making Framework

3.7 SERVICE STANDARDS

When the Open Space Contributions Framework is prepared, these service standards will be refined to accord with an agreed level of service to be provided to each type of open space based on its role in the open space hierarchy and overall Hobsons Bay network. In addition, each tier of open space within the open space hierarchy will be allocated particular service standards, such as:

- Paths (circuit, informal or hard surface with minimum widths)
- Trees and other planting, garden beds
- Park furniture (bins, seating, BBQs, picnic tables, drinking fountains)
- Playgrounds/play spaces (including natural or structural shade)
- Signage (reserve name, wayfinding, maps or other information)
- Lighting (may need to be addressed in an additional strategy due to cost and potential amenity impacts)
- Point of difference and reason to visit.

It is noted that the provision of public toilets is not included in this study, and the Public Toilet Strategy will be renewed and updated in 2018/19

BUILDING ON DIVERSITY

In each action recommended in the strategy, there are also opportunities for Council to build on the diversity of open spaces provided in Hobsons Bay. 'Diversity' in an open space context can be described as the range of experiences created for visitors in terms of the activities (both passive and formal) that can be undertaken as well as the landscape settings provided.

The service standards are based on industry standards and community feedback from Council's work over 2014-present. The targets act as a benchmark against which existing facilities and open spaces can be compared.

Examples of each type of open space within the hierarchy have been identified to set the standard for the level of amenity that Council will commit to delivering in each space, over time; examples of which can be found in the appendices of this document.

The cost of achieving these targets has been calculated to inform the Open Space Contributions Framework. The benchmarks can also be used to inform guidelines for the development of new open space.

ESTABLISHING BENCHMARKS

According to the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) in the UK, quality standards should relate to the criteria used in the quality audit carried out on-site. The audit scores can be used to establish a local benchmark of quality, based on the score of a site deemed to be good quality. Considerations include:

- Is there any evidence of vandalism in particular neighbourhoods?
- Are the poorest quality parks grouped or dispersed across the area?
- Are larger parks generally considered to be of a higher quality than smaller parks?
- Is there any correlation between areas of multiple deprivation and supply or quality of open spaces?

A high quality open space can be considered to 'do everything well' in the context of the Hobsons Bay open space hierarchy outlining the role for each space, and with consideration given to the principles for open space planning.

A 'high-quality open space' will therefore be a space which, through its visual appearance, range of facilities, standards of maintenance and ease of access, makes people feel that they are in a cared-for place.

The audit collected information regarding:

- Level of maintenance
- Level of design resolution
- Evidence of wear and tear
- Potential for conflicts (i.e. between user groups).

By identifying an 'exemplar' meeting the high level benchmarks observed on site for each tier within the hierarchy, Council can decide whether each open space becomes the benchmark for that type of space, or whether further information is required.

It is noted that the benchmarks act as a baseline for service standards, so that a park meeting the benchmark is considered high-quality. Any works required that are outside, or 'above and beyond', the benchmark, should be identified as part of the masterplanning process for that site and facilities or works delivery.

Figure 25. Service Standards

USE/ ACTIVITY/ LANDSCAPE SETTING	MINIMUM SERVICE STANDARD (ASPIRATIONAL TARGET)																						
<p>Universal Design</p> <p>Minimum standards of Universal Design principles are exceeded to ensure open spaces and assets within them are fully accessible and inclusive</p>	<p>Achieve Universal Design principles in all open spaces within the public realm, addressing the following features as set out in the <i>Universal Design Policy Statement</i> (2017), for:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Parks and reserves:</td> <td>Play spaces:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>» Connections</td> <td>» Equity and inclusion</td> </tr> <tr> <td>» Park approach and entry</td> <td>» Smart</td> </tr> <tr> <td>» Pathways</td> <td>» Independent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>» Scenic vista and observation areas</td> <td>» Safe</td> </tr> <tr> <td>» Furniture and resting places</td> <td>» Active</td> </tr> <tr> <td>» Barbecues</td> <td>» Comfortable</td> </tr> <tr> <td>» Shade and shelters</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>» Toilets</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>» Drinking water access</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>» Park signage</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Parks and reserves:	Play spaces:	» Connections	» Equity and inclusion	» Park approach and entry	» Smart	» Pathways	» Independent	» Scenic vista and observation areas	» Safe	» Furniture and resting places	» Active	» Barbecues	» Comfortable	» Shade and shelters		» Toilets		» Drinking water access		» Park signage	
Parks and reserves:	Play spaces:																						
» Connections	» Equity and inclusion																						
» Park approach and entry	» Smart																						
» Pathways	» Independent																						
» Scenic vista and observation areas	» Safe																						
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» Barbecues	» Comfortable																						
» Shade and shelters																							
» Toilets																							
» Drinking water access																							
» Park signage																							
<p>Walking</p>	<p>» Hard surface/delete space accessible pathways within all links, local, neighbourhood and regional parks</p> <p>» Circuits within open space to encourage walking and exercise (minimum within all Neighbourhood and Regional park developments)</p>																						
<p>Cycling - Shared trails</p>	<p>» Access to an off-road shared trail connection within 1km of every residence</p> <p>» Continuous links on priority off-road routes (i.e. Laverton Creek Trail, Skeleton Creek Trail, Kororoit Creek Trail, Point Cook Road, Central Avenue, Maddox Road/Market Street)</p>																						
<p>Children's play</p> <p>Varying types of spaces: nature, imaginative, active/challenging, adventure, etc.</p>	<p>» A play space within 500m of every residence</p> <p>» No repetition of a type of play experience within 1.5km</p> <p>» At least one play space designed to Universal Access Standards within each ward</p>																						

USE/ ACTIVITY/ LANDSCAPE SETTING	MINIMUM SERVICE STANDARD (ASPIRATIONAL TARGET)
<p>Community gathering spaces</p> <p>Including grass kick-about spaces of minimum 50x25m, play space and public amenities</p>	» Within 500m-1km of every resident (40 proposed)
<p>Dedicated youth spaces</p> <p>Can include: skate, BMX, cycle sports and other challenging activities for young adults with integrated seating, wifi, gathering/ hang-out spaces and amenities</p>	» At least one in each ward
<p>Dedicated dog off-leash areas</p> <p>Unrestricted</p>	» At least one within 2km of every residence (without the need to cross a railway line or freeway)
<p>Places to relax and unwind</p> <p>Quiet places within existing reserves or in new parks - e.g. to take advantage of views, natural or creation of attractive landscape settings</p>	» At least one every 2km
<p>High quality landscape settings</p> <p>Can be hired for functions, weddings or special occasions</p>	» Five key sites to provide alternatives and relieve impacts and demand at the Williamstown Botanic Gardens
<p>Facilities that encourage exercise or self-directed activity</p> <p>E.g. public use tennis courts, hit-up walls, multi-purpose courts, fitness equipment, giant chess boards, ping pong tables, parkour, climbing walls, mazes, etc.</p>	<p>» In every neighbourhood park</p> <p>» In some regional parks</p>
<p>Events and festival spaces</p> <p>At least 1ha with three phase power, car parking and good quality grass areas</p>	» At least one to service each precinct (within 2km)
<p>Places with water in the landscape</p> <p>Waterway, foreshore, lake or water play</p>	» Access to water as an open space feature within 1km of every home (without the need to cross a railway line or freeway)

Figure 26. Service Standards by Open Space Type (Role in the hierarchy)

ITEM	MICRO	LINK	LOCAL	NEIGHBOURHOOD	REGIONAL	CONSERVATION
Paths informal	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓
Paths (hard surface minimum 2m wide)	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Circuit path	x	x	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Trees (min 50ha)	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Bin/s	x	x	✓	✓✓	✓✓	x
Fencing to prohibit vehicle access	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Open grass areas (min dimensions/area 50m x 25m)	x	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	x
BBQ	x	x	x	✓	✓	x
Paved/hard surface areas (other than paths)	x	x	✓	✓✓	✓✓	x
Bike racks	x	x	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Shelter	x	x	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Shade sails (Play spaces only)	x	x	x	✓	✓	x
Seating (min 1 per 100m of path)	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Signage – Reserve name	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Signage – Wayfinding	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Signage – Maps and/or other user information	x	x	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Lighting	x	✓ (Only if providing a link to Activity Centre or public transport)	✓ (Only if providing a link to Activity Centre or public transport)	✓	✓✓ (Unless sensitive conservation values)	x

Key:

✓ Might have ✓✓ Must have x Must not have

ITEM	MICRO	LINK	LOCAL	NEIGHBOURHOOD	REGIONAL	CONSERVATION
Picnic tables	x	x	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Irrigated grass areas	x	x	✓	✓✓	✓✓	x
Garden beds	x	x	✓	✓✓	✓✓	x
Drinking fountain	x	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Public toilet (refer also Toilet Strategy)	x	x	x	✓	✓✓	x
Viewing areas/boardwalks	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓
Off-street or indented car parking	x	x	x	✓	✓✓	✓
Play space (refer also Play Space Strategy)	x	x	✓ (up to \$200k)	✓✓ (\$200k-1m)	✓✓ (\$1m +)	x
Point of difference and reason to visit (special landscape character or self-directed activity – can be play space)	x	x	✓✓ (\$50k-150k) Minimum 2 reasons to visit	✓✓ (\$150-300k) 3+ reasons to visit	✓✓ (300k+) 10+ reasons to visit	✓
Establishment maintenance (minimum 12 months)	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	n/a

Key:

✓ Might have ✓✓ Must have x Must not have

4

RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 MUNICIPAL-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

The vision and open space principles outlined in **Chapter 3** of this report are basis for setting out recommendations that will inform preparation of the Open Space Strategy for Hobsons Bay. The principles are:

- Distribution, access and connectivity
- Quality
- Provision and diversity
- Environment.

In addition to municipal-wide recommendations that will result in actions for Council, there are precinct-level recommendations presented in the following section (see **Section 4.3**).

Allocation of Funding to Implement the Actions

There are two types of funding required to implement the actions outlined in this Strategy. The capital works budget apportions funding to different types of work (e.g. upgrades, new works or proposed), while expenditure is also allocated based on existing and/or future demand (i.e. population growth).

The charts at right illustrate how funding has been allocated for the whole municipality; these figures are also provided per precinct at **Section 4.3**.

As highlighted in Figure 28, renewal and upgrades make up the majority of works required.

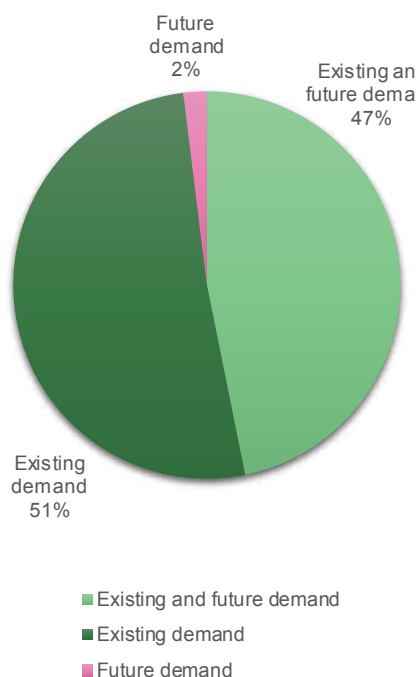


Figure 27. Drivers for demand (based on population growth and existing condition)

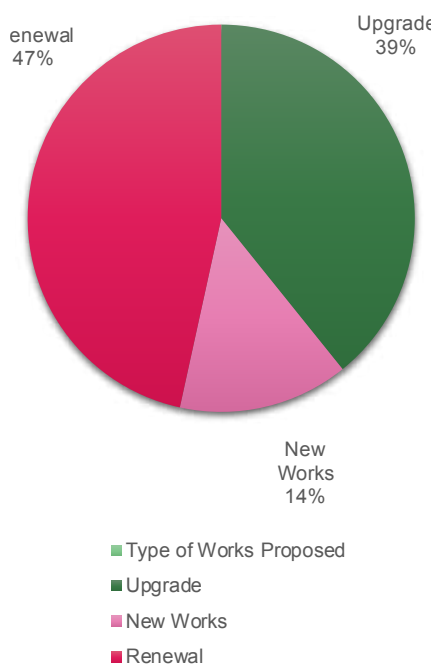


Figure 28. Funding apportioned between new, upgrade and renewal works

4.2 GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations presented in this section respond to the four key principles for open space planning that underpin this Strategy:

- Distribution, access and connectivity
- Provision and diversity
- Quality
- Environment.

PRINCIPLE	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	CURRENT DEPARTMENT	PARTNER
Distribution, Access and Connectivity Open spaces are within a safe 5-minute walk of 95% of residents, are well-connected, safe and collocated with community infrastructure	1. Apply the endorsed Footpath Policy and review Council's new and replacement footpath program to align with priority walking routes.	Assets and Civil	Open Space Integrated Transport
	2. Undertake an analysis of hazardous pedestrian crossing points to identify priorities for improvement.	Traffic Management	Integrated Transport Open Space and City Design
	3. Review Council's new and replacement street tree planting program to align with priority walking routes.	Operations Arboriculture	Open Space and City Design Civic Works
	4. Identify key strategic areas for the acquisition and development of new open space based on low provision and significant population growth particularly within Spotswood-South Kingsville, Altona North and Laverton areas.	Open Space	Property Services Active Communities
	5. Develop a criteria to determine the suitability of land acquisition for new open space in appropriate locations, considering: accessibility, amenity, conservation, cost-efficiency and network.	Open Space	Property Services Active Communities
	6. Investigate the viability of improving open space access to identified residential gap areas, including but not limited to: Altona; Altona North; Altona Meadows; Spotswood and South Kingsville.	Open Space	Strategic Planning Property Services Active Communities
	7. Increase open space access to identified industrial gap areas, including but not limited to Williamstown and Brooklyn.	Open Space	Property Services Active Communities
	8. Create a network of public spaces that are accessible to all, free of charge, and connected by safe, high quality streetscapes, pedestrian and cycle links, and public transport at key locations.	Open Space	Property Services Active Communities
	9. Develop a 10 year local community park upgrade program based on condition of asset, level of amenity, function and accessibility.	Open Space	Property Services Active Communities

PRINCIPLE	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	CURRENT DEPARTMENT	PARTNER
Environment The network of open spaces supports biodiversity and habitat links, while being resource-efficient, and responds to climate change adaptation	1. Support the development of a Coastal Management Plan to guide the management and maintenance of highly valued and environmentally significant coastal environments.	Strategic Planning (Coastal Planner)	Active Communities Open Space Parks
	2. Advocate for a 'third pass' assessment and shared responsibility for foreshore assets and the construction of seawalls and revetments.	Open Space Conservation Sustainability	Civil Melbourne Water DELWP
	3. Protect and mitigate sea level rise, coastal processes and hazards through the continued implementation of the annual Foreshore Capital Works Program.	Open Space	Active Communities Civil DELWP
	4. Develop and implement conservation management plans for conservation open spaces that contain biodiversity and habitat values of identified significance.	Conservation	Open Space Sustainability
	5. In alignment with the Hobsons Bay Biodiversity Strategy, identify and develop potential biodiversity links through Hobsons Bay.	Open Space Conservation	Sustainability
	6. Support the implementation actions of the Biodiversity Strategy as they relate to the management and protection of significant open space conservation areas.	Open Space Conservation	Sustainability
	7. Incorporate Council's Storm Water Management with the development of Open Space Planning and Design guidelines to ensure opportunities for Water Sensitive Urban Design are captured.	Sustainability Open Space City Design	Operations Sustainability
	8. Incorporate the principles of water sensitive cities into the designs of new and upgraded open space; Provide for a blue-green mix of open spaces that celebrate the creeks, rivers and waterbodies of Hobsons Bay Identify opportunities to implement recycled water and stormwater harvesting systems Develop turf management plans for established sports reserves and use warm season grasses Develop a policy on water management in open spaces, detailing when open space or passive parkland areas are to be irrigated and under what circumstances (Open Space lead) Continue to upgrade irrigation systems within parks and reserves and link to Council's Central Control Irrigation System (multi-site irrigation system) (Parks lead)	Open Space Parks Sustainability Active Communities	Active Communities Open Space Parks
	9. Develop a Street Landscape Strategy (Urban Forest Strategy) to guide the planning, management and protection of trees and other green infrastructure and identify strategies for urban cooling.	Open Space Parks Operations	Operations Sustainability

PRINCIPLE	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	CURRENT DEPARTMENT	PARTNER
Provision and Diversity There is enough open space to cater for a diverse range of community uses and groups; the variety of open space types also offers differing levels of amenity and multi-function	1. Identify all parcels of inappropriately zoned open space and undertake a group amendment to rezone them to PPRZ or PCRZ where appropriate.	Strategic Planning	Open Space and City Design
	2. Continue and complete development and delivery of the Property Strategy, regarding the hold, sale and acquisition of Council-owned open space.	Property Services	Active Communities
	3. Review and update the Play Space Strategy to ensure priorities and development standards align with the recommendations in the Open Space Strategy and the 10 year Park Upgrade Program.	Open Space and City Design	Family Youth and Children's Services
	4. Adopt the proposed hierarchy of open space to ensure a diverse mix of open spaces of varying sizes from regional open space through to micro park.	Active Communities	City Services
	5. Adopt service standards linked to the open space hierarchy for open spaces in Hobsons Bay to guide the development of open space. Measure these standards against open space in each precinct and current asset data to determine the percentage of standards achieved and those areas that need those need to be improved.	Open Space	
	6. Enhance the quality and utilisation of existing open space ahead of investing in new open spaces (in areas accessible to open space).	Active Communities	
	7. Explore and identify suitable spaces for the development of designated dog parks for each ward, particularly in precincts that are already under-served by open spaces. Renew and revise off lead dog zones in accordance with the community consultation process outlined in Council's Local Laws	Active Communities	City Services
	8. Maximise the use of existing active recreation facilities ahead of constructing new active recreation facilities. Consider upgrades such as; improved lighting, enhanced maintenance, synthetic surfaces, change rooms to maximise capacity of active open spaces.	Active Communities	
	9. Investigate the viability of increasing the provision of active recreation areas, particularly where there is long-term demand for sport and where existing facilities even with upgrades are unable to accommodate projected demand.	Active Communities and other relevant community organisations	
	10. Investigate and develop a policy position on shared use of open space.	Active Communities	Property Services Asset Planning
	11. Investigate the viability of joint service agreements with schools to enable public and community use of sporting facilities and play spaces during evenings and weekends.	Active Communities	
	12. Review the current Strategic Bicycle Plan and update actions for the next 5 years in line with the endorsed Integrated Transport Plan and Local Area Traffic Management Plans Plans.	Capital Works	Active Communities
	13. Continue to implement the staged Shared Trails program completing and connecting the shared trail network where possible including Kororoit Creek Trail, Skeleton Creek Trail, Coastal Trail and Laverton Creek Trail across all relevant precincts	Capital Works	Active Communities

PRINCIPLE	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	CURRENT DEPARTMENT	PARTNER
Provision and Diversity (Cont'd) There is enough open space to cater for a diverse range of community uses and groups; the variety of open space types also offers differing levels of amenity and multi-function	14. Renew and amend the local law to strengthen protection of vulnerable habitats and reduce conflicts in open space use - particularly in relation to play spaces, shared trails and sports ovals.	Governance Local Laws	Sustainability Conservation Open Space and City Design
	15. Develop open space areas in alignment with the endorsed service standards	Open Space Active Communities	Parks Conservation
	16. Incorporate an open space contribution rate on subdivisions in Hobsons Bay	Strategic Planning	Open Space
	17. Identify locations where a Development Contribution Plan would be an appropriate mechanism to garner open space contributions	Open Space Active Communities	Strategic Planning
	18. Adopt an opportunity-based approach to land acquisition that is based on a combination of preferred sites and flexible requirements in order to allow for changing circumstances as they arise	Open Space Active Communities	Strategic Planning Property Services
	19. Continue to work with DET, DELWP, DEDJTR, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria, Port of Melbourne Corporation, VicRoads and VicTrack to enable open space access to vacant or underutilised where practicable and financially viable	Active Communities	Strategic Planning Property Services
	20. Continue to work with the Victorian Government in relation to the use and development of public land for future regional open spaces including regional trails.	Active Communities	Strategic Planning Parks Conservation
	21. Engage with schools, peak sporting associations and the private sector in the planning, development and management of open space	Active Communities	Parks Conservation
	22. Work with adjoining municipalities to advocate for and partner on mutually beneficial open space initiatives.	Active Communities	Strategic Planning Parks Conservation
	23. Community gardens/urban horticulture - Identify suitable open space locations for the potential development of community gardens. Develop a policy and endorsed Council process for the establishment and resourcing of a community gardens program.	Open Space Active Communities	Parks
	24. Implement trial for outdoor exercise equipment per Council's Outdoor Exercise Equipment Program and explore opportunities for municipal-wide roll-out, as appropriate	Open Space Active Communities	Parks Assets

PRINCIPLE	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	CURRENT DEPARTMENT	PARTNER
Quality Open spaces are designed to be multi-purpose and multi-functional, resilient, accessible, enhance community appreciation and reflect community values	1. Develop an Integrated Design Manual for Open Space and City Infrastructure and review the standard suite of furniture, wayfinding signage and other assets to explore low cost/low maintenance options in line with park categories. Incorporate the principles contained within Council's Universal Design Policy Statement.	Open Space and City Design	Operations Capital Works
	2. Progressively review current maintenance service standards in line with proposed open space development standards and identify associated costs.	Operations Parks - Arboriculture Conservation	Open Space and City Design
	3. Develop policies and service standards on drinking water provision; shade provision; and public lighting in parks and on shared trails.	Open Space and City Design	Operations Assets Capital Works
	4. Investigate monitoring and evaluation tools for open space usage.	Open Space and City Design	Operations
	5. Continue to implement the priority actions from the Hobsons Bay Foreshore Review (2015).	Active Communities	Open Space and Coastal Planner
	6. Review and update the Public Toilet Strategy to ensure priorities and development standards align with the recommendations in the Open Space Strategy.	Open Space and City Design	Assets Capital Works
	7. Incorporate the recommendations of the a Hobsons Bay Sports Needs Gap Analysis and associated sports facilities needs investigations, to guide and prioritise future investment in sporting facilities	Active Communities	
	8. Adopt and incorporate the principles for open space and play spaces as outlined in Council's <i>Universal Design Policy Statement</i> (September 2017).	Open Space and City Design	
	9. Incorporate findings of Paisley Park Wayfinding Trial and develop and adopt appropriate wayfinding for significant public places such as major activity centres.	Open Space and City Design	Strategic Communications Cultural and Economic Development
	10. Support the actions and recommendations of Council's <i>Arts and Culture Plan</i> and advocate for the inclusion of public art in new and revitalised open spaces. Develop public realm masterplans - for the enhancement and revitalisation of Council's key activity centres - particularly Newport, Spotswood and Altona Beach.	Open Space and City Design Strategic Planning	Cultural and Economic Development Capital Works
	11. Investigate and trial open space specific by-laws officers to educate and enforce regulations associated with the safe use of open space	Local Laws	Active Communities
	12. Determine suitable locations for the installation of outdoor gym equipment considering the open space hierarchy and service standards	Open Space and City Design	

4.3 ACTIONS WITHIN THE OPEN SPACE HIERARCHY

The graph on the following page illustrates the type of works that are recommended to occur in 'high level' open spaces identified across Hobsons Bay.

For example, at Figure 29, the graph illustrates that the majority of projects planned within regional-level open spaces will be upgrades to existing open spaces, while Figure 30 shows that these projects will be needed to cater for existing and future demand.

The four tiers 'regional', 'regional/district', 'regional/district/neighbourhood' and 'district' are the most likely to experience demand from both local residential and visiting populations. This is shown in the graph, where more local open spaces or those with lower functionality (i.e. 'local', 'local/micro' or 'linear/ link/ buffer') have been designated funding based on renewal.

Expenditure for projects in open spaces that have a more significant role in the hierarchy benefit a larger population than at those classified as 'neighbourhood', 'local', or 'linear/link/buffer'.

Altona Boat Ramp



Figure 29. Proportion of renewal, upgrade or new works projects

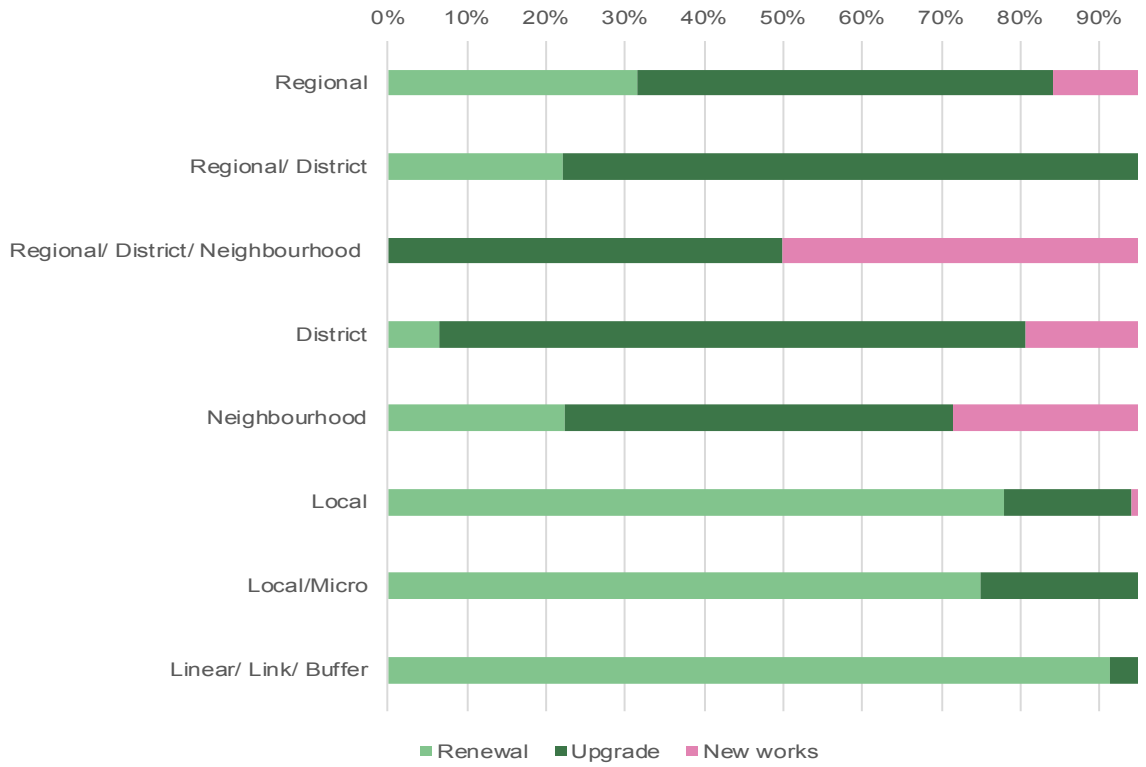
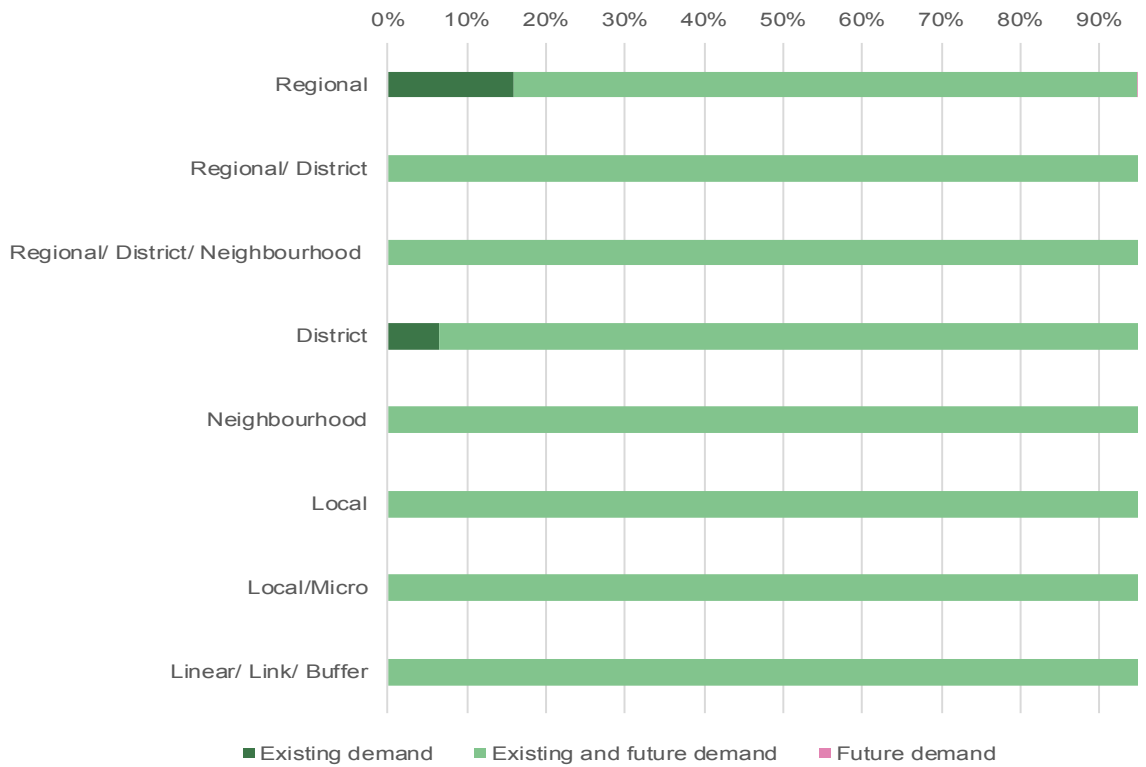


Figure 30. Project demand drivers (reason for works)



4.4 PRECINCT-BASED ACTIONS

OVERVIEW

This section identifies trends in open space demand and need by precinct. It provides an overview of the existing provision of open space, the community profile and future trends in open space.

Preliminary actions for each precinct have been made identifying potential actions, advocacy opportunities and strategic actions.

Timeframe for Implementation

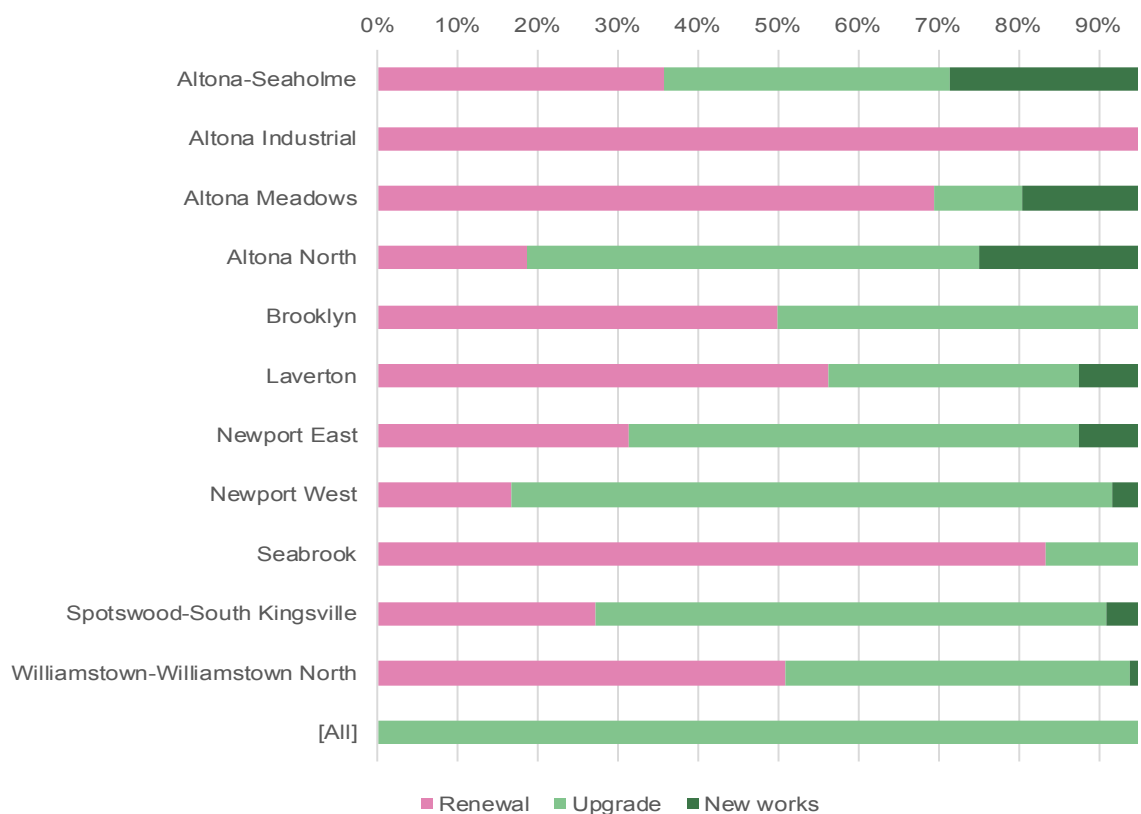
The precinct-based actions have been presented in terms of priorities, as well as advocacy, special or ongoing actions

that should be undertaken throughout the plan's implementation. As the plan has been designed based on a 10-year budget, the actions are recommended for implementation as follows:

- Short-term: 0-2 years
- Medium-term: 2-5 years
- Long-term: 5-10 years+.

It is noted that achievement of the actions above over the recommended timeframe will be contingent on capital raised through various avenues including developer contributions, rates revenue and special budget allocations for particular projects.

Figure 31. Funding apportioned to each precinct: renewal, upgrade and new works



Apportionment of Funding

The graph on this and the previous page show:

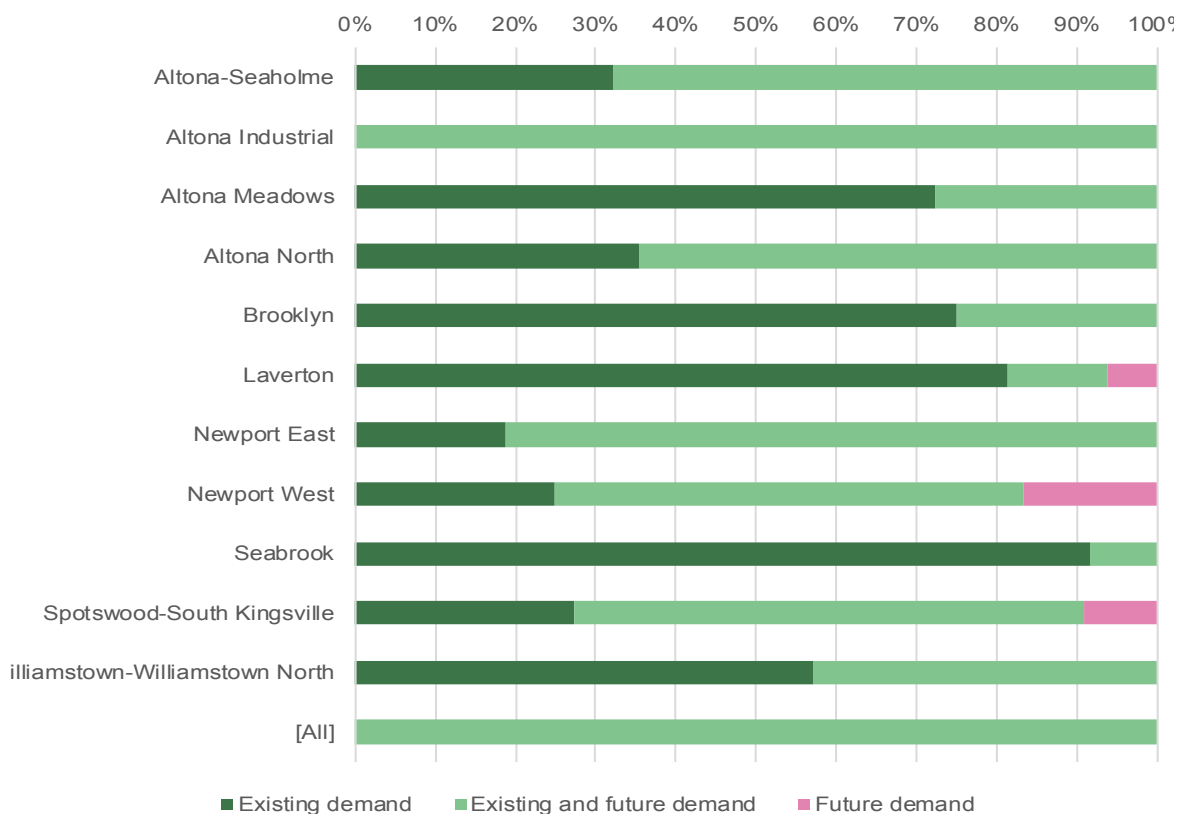
- The proportion of work for renewal, upgrades or new works for each precinct (Figure 31)
- The proportion of work proposed in response to existing, existing and future, or future demand, in each precinct.

As illustrated in both graphics, a large amount of work is required to respond to existing demand, through both renewals and upgrades.

The degree of new works may include actions specifically identified by the *Sports Facilities Needs Analysis* (see Appendix E), or the *Play Spaces Strategy*, as well as other works identified within passive open spaces.

Details regarding the degree of growth in each precinct and specific park-by-park actions are outlined from **Section 4.4** onwards.

Figure 32. Works proposed based on existing, existing and future, or future demand per precinct

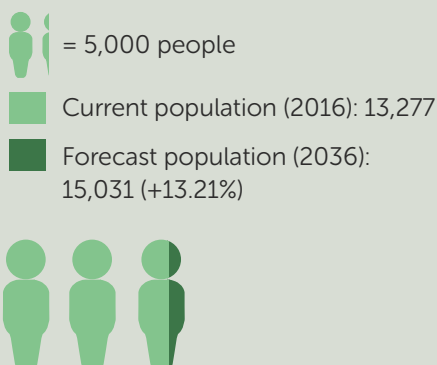


4.5 ALTONA-SEAHOLME PRECINCT

OVERVIEW

The Altona-Seaholme precinct has a high proportion of open space per person: 82.67m² per person. Renewal and upgrades will be required to ensure good provision of open space continues in the face of an ageing population (i.e. accessibility and design), paired with increased density in some parts of the precinct.

Population Change



Altona-Seaholme in Future

With a projected growth rate of 13.21% to 2036, residents in this precinct will face greater competition for open space. Overall, the amount of space per capita will remain high compared to the municipal rate, but will be reduced to 73.02m² per person.

As shown in the gap analysis, while the proportion of open space per person is high, the walkability rate is lower than in other areas.

Gaps in the Network

In Altona-Seaholme, 19.1% residents live outside a walkable catchment to open space (gaps shown in grey, or yellow for industrial areas), compared to the ideal benchmark of 95% residents living within 400m walking distance of public open space. Physical gaps are most profound in the northern part of the precinct adjacent to industrial land (shown yellow), and towards the west.

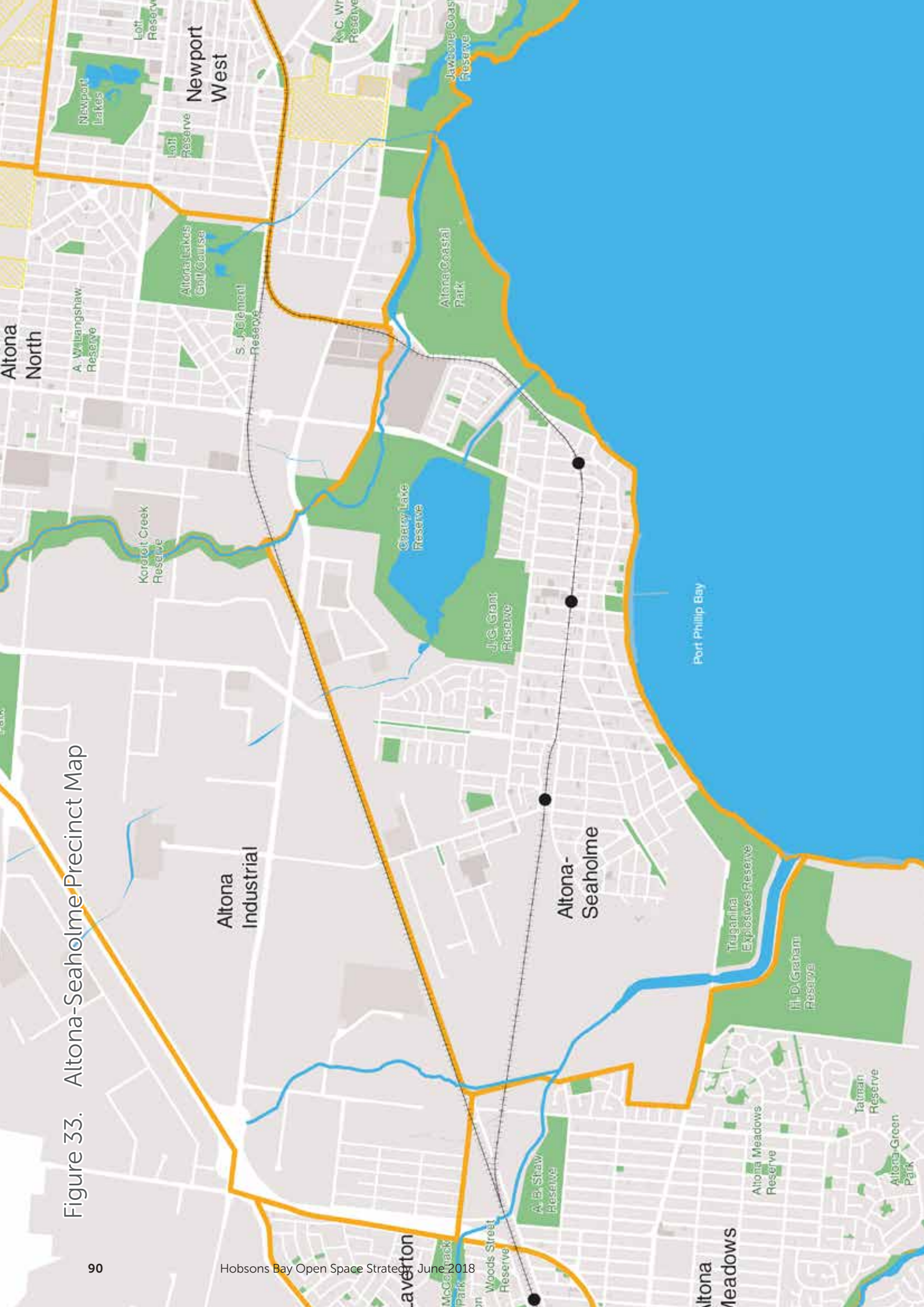


PRECINCT FEATURES

Current population (2016)	13,277
Forecast population (2036)	15,031 (+13.21%)
Amount of open space - 2016 (accessible)	82.67m ² per capita
Projected open space - 2036 (accessible)	73.02m ² per capita
Total precinct area	1,310ha
Residential lots outside a 400m catchment to open space	19.10% (1335 lots)
Total open space provision (all types including restricted)	33.09% of total precinct area (433.44ha)
Passive open space	5.47% (71.66ha)
Formal open space (e.g. sportsfields)	2.91% (38.10ha)
Encumbered open space accessible to the public	0.78% (10.19ha)
Other open space (e.g. not accessible to the public)	23.93% (343.49ha)
Strategic or key development sites	Ajax Road redevelopment
Types of open space (Hierarchy classification)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 2 buffer » 8 district » 1 linear » 1 link » 8 local » 6 neighbourhood » 4 regional



Figure 33. Altona-Seaholme Precinct Map



PRECINCT SUMMARY

The Altona-Seaholme precinct is a premier regional destination for the west of Melbourne, largely due to its significant open spaces, including; Altona Beach, Cherry Lake Reserve, Altona Dog Beach, Altona Sports Precinct and Altona Safe Boat Harbour. The precinct contains significant conservation areas with a range of natural and cultural heritage values such as Truganina Explosives Reserve, Truganina Swamp and Altona Coastal Park.

Residents and workers in this precinct have the highest amount of open space per capita in Hobsons Bay: 82.67m² per person. Open space provision is well above the municipal and metropolitan average, at 8.4%.

Despite a high proportion of open space overall, there are some significant gap areas for residents in the west of the precinct and workers in the industrial areas.

Improving connections (particularly the Kororoit Creek Trail and pedestrian crossings on major roads) and standards of development will help reduce these gaps significantly. New open space will be needed in the future industrial development west of Ajax Road.

Current profile

Altona-Seaholme has an older population with a high proportion of retirement-age residents. However, due to infill development and increased diversity in housing, the neighbourhood has started to attract younger residents.

Future Directions

Altona-Seaholme is expected to continue to attract visitors to its foreshore and other key open spaces such as Cherry Lake. It will be important to manage impacts on open space as well as protection of biodiversity and important cultural heritage areas from expected visitation pressures (such as dogs off leash).

Population forecasts indicate a continued increase in families and younger children.

Improving the quality and diversity of local and neighbourhood parks to provide for the changing population as well as the long term aging residents will be a priority over creation of more regional attractors.

Priorities in this precinct relate to managing areas of high use. The Coastal Trail provides

an important regional connection, however areas where it intersects with popular destinations and dog off-leash areas, require solutions involving education and enforcement as well as a built response.

There are opportunities to disperse the impacts of regional visitation by creating a greater diversity of opportunities along the Altona foreshore.

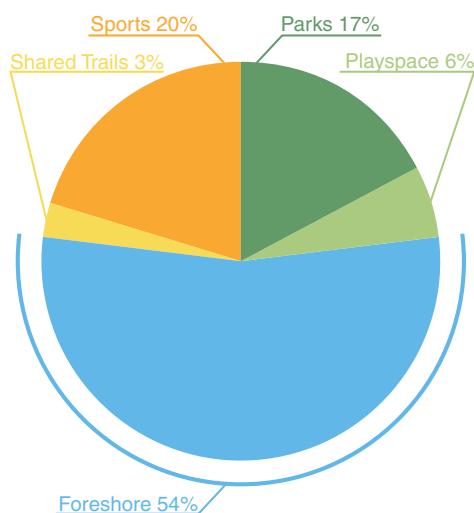
This precinct is one of the lowest lying areas in Melbourne and popular foreshore areas are unprotected and vulnerable to flood, storm damage and recession.

Advocating for a third pass assessment assessment and shared responsibility for foreshore assets and construction of seawalls and revetments will be a priority.

The following spaces have been highlighted as particular opportunities for upgrades:

- Cherry Lake Reserve
- Cresser, W. G. Reserve
- Den Dulk, G. Reserve
- Grant, J. K. Reserve
- Kim, H. C. Reserve
- Logan Reserve
- McIntosh, S.G. Reserve
- Ransom, G. H. Reserve
- Rush, F. Reserve
- Weaver Reserve
- A. H. Ford Reserve

Allocation of Funding for work in Altona-Seaholme



Precinct actions and park-by-park recommendations are included overpage.

ALTONA-SEAHOLME PRECINCT ACTIONS AND PRIORITIES

The following table lists actions related to open space in the Altona-Seaholme precinct, and highlights priority actions over the short, medium and long-term.

PRIORITY	ACTION
Short-term 0-2 years	Advocate for funding to implement priority foreshore protection works, including boat ramp improvements with definition of seasonal and permanent parking areas.
	Prepare an action plan based on relevant Council studies and strategies for improvements to the Altona Beach precinct nodal parks (Logan, HW Lee, Weaver, Frazer and Ransom Reserves including Esplanade and the south end of Pier Street).
	Continue to implement Stages 4 and 5 of the Kororoit Creek Trail and plan for Stage 1 to create a connection to the industrial area north of Cherry Lake.
	Construct an off-road shared path connection adjacent to Queen Street over Laverton Creek.
	Implement the staged upgrade to the Seaholme Foreshore (Dog Beach/ PA Burns) precinct via a staged capital works upgrade program.
	Reinforce habitat protection for significant migratory bird populations (Altona Coastal Park, west end of Altona Beach and Apex/Doug Grant Reserves) through changes to dog off-lead status, provision of alternatives (i.e. dog beach), habitat fencing, interpretive signage, promotion and education.
Medium-term 2-5 years	Implement priority improvements identified in the Altona Beach precinct action plan.
	Undertake assessments and condition audits at Ford Reserve, G. Den Dulk Reserve to determine priorities for upgrade to a Neighbourhood Park to help address gap areas and develop park improvement plans.
	Investigate installation of a pedestrian crossing on Queen Street at Ransom Reserve to help improve connections and help address the gap area.
	Prepare a Conservation Management Plan for Altona Coastal Park.
	Upgrade the ford crossing on Altona Road (Coastal Trail).
	Investigate the feasibility of creating an off-road cycling connection from Fell Reserve to the Altona Boat Ramp
Medium-term 2-5 years	Complete the Cherry Lake Development plan and advocate for funding to upgrade the picnic area and playspace, exercise equipment and completed shared trails network.
	Assess and develop a park improvement plans for S.G. McIntosh Reserve, Fell Reserve and F. Rush Reserve.
	Review the Cresser Reserve master plan including consideration of a new youth space.
Long-term 5-10 years+	Continue the staged upgrade and implementation of the Altona Central Sports Precinct Masterplan (including sportsground development and associated infrastructure).
	Undertake a feasibility study for the construction of a shared trail connection from the Laverton Creek Trail to the future Kororoit Creek trail including connections to Grieve Parade and Cherry Lake.
Advocacy	Upgrade Norah MacIntyre Reserve to a Neighbourhood Park.
	Advocate to VicRoads for: The installation of priority pedestrian crossings on Civic Parade, Millers Road and Maidstone Street The provision of an road cycling link on Maidstone Street.
	Advocate for a new open space to be provided as part of the Ajax Road Development, and for the following features: Locate open space centrally within the development to cater to the new worker population. Ensure connections to future east–west cycling link are established.
Special Areas	Advocate and work with Melbourne Water to improve access and connectivity to the Truganina Swamp lands.
	Where appropriate, provide wayfinding signage and celebrate special areas through creative interpretive information linking visitors to: Indigenous cultural heritage, where appropriate (Kororoit Creek) Conservation values and waterway health (Kororoit Creek and Altona Coastal Park) Post-settlement history (Logan Reserve, Altona Coastal Park and Truganina Explosive Reserve).
Other Actions	Explore the potential for a joint service agreement with Altona Primary School.
	Explore the potential for a joint service agreement with Altona P-9 College.

ALTONA-SEAHOLME PRECINCT UPGRADES: PARK-BY-PARK

The table below lists the Council-managed open spaces in the Altona-Seaholme precinct and extent of upgrades proposed.

HIERARCHY/ROLE	NAME OF OPEN SPACE	PROPOSED WORKS	TYPE OF WORKS
Regional Open Spaces	Altona Beach Front Reserve*	Renewal	Foreshore, exercise equipment trial program
	Altona Boat Ramp Reserve	Renewal	Foreshore
	Cherry Lake Reserve*	Upgrade	Parks
	P. A. Burns Reserve	New works	Sports
District Open Spaces	Apex Park*	New works	Conservation
	G. K. Nevitt Athletics Ground	Renewal	Sports
	J. K. Grant Reserve	Upgrade	Sports
	Logan Reserve	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds
	W. G. Cresser Reserve	Upgrade	Foreshore, playgrounds
Neighbourhood Open Spaces	A. H. Ford Reserve	New works	Parks, playgrounds, sports
	Altona Coastal Park*	New works	Conservation
	Altona Sports Club Reserve	(See works proposed for P. A. Burns Reserve)	
	Doug Grant Reserve**	New works	Parks
	G. H. Ransom Reserve	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds
	H. C. Kim Reserve	Upgrade	Sports
	H. W. Lee Reserve	New Works	Parks
	Fell Reserve	Renewal	Parks
Truganina Explosives Reserve**	New works	Parks	
Local Open Spaces	F. A. Emery Reserve	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
	F. Rush Reserve	Upgrade	Sports
	G. Den Dulk Reserve	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds
	Norah McIntyre Reserve	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
	R. Frazer Reserve	New works	Foreshore
	S. G. McIntosh Reserve	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds
	Weaver Reserve	New works	Parks
Linear/Links/Buffers	Bay Trail (J. T. Gray Reserve)	Renewal	Shared trails
	Grieve Parade Median Reserve	Renewal	Parks
	Simmons Drive Walkway	Renewal	Parks
	Slough Road Median Reserve	Renewal	Parks

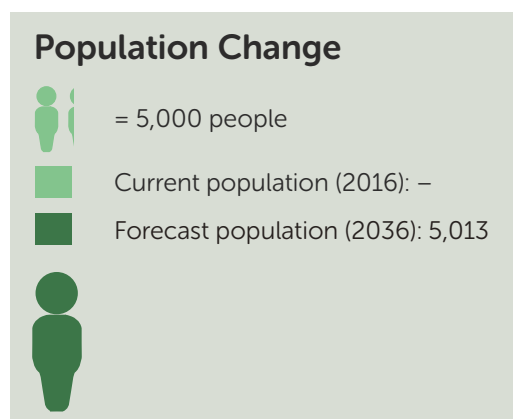
* Open space also has conservation values

** Open space also plays a District function

4.6 ALTONA INDUSTRIAL PRECINCT

OVERVIEW

The Altona Industrial precinct does not have a resident population. The precinct contains part of the Kororoit Creek Reserve, as well as a number of reserves with conservation value that are not owned or managed by Council (e.g. the Laverton Grasslands and the Altona Memorial Park).



Precinct in Future

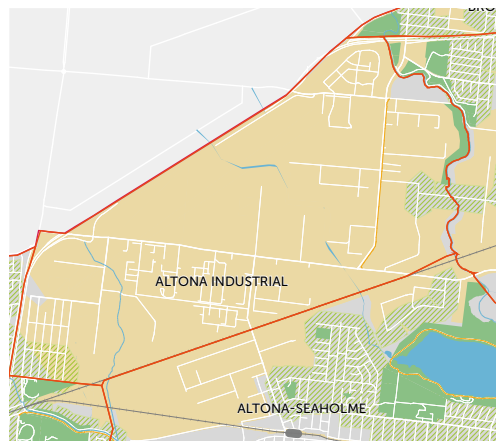
The Altona Industrial precinct may undergo change overtime as practices shift and development in the surrounding area intensifies; such changes would be subject to Council investigation and State government approval. The precise population of the precinct is currently unknown and is limited to a population comprising workers and visitors.

In future, .id Consultants project as many as 5,013 people may reside in the precinct following post-industrial land use changes in some part of the precinct. It is recommended Council monitor the population of this precinct accordingly, as there is also a need to protect the operation of State-significant industrial activities in this precinct.

Gaps in the Network

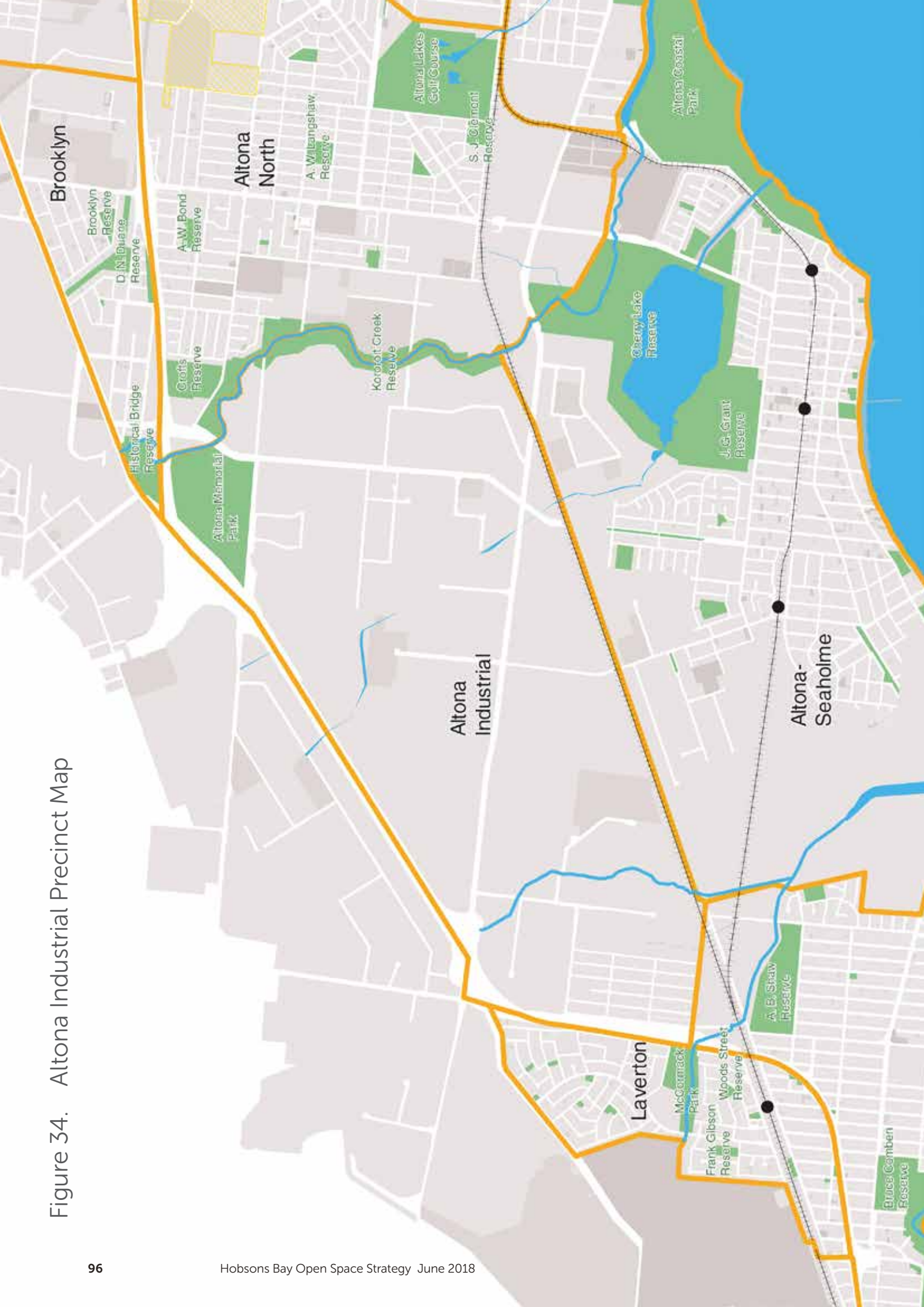
Many open spaces in the Altona Industrial precinct are inaccessible to the public, but play an important role for biodiversity and habitat purposes/functions.

For the precinct's working population there are profound gaps in open space accessibility, as shown below.



PRECINCT FEATURES	
Current population (2016)	-
Forecast population (2036)	5,013
Amount of open space - 2016 (accessible)	n/a
Projected open space - 2036 (accessible)	n/a
Total precinct area	1,075ha
Residential lots outside a 400m catchment to open space	-
Total open space provision (All types including restricted)	13.33% of total precinct area (143.34ha)
Passive open space	-
Formal open space (e.g. sports fields)	-
Encumbered open space accessible to the public	8.47% (91.07ha)
Other open space (e.g. not accessible to the public)	4.8% (52.27ha)
Strategic or key development sites	-
Types of open space (Hierarchy classification)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 1 local » 1 regional

Figure 34. Altona Industrial Precinct Map



PRECINCT FEATURES

The Altona Industrial precinct is located in the northern centre of the municipality. The precinct is defined by large industrial businesses that serve a variety of sectors within and beyond Hobsons Bay. The precinct also houses significant biodiversity hot spots, including protected open grasslands that are not publicly accessible.

There is no residential population within the precinct, and there are development density regulations. The regulations are used to protect nearby residential or other sensitive areas from industrial uses that have high noise, dust, or other emissions resulting from the location of petrochemical industries within the precinct. Where an industrial use may impact people's health or amenity, it is designed and sited to mitigate or remove any harmful impact.

Open spaces within the Altona Industrial precinct are largely unused by the public (due to their relatively remote location or because they are physically inaccessible). They include: Kororoit Creek (western side), the Laverton Grasslands, Altona Nature Conservation Reserve, and Cherry Creek drainage reserve.

Current Profile

Altona Industrial precinct does not currently have a residential population.

The precinct does have a significant worker population, with several large employers operating within the area. The precinct is identified as a Core Industrial Area in the Hobsons Bay Industrial Land Use Strategy and is identified as a State-significant industrial precinct in Plan Melbourne 2017.

Among the industrial uses some businesses employ a large number of people, while others may be intensive uses with specialised but few staff.

Current data regarding the number of people working in the precinct is not well collected, however in future it will be important to ensure people working in the area have access to good quality open spaces.



Laverton Grasslands Reserve
Image credit: Colleen Miller, Victorian Flora:
URL <www.victorianflora.com>

Future Trends

As a key part of the local economy, industrial activities occurring within this precinct should be protected. According to the Hobsons Bay Industrial Land Management Strategy (2008):

- The Altona Industrial precinct is identified as 'core industrial' land and is a significant economic centre and major employment area in Melbourne's west.
- Further employment opportunities are being considered for vacant blocks of land within the precinct.
- The remaining supply of vacant industrial land could be developed within 11 years based on the estimated annual take up rate.
- Opportunities exist to better manage, and in some cases remove conflict between industry and other sensitive land uses.
- A review of 22 industrial precincts suggested that some areas may be suitable for further investigation regarding alternative land uses.

In future, and contingent on protection from any emissions in the area, the Kororoit Creek reserve may present an opportunity for more active recreation within and through the precinct.

A key challenge for the Altona Industrial precinct will be to ensure workers have improved access to high quality open spaces while protecting local industry for the important role it plays in the local economy, and which some businesses play more broadly within the State.

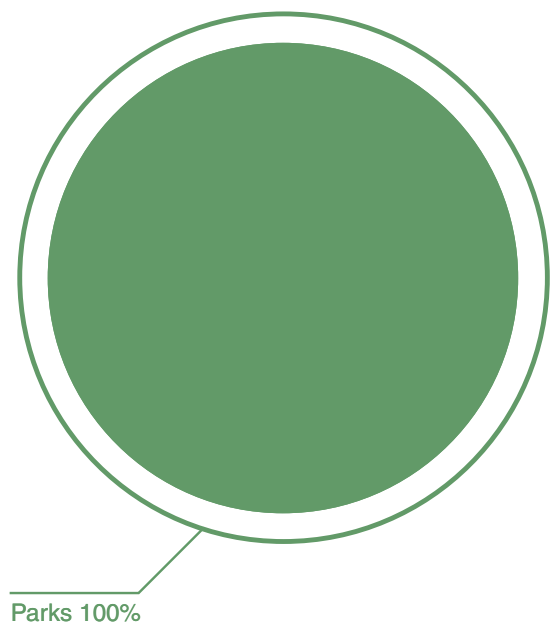
The biodiversity qualities of reserves within the precinct should also be protected, while seeking opportunities to link hot spots with a broader network where they are disconnected from linear reserves such as the Kororoit Creek.

The following spaces have been highlighted as particular opportunities for upgrades:

- Kororoit Creek Shared Trail (across multiple precincts).

Refer to the actions table over the following pages for more detail and in Appendix E (Sports Needs Analysis).

Allocation of Funding FOR WORKS in Altona Industrial



ALTONA INDUSTRIAL PRECINCT ACTIONS & PRIORITIES

The following table lists actions related to open space in the Altona Industrial precinct, and highlights priority actions over the short, medium and long-term.

PRIORITY	ACTION
Short-term 0-2 years	Review the Industrial Development Guidelines (2008) to strengthen opportunity for improved street and landscape interfaces, habitat corridors and better private open space design for workers and visitors in the Altona Industrial precinct.
	Engage with local industry and reinforce the conservation actions from Council's Biodiversity Strategy and advocate for partnership opportunities.
Special Areas	Where appropriate, provide wayfinding signage and celebrate special areas through creative interpretive information linking visitors to the special values of: North Laverton Grasslands Reserve Kayes Drain Cherry Creek.
Other Actions	Improve connectivity via walking and cycling between the industrial precinct and surrounding areas of open space.
	Improve access to shared trail network development (Kororoit Creek) as opportunities arise.

ALTONA INDUSTRIAL PRECINCT UPGRADES: PARK-BY-PARK

The table below lists the Council-managed open spaces in the Altona Industrial precinct and extent of upgrades proposed.

HIERARCHY/ROLE	NAME OF OPEN SPACE	PROPOSED WORKS	TYPE OF WORKS
Regional Open Spaces	Kororoit Creek Reserve*	Renewal	Parks

* Open space also has conservation values

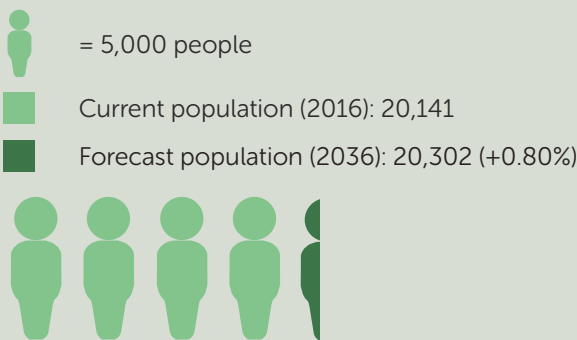
4.7 ALTONA MEADOWS PRECINCT

Precinct in Future

The Altona Meadows precinct has a projected growth rate of 0.80% from 2016 to 2036. Accordingly, there will be limited change in the degree of competition for open space from within the precinct. However, it is noted that Laverton (+49%) and Altona-Seaholme (+13%) precincts, adjacent to this area, are forecast to undergo greater population growth, meaning open spaces on the periphery of the precinct may face increased demand from neighbouring areas.



Population Change



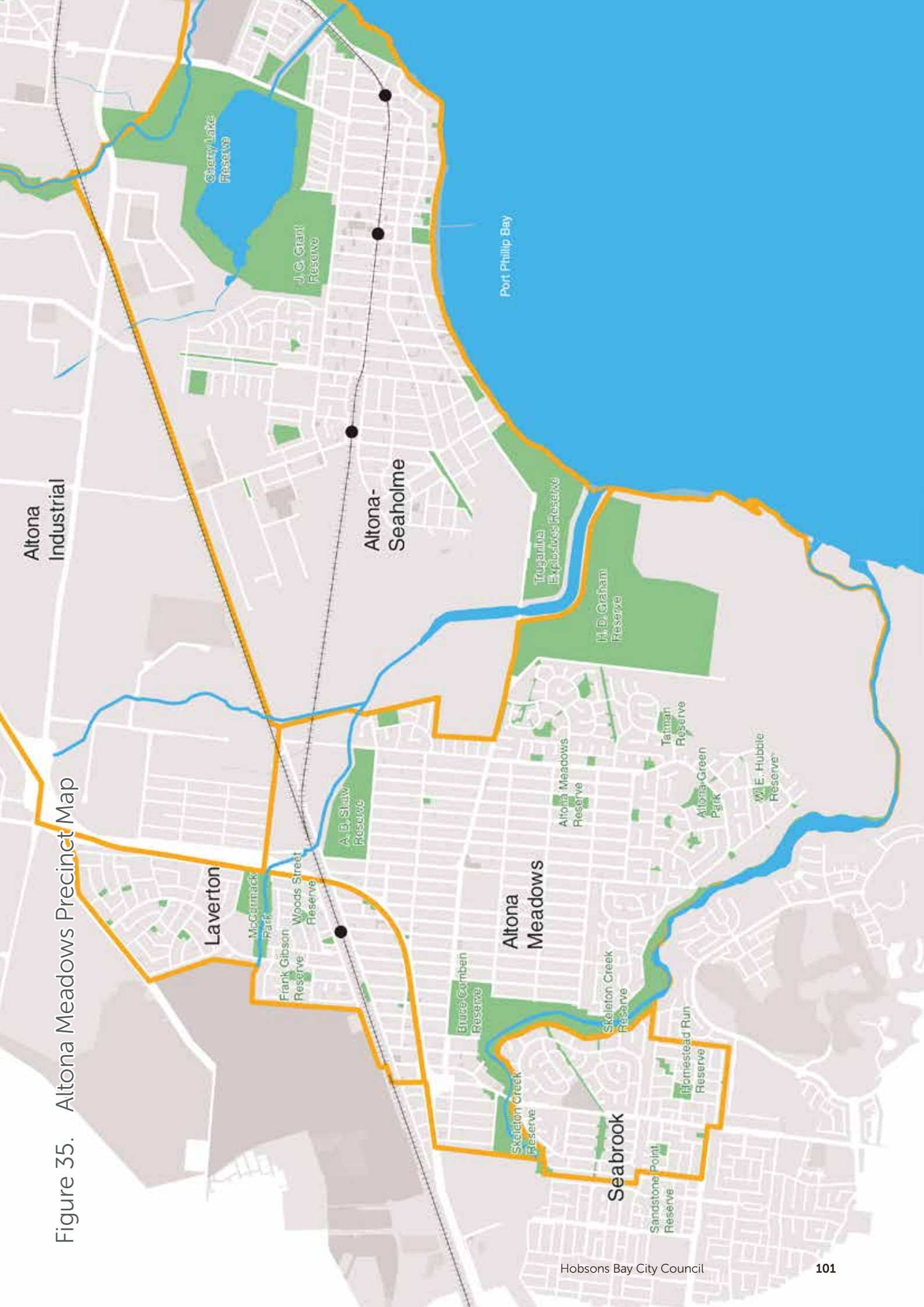
Gaps in the Network

In Altona Meadows, 20.56% residents live outside a walkable catchment to open space (gaps shown in grey, or yellow for industrial areas), compared to the ideal benchmark of situating 95% residents within a 400m walking distance of public open space. Physical gaps are most profound in the central part of the precinct.

Large areas of open space that are not accessible to the public are located in the south-west.

PRECINCT FEATURES	
Current population (2017)	20,141
Forecast population (2036)	20,302 (+0.80%)
Amount of open space - 2016 (accessible)	58.40m ² per capita
Projected open space - 2036 (accessible)	57.94m ² per capita
Total precinct area	1,025ha
Residential lots outside a 400m catchment to open space	20.56% (1974 lots)
Total open space provision (alltypes including restricted)	52.53% of total precinct area (538.43ha)
Passive open space	7.31% (74.95ha)
Formal open space (e.g. sports fields)	4.16% (42.67ha)
Encumbered open space accessible to the public	10.17% (104.24ha)
Other open space (e.g. Not accessible to the public)	30.88% (316.8ha)
Strategic or key development sites	-
Types of open space (Hierarchy classification)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 1 buffer » 3 district » 8 linear » 4 link » 15 local » 9 neighbourhood » 2 regional

Figure 35. Altona Meadows Precinct Map



PRECINCT OVERVIEW

Altona Meadows has the most open space and the second highest amount of open space per capita (275.57m² per capita based on the 2016 population).

The precinct has the highest proportion of encumbered open space that is still accessible to the public such as expansive conservation areas and waterway corridors.

Despite the overall amount of open space, there are some significant gap areas in the central parts of this precinct, where residents and workers do not have access to any open space within a kilometre of their homes or workplace.

The area has good access to a number of off-road cycling connections, however walking paths within reserves and new footpaths on key walking routes are needed to improve access within and to open space.

Current Profile

Altona Meadows is the most populated neighbourhood in Hobsons Bay with over 20,000 residents. The suburb has a high number of young families with immediate needs being improved diversity of play spaces and improvements to opportunities for youth.

Future Trends

The forecast indicates that the population will remain stable with a large proportion of the community predicted to age in place with the greatest increase in age being people over 60 years old.

The precinct is particularly vulnerable to heat stress due to high proportions of impermeable surfaces and a generally low rate of open space and tree canopy coverage in some parts of the precinct. As a result of this trend, provision of shade, accessible walking paths, drinking fountains and seating as well as provision of self-directed activities and diversity in landscapes to cater for both young and old will be important.



*Truganina Park, Altona Meadows
(Image: Hobsons Bay City Council)*

The condition of facilities requires improvement in many reserves, which offers an opportunity to increase diversity.

The area has a number of open space attractions such as Truganina Park, Cheetham Wetlands, the State Baseball and Softball Centre and HD Graham Skate Park. There are also three large sporting reserves that cater to surrounding areas.

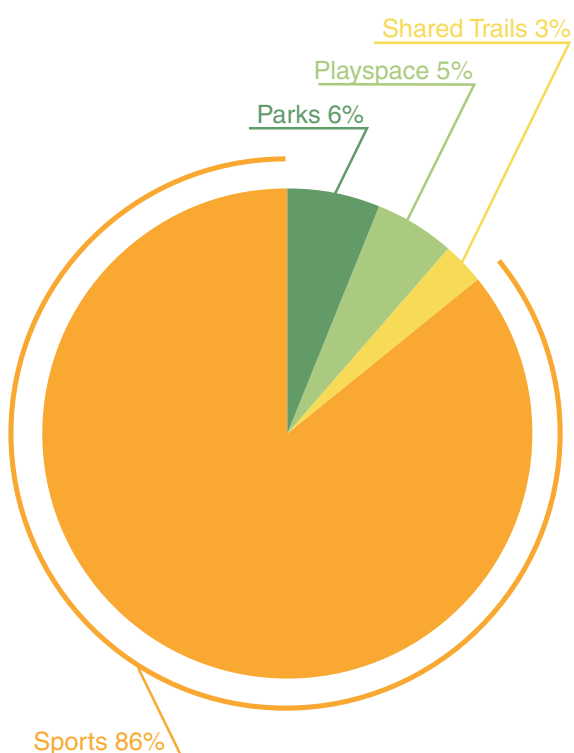
It is of particular importance to continue to celebrate and raise awareness of the significant natural values of the birdlife and habitat of Cheetham Wetlands and the indigenous cultural heritage of the waterways to help protect them from inadvertent damage e.g. from dogs and vehicles.

The following spaces have been highlighted as particular opportunities for upgrades:

- WE Hubble Reserve
- Laverton Park
- AB Shaw Reserve
- Truganina Park.

Refer to the actions table over the following pages for more detail and in Appendix E (Sports Needs Analysis).

Allocation of Funding in Altona Meadows



Truganina Park, Altona Meadows (Image: Planisphere)

ALTONA MEADOWS PRECINCT ACTIONS & PRIORITIES

The following table lists actions related to open space in the Altona Meadows Precinct, and highlights priority actions over the short, medium and long-term.

PRIORITY	ACTION
Short-term	Investigate and implement improvements to several local parks to neighbourhood park status:
0-2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Complete park improvements to Altona Meadows Community Park - explore options for designated dog off-leash space to the far southern end. » Prepare a concept plan and implement improvements to WE Hubble Reserve to help address current gap in distribution. » Prepare a concept plan to implement new works at JJ Stewart reserve to upgrade to a neighbourhood park. » Prepare a concept plan and implement improvements to Markham Way Reserve to Neighbourhood Park standard (including the play space) to help address the current gap in distribution, or » Complete delivery of a concept plan and implement improvements to Tatman Drive Reserve to improve the accessibility and condition of facilities, » Prepare a concept plan and implement improvements to Carinza Drive Reserve to better integrate play and picnic facilities, improve accessibility, including an upgrade of the play space to neighbourhood standard.
	Review the extent and location of car parking areas at AB Shaw Reserve and upgrade to service key destinations.
	Complete required fencing for ovals and explore alternative dog off lead area in proximity to Laverton Park and AB Shaw Reserve.
	Undertake upgrade works at Truganina Park to maintain regional park status and cater for existing and future demand.
	Upgrade bridge over Laverton Creek along Queen Street to enhance bicycle access.
	Develop Master Plan for the H D Graham Parklands that includes the environmental social and recreational sporting needs of the precinct and community.
	Review and update Bruce Comben Reserve Masterplan.
Medium-term	Implement remaining works from the Bruce Comben Reserve plan to enhance regional recreation opportunities
2-5 years	Investigate options to establish a dog off-leash area in the identified gap area to service a 2km catchment
	Complete footpath/cycle links from residential streets to shared trail networks (Laverton Creek, Skeleton Creek)

ALTONA MEADOWS PRECINCT ACTIONS & PRIORITIES *cont.*

PRIORITY	ACTION																								
Medium-term	Undertake feasibility to prioritise and implement renewal works at:																								
2-5 years	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Brown Avenue Reserve</td> <td>Featherby Way Reserve</td> <td>Queen Street Reserve</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cameron Avenue Reserve</td> <td>H. D. Graham Reserve</td> <td>R. K. Richards Reserve</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CW Carlsson Reserve</td> <td>D. Grieve Reserve</td> <td>Sommers Drive Walkway</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Edina Grove Reserve</td> <td>Hoddle Way Reserve</td> <td>G. H. Stirling Reserve</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dickenson Street Walkway</td> <td>A. W. Knight Reserve</td> <td>Victoria Street Reserve</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Everingham Road Reserve</td> <td>Norval Terrace Reserve</td> <td>Woodyard Court Reserve</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>J. F. O'Brien Reserve</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Oakdene Grove Reserve</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Brown Avenue Reserve	Featherby Way Reserve	Queen Street Reserve	Cameron Avenue Reserve	H. D. Graham Reserve	R. K. Richards Reserve	CW Carlsson Reserve	D. Grieve Reserve	Sommers Drive Walkway	Edina Grove Reserve	Hoddle Way Reserve	G. H. Stirling Reserve	Dickenson Street Walkway	A. W. Knight Reserve	Victoria Street Reserve	Everingham Road Reserve	Norval Terrace Reserve	Woodyard Court Reserve		J. F. O'Brien Reserve			Oakdene Grove Reserve	
Brown Avenue Reserve	Featherby Way Reserve	Queen Street Reserve																							
Cameron Avenue Reserve	H. D. Graham Reserve	R. K. Richards Reserve																							
CW Carlsson Reserve	D. Grieve Reserve	Sommers Drive Walkway																							
Edina Grove Reserve	Hoddle Way Reserve	G. H. Stirling Reserve																							
Dickenson Street Walkway	A. W. Knight Reserve	Victoria Street Reserve																							
Everingham Road Reserve	Norval Terrace Reserve	Woodyard Court Reserve																							
	J. F. O'Brien Reserve																								
	Oakdene Grove Reserve																								
Long-term	Undertake planning for groups of local reserves in identified diversity gap areas to create a point of difference between each																								
5-10 years+	<p>Prepare a concept plan and implement improvements to Lady Nelson Reserve to create a point of difference to nearby reserves including a new neighbourhood play space (following review of the Play Space Strategy)</p> <p>Continue to improve AB Shaw Reserve to regional standard, especially to address sporting needs of the Laverton and Altona Meadows community.</p> <p>Expand sporting facilities at HD Graham Reserve including car parking and connections</p>																								
Advocacy	<p>Advocate to VicRoads to provide an off-road cycling connection along Central Avenue from Laverton Creek Trail and over the Point Cook Road overpass to Laverton.</p> <p>Advocate to VicRoads for the installation of priority pedestrian crossings at Central Avenue in the vicinity of Skehan Blvd and Newland Street in the vicinity of Hall Avenue</p> <p>Advocate to Vic Roads for the installation of a pedestrian crossing over Queen Street between Merton and Victoria Streets (nominally near Nicholson Street)</p>																								
Other actions	Explore potential to utilise land associated with the water treatment plant as public open space.																								

ALTONA MEADOWS PRECINCT UPGRADES: PARK BY PARK

The table below lists the Council-managed open spaces in the Altona Meadows precinct and extent of upgrades proposed.

HIERARCHY/ROLE	NAME OF OPEN SPACE	PROPOSED WORKS	TYPE OF WORKS
Regional Open Spaces	Skeleton Park Linear Parkland*	Renewal	Parks
	Truganina Park*	Upgrade	Parks
District Open Spaces	A. B. Shaw Reserve	Upgrade	Sports
	Altona Meadows BMX Park	New works	Parks
	H. D. Graham Reserve	New works	Sports
	Laverton Park	Upgrade	Sports
Neighbourhood Open Spaces	Altona Green Park	New works	Sports
	Altona Meadows Community Park*	New works	Parks, playgrounds
	Bruce Comben Reserve	New works	Parks, playgrounds, sports
	Carinza Reserve*	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
	J. J. Stewart Reserve	New works	Parks
	Markham Way Reserve*	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
	Tatman Reserve	New works	Parks
	W. E. Hubble Reserve	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds
	Woodyard Court Reserve	Renewal	Parks
Local Open Spaces	D. Grieve Reserve^	Renewal	Parks
	A.W. Knight Reserve	Renewal	Parks
	Alma Avenue Reserve	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
	Brown Avenue Reserve	Renewal	Parks
	Cameron Avenue Reserve	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
	C.W. Carlsson Reserve	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
	Featherby Way Reserve	Renewal	Parks
	G.F. Stirling Reserve	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
	J. F. O'Brien Reserve	Renewal	Parks
	Lady Nelson Reserve ^	-	-
	Oakdene Grove Reserve	Renewal	Parks
	R. K. Richards Reserve	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
	Victoria Street Reserve	Renewal	Parks
	Linear/Links/Buffers	Dickenson Street Walkway	Renewal
Edina Grove Reserve		Renewal	Parks
Everingham Road Reserve		Renewal	Parks
Hoddle Way Reserve		Renewal	Parks
Hosie Street Reserve		Renewal	Parks
Norval Terrace Reserve		Renewal	Parks
Queen Street Reserve		Renewal	Parks
Sommers Drive Walkway		Renewal	Parks

* Open space also has conservation values

^ Open space also plays a Neighbourhood function

4.8 ALTONA NORTH PRECINCT

OVERVIEW

The Altona North precinct has a low proportion of open space per person, with only 33.74m² per capita. Approximately 25% of residents and workers do not have access to open space within 400m walking distance. Accordingly, planning will be required to 'unlock' open spaces and ensure good provision of open space in the future.

Population Change



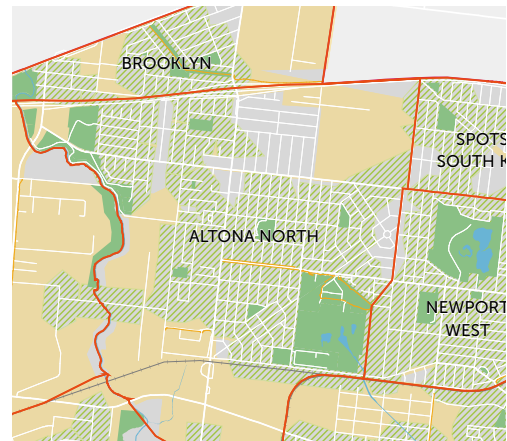
= 5,000 people



Current population (2016): 12,916



Forecast population (2036): 20,926 (+62.01%)



Precinct in Future

Altona North has a projected growth rate of 62.01% by 2036, meaning existing and future residents in this area will face significantly greater competition for open space.

Overall, the amount of open space per capita will decrease by 38.28%, from 33.74m² per capita in 2016, to 20.83m² per capita in 2036 based on projected growth.

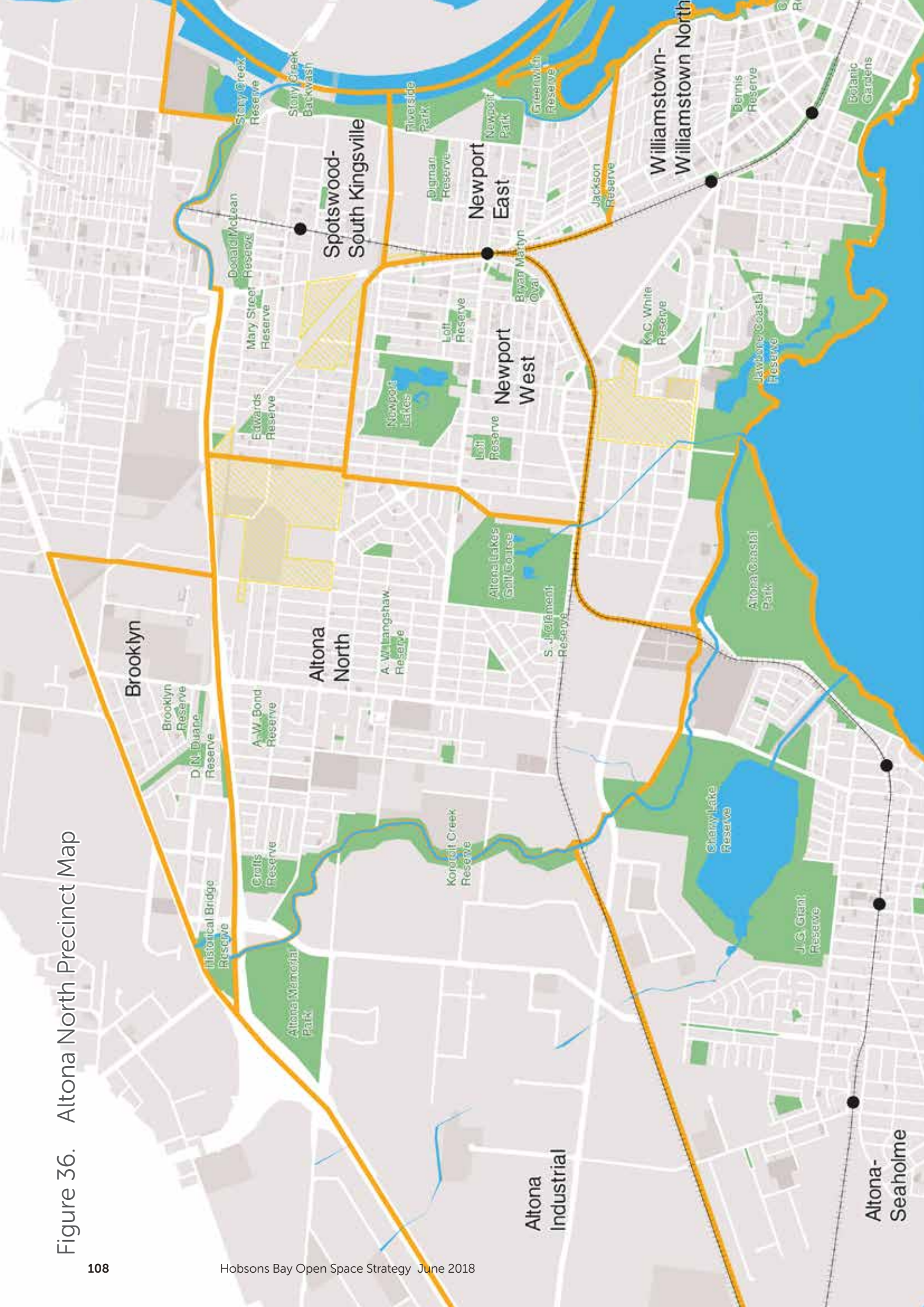
Gaps in the Network

In this precinct, 25.13% of existing residential lots are located outside a walkable catchment (400m) to open space (gaps shown in grey, or yellow for industrial areas). Physical gaps are most profound in the north-eastern parts of the precinct.

This gap area overlaps with the Brooklyn precinct, which is forecast to grow by 12% and may also contribute to increased demand for spaces within Altona North in future.

PRECINCT FEATURES	
Current population (2016)	12,916
Forecast population (2036)	20,926 (+62.01%)
Amount of open space - 2016 (accessible)	33.74m ² per capita
Projected open space - 2036 (accessible)	20.83m ² per capita (38.28% reduction)
Total precinct area	816ha
Residential lots outside a 400m catchment to open space	25.13% (1423 lots)
Total open space provision (all types including restricted)	11.44% of total precinct area (93.37ha)
Passive open space	2.64% (21.54ha)
Formal open space (e.g. sports fields)	2.70% (22.05ha)
Encumbered open space accessible to the public	0.25% (2.01ha)
Other open space (e.g. not accessible to the public)	5.86% (47.78ha)
Strategic or key development sites	Precinct 15
Types of open space (Hierarchy classification)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 1 buffer » 4 district » 6 local » 6 neighbourhood » 1 regional

Figure 36. Altona North Precinct Map



PRECINCT OVERVIEW

In an open space context, Altona North is facing a number of challenges. Altona North is currently well below the municipal average in terms of available open space per capita (33.74m² per person, compared to 191.17m² across the municipality).

Availability is expected to decline as the area will see significant pressure from strategic redevelopment sites such as Precinct 15 over the coming years. The forecast population growth rate of 62.01% considers the additional population introduced by development of Precinct 15, as well as other smaller scale redevelopments likely to occur.

Over 25% of residents and workers do not have access to open space within walking distance. Clear links to the Kororoit Creek Trail (Stage 2 and 3) and advocating for an off-road connection along Blackshaws Road as part of Precinct 15 discussions could significantly improve connectivity in the precinct and 'unlock' open spaces that are currently inaccessible.

Current Profile

Altona North has the highest proportion of people aged over 65 and is highly vulnerable to heat stress. Subsequently, improved access to facilities, walking paths, seating, drinking water and shade are high priorities.

Altona North has a diverse community with more than 40% of residents from a non English speaking background. It has the second lowest SEIFA index score (910), which is well below the Hobsons Bay and Australian SEIFA average of 1002.

It should be noted that Brooklyn residents access this precinct for formal sporting, shopping (Altona Gate) and the like.

With a high proportion of young adults in Brooklyn combined with the expected influx of young families into Altona North, development of a youth space in the northern section of the precinct should be considered.



*Paisley Park, Altona North
(Image: Planisphere)*

Future Trends

The predicted trend in this precinct is for an increase in families, particularly young families, and 35–49 year-olds.

It will be important to provide locally accessible, diverse, play and recreation opportunities (formal and informal) for these groups.

A key challenge in this precinct will be the creation of a network of accessible local and neighbourhood parks that provide a range of passive open space opportunities. A number of reserves that could provide these opportunities are currently dominated by formal sporting uses or the level of development and condition of assets are barriers to use. The development of family and social recreation around the periphery of these sports fields is critical.

The development of open space in Precinct 15 may achieve positive open space outcomes for existing gap areas west of the site. It should be recognised that any new open space within the precinct is provided for a new community and not to meet existing demands.

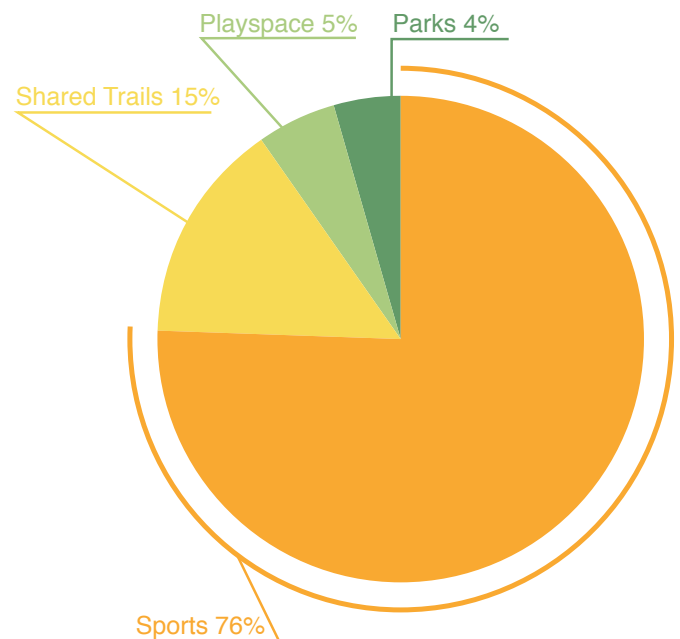
In future, a focus on providing more pedestrian crossings will help overcome the many road barriers in the precinct.

The following spaces have been highlighted as particular opportunities for upgrades:

- W. L. J. Crofts Reserve
- Duke Street Reserve
- J. J. Ginifer Reserve
- W. J. Irwin Reserve
- A. W. Langshaw Reserve
- P. J. Lynch Reserve
- Paisley Park and Paisley Park Soccer Complex
- Kororoit Creek Shared Trail (Across multiple precincts).

Refer to the actions table over the following pages for more detail and in Appendix E and F.

Allocation of Funding in Altona North



ALTONA NORTH PRECINCT ACTIONS & PRIORITIES

The following table lists actions related to open space in the Altona North Precinct, and highlights priority actions over the short, medium and long-term.

PRIORITY	ACTION	PRIORITY	ACTION
Short-term 0-2 years	Investigate options for additional open space within this precinct including within Precinct 15 and Education Department adjacent to RJ Cooper Reserve to increase provision, address nearby gap areas and accommodate expansion and relocation of sporting uses	Long-term 5-10 years+	Further improvements to JJ Ginifer Reserve and RJ Cooper Reserve such as BBQs, shelters and drinking water to encourage longer stays
	Support the implementation of Stages 4 and 5 of the Kororoit Creek Trail including wayfinding and interpretive treatments and resting places		Undertake upgrade works to Duke Street, WJ Irwin and PJ Lynch Reserves
	Formalise and better articulate links to KC shared trail from McArthurs Road and Marsh Street	Advocacy	Ensure appropriate provision of family and social recreation open space for the new community within Precinct 15
	Improve the interface of AW Bond Reserve at Beuron Road and Chambers Road		Ensure Precinct 15 contains a network of local spaces including one that can accommodate a dog off leash area to cater to a 2 kilometre catchment (enabling off-leash areas to be removed from Edwards Reserve) and adequate open space for sporting uses.
	Upgrade playspace and passive amenity at AW Langshaw Reserve		Advocate to VicRoads to: Provide an off-road shared path on Blackshaws Road Install a new pedestrian crossings at identified locations on Blackshaws Road.
	Complete improvements from Paisley Park Masterplan and upgrade soccer field and community park infrastructure at S. J. Clements Reserve	Other Actions	Investigate the potential for a joint service agreement between Hobsons Bay City Council and Emmanuel College - St Paul's Campus.
	Investigate formalising pedestrian/cycle link on un-constructed section of Ross Road (from Mills Street to Blenheim Road, Newport West)		Investigate potential for additional soccer pitch development; the Altona Italian Social Club. Investigate an access path/shared trail from Beever Street, Altona North to enable those residents to access future open space at this site and in P15
Medium-term 2-5 years	Undertake planning for improvements and activation of Harris Reserve to address safety concerns in consultation with the local community		Investigate opportunity to provide open space within future development
	Complete upgrade to WJ Irwin Reserve to Neighbourhood Park status		Improve access to the Kororoit Creek corridor from this area.
	Review the GJ Hosken Reserve Master Plan and complete picnic and play space elements	Investigate implementation of new tennis courts at A. W. Bond reserve, as recommended in the Sports Needs Facility Assessment (InsideEdge, 2017).	
	Upgrade the play space at VL Hearn Reserve to create a point of difference to nearby reserves	Investigate feasibility of acquiring land for new open space for family and social recreation particularly to service gaps in the open space network	
	Prepare a master plan for WJ Croft Reserve that considers connections to the residential area and Hosken Reserve, improves landscape amenity, rationalises roads and car parking, upgrade to play space, and further supports and addresses the requirements of sporting clubs and sporting needs in the Brooklyn and Altona North area.	Investigate future land use of the former Education Department Westona Primary School site as a potential open space development	
Undertake renewal works at W. L. Floyd Reserve			

ALTONA NORTH PRECINCT UPGRADES: PARK-BY-PARK

The table below lists the Council-managed open spaces in the Altona North precinct and extent of upgrades proposed.

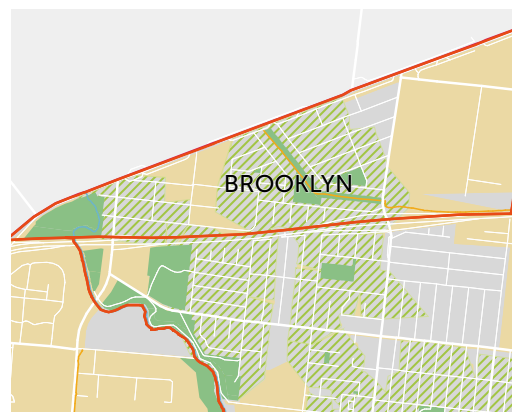
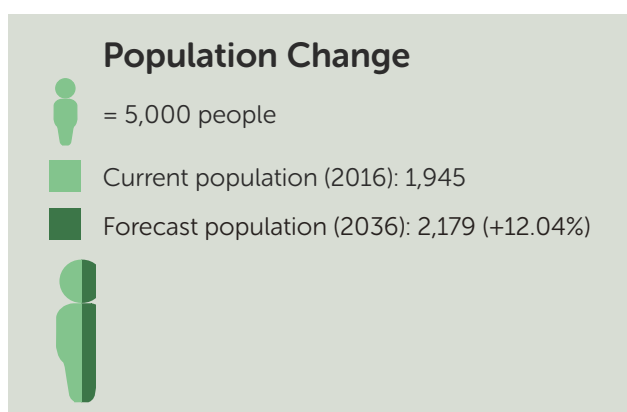
HIERARCHY/ROLE	NAME OF OPEN SPACE	PROPOSED WORKS	TYPE OF WORKS
Regional Open Spaces	Paisley Park	Upgrade	Playgrounds, sports
District Open Spaces	Altona Lakes Public Golf Course	-	-
	Paisley Park Soccer Complex	Upgrade	Sports
	P. J. Lynch Reserve	Upgrade	Sports
	W. L. J. Crofts Reserve	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds, sports
Neighbourhood Open Spaces	A. W. Bond Reserve	New works	Sports
	A. W. Langshaw Reserve	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds
	G. J. Hosken Reserve	New works	Parks
	J. J. Ginifer Reserve	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds
	Maltese Bocce Club	-	-
	R. J. Cooper Reserve	Renewal	-
	W. J. Irwin Reserve	Upgrade	Parks
Local Open Spaces	Duke Street Reserve	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds
	Harris Reserve	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
	McArthurs Road Reserve	-	-
	S. J. Clement Reserve	New works	Parks, playgrounds, sports
	V. L. Hearn Reserve	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
Linear/Links/Buffers	W. L. Floyd Reserve	Renewal	Parks

4.9 BROOKLYN PRECINCT

OVERVIEW

The Brooklyn precinct has a low proportion of open space per person. The precinct should create new and improved connections and facilities to encourage more walking and exercise as well as connect workers and residents to other surrounding areas.

open spaces. The next section highlights opportunities to address gaps and improve amenity for residents and workers in Brooklyn, in the face of relatively low rate of growth in future.



Precinct in Future

Brooklyn is forecast to grow by approximately 12% from 2016 to 2036. Residents in the precinct currently have access to approximately 55.66m² per person of open space, while this may be reduced to 52.36m² (-10.74%) in 2036.

As shown in the gap analysis, the proportion of open space per person is lower than the municipal average and the walkability rate is also lower than in other areas.

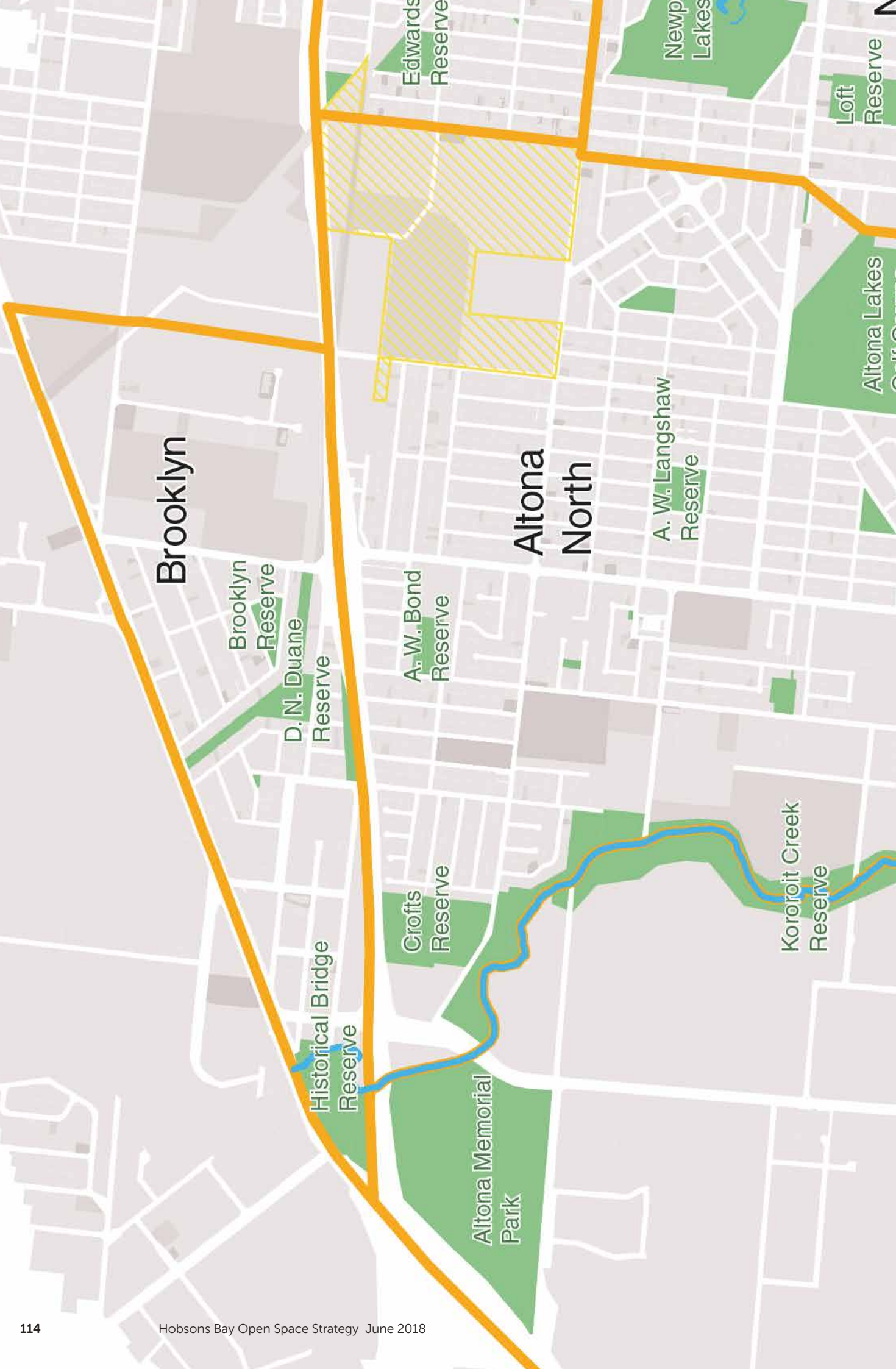
Gaps in the Network

In Brooklyn, 19.59% of residents live outside the 400m walkable catchment shown in the map below (gaps shown in grey for residential areas, yellow for industrial areas). Physical gaps are most profound in the west of the municipality; for both residents and workers.

As highlighted in the Altona North discussion, many residents from Brooklyn currently travel to Altona North to access services and

PRECINCT FEATURES	
Current population (2016)	1,945
Forecast population (2036)	2,179 (+12.04%)
Amount of open space - 2016 (accessible)	55.66m ² per capita
Projected open space - 2036 (accessible)	52.36m ² per capita (10.74% reduction)
Total precinct area	216ha
Residential lots outside a 400m catchment to open space	19.59% (229 lots)
Total open space provision (all types including restricted)	14.62% of total precinct area (31.57ha)
Passive open space	3.82% (8.25ha)
Formal open space (e.g. sports fields)	0.46% (1ha)
Encumbered open space accessible to the public	2.22% (4.79ha)
Other open space (e.g. not accessible to the public)	8.11% (17.53ha)
Strategic or key development sites	-
Types of open space (Hierarchy classification)	» 1 linear » 4 local » 2 neighbourhood

Figure 37. Brooklyn Precinct Map



PRECINCT OVERVIEW

Due to a range of improvements over the past five years, open space in Brooklyn has improved significantly with more diversity of facilities and landscape settings and enhanced connectivity.

As Brooklyn has the highest number of residents in Hobsons Bay who do not own a car, walking and transport connections are critical. Recently created links between Cypress Avenue and the Federation Trail have connected two previously disconnected sections of the community and a new perimeter path at Brooklyn Reserve will encourage more walking and exercise.

Current Profile

Brooklyn also has a higher than municipal average of people aged over 70. Couples with families have been moving out of the area and there has been a recent increase in single parent families, group households and lone person households.



Brooklyn Reserve, Brooklyn (Image: Planisphere)



Pipeline Reserve, Brooklyn (Image: Planisphere)

Future Trends

Brooklyn is expected to go through a process of regeneration of the ageing population, with younger families expected to move into the area.

There are limited infill development opportunities in existing residential areas with the majority of development expected in the industrial areas.

Establishing good quality open space within industrial areas as development occurs will be a challenge and a focus should be on improving facilities and links to nearby open space in the first instance as a priority for parks in the area.

Creating new and improved pathways to link to Altona Gate as well as the future Kororoit Creek Shared Trail will connect workers and residents to open space and surrounding areas. The improved condition of the Federation Trail via the Westgate Tunnel project is a high priority.

Brooklyn's residential areas have a high provision of and good access to open space however, overall the precinct has the second lowest proportion of open space at 4.4% and significant gap areas in the industrial parts of the precinct. This shortfall could be enhanced by improving connections and facilities at nearby reserves (Historic Bridge Reserve/ Kororoit Creek environs and Rowan Avenue Reserve) and through levying new open space contributions through future development in industrial areas.

There is a low rate of population growth expected, however availability of open space per capita is below the municipal average at 58.66m² per person.

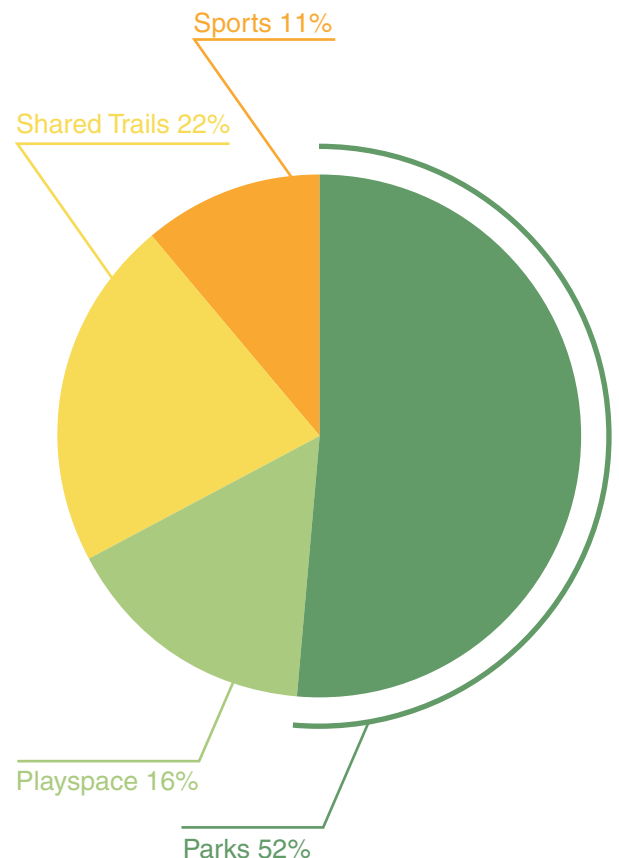
Open space values to celebrate and enhance in this precinct are the natural landscape character and indigenous cultural heritage of the Kororoit Creek and interpretation of the Historic Bluestone Bridge and Melbourne Water outfall sewer.

The following spaces have been highlighted as particular opportunities for upgrades:

- Brooklyn Reserve
- DN Duane Reserve
- Pipeline Reserve (Millers Road to Geelong Road)
- Rowan Avenue Reserve.

Refer to the actions table over the following pages for more detail and in Appendix E and F.

Allocation of Funding in Brooklyn



BROOKLYN PRECINCT ACTIONS & PRIORITIES

The following table lists actions related to open space in the Brooklyn precinct, and highlights priority actions over the short, medium and long-term.

PRIORITY	ACTIONS
Short-term 0-2 years	<p>Support the detailed design and implement Stage 1 of the Kororoit Creek Shared Trail (West Gate Freeway to Princess Freeway)</p> <p>Implement new dog park at Brooklyn Reserve</p> <p>Undertake feasibility study and prepare plans for renewal works that will address existing demand for open space at the Pipeline Reserve (Millers Road to Geelong Road) and Rowan Avenue Reserve.</p>
Medium-term 2-5 years	<p>Investigate opportunities to encourage self-directed activity in open space in consultation with the community (in particular local youth) and implement.</p> <p>Install seating at key open space locations throughout Brooklyn</p> <p>Resolve the future use of Francis Sullivan Kindergarten building at Brooklyn Reserve and assess potential to reclaim for public parkland</p> <p>Investigate on-road cycling connections and wayfinding signage following the construction of the Kororoit Creek Shared Trail.</p> <p>Undertake renewal works to address existing demand for open space at the Pipeline Reserve (Millers Road to Geelong Road) and Rowan Avenue Reserve.</p> <p>Install a public toilet at Brooklyn Reserve and complete any minor upgrades to complete this Neighbourhood Park</p>
Long-term 5-10 years+	<p>Investigate the feasibility of upgrading the soccer pavilion and facilities at DN Duane Reserve</p> <p>Upgrade Rowan Avenue Reserve and playground</p>
Advocacy	<p>Advocate for community benefits compensation for the loss of open space at Lynch Road Reserve as a result of the Western Distributor Project</p>

BROOKLYN PRECINCT UPGRADES: PARK-BY-PARK

The table below lists the Council-managed open spaces in the Brooklyn precinct and extent of upgrades proposed.

HIERARCHY/ ROLE	NAME OF OPEN SPACE	PROPOSED WORKS	TYPE OF WORKS
Neighbourhood Open Spaces	Brooklyn Reserve	Upgrade	Parks
	D. N. Duane Reserve	Upgrade	Playgrounds, sports
Local Open Spaces	Pipeline Reserve (Millers Rd to Geelong Rd)	Renewal	Parks
	Rowan Avenue Reserve	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
Linear/Links/ Buffers	Lynch Road Reserve	Upgrade	Linear - Link

*P.J. Lynch Reserve
(Image: Planisphere)*

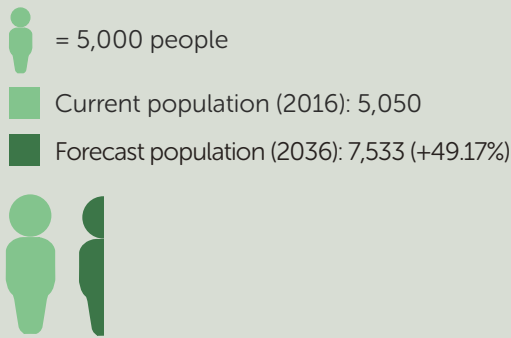


4.10 LAVERTON PRECINCT

OVERVIEW

The Laverton precinct has a below average proportion of open space per person. Laverton should advocate for the continuation of an off-road shared trail and upgrade smaller parks that currently lack diversity to ensure the good provision of open space.

Population Change



Precinct in Future

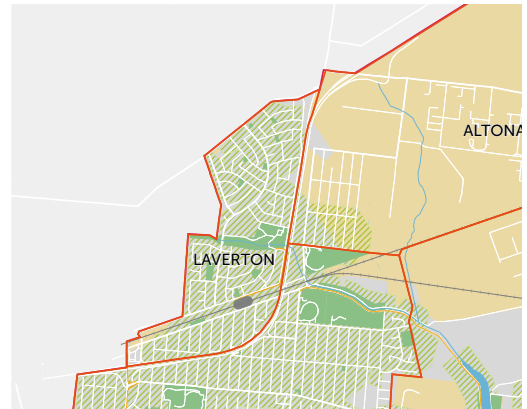
Laverton has a projected growth rate of 49.17% over the period 2016 to 2036. As a result, residents in the precinct are likely to face greater competition for open space in future. The rate of open space per capita may drop from 25.88m² per person to 17.35m² over the period 2016 to 2036 (a reduction in 32.96%).

Gaps in the Network

In Laverton, only 4.4% of residents do not have access to open space within a 400m walking distance. This proportion fits within the ideal benchmark of a minimum 95% of residents having access to open space within 400m of their house.

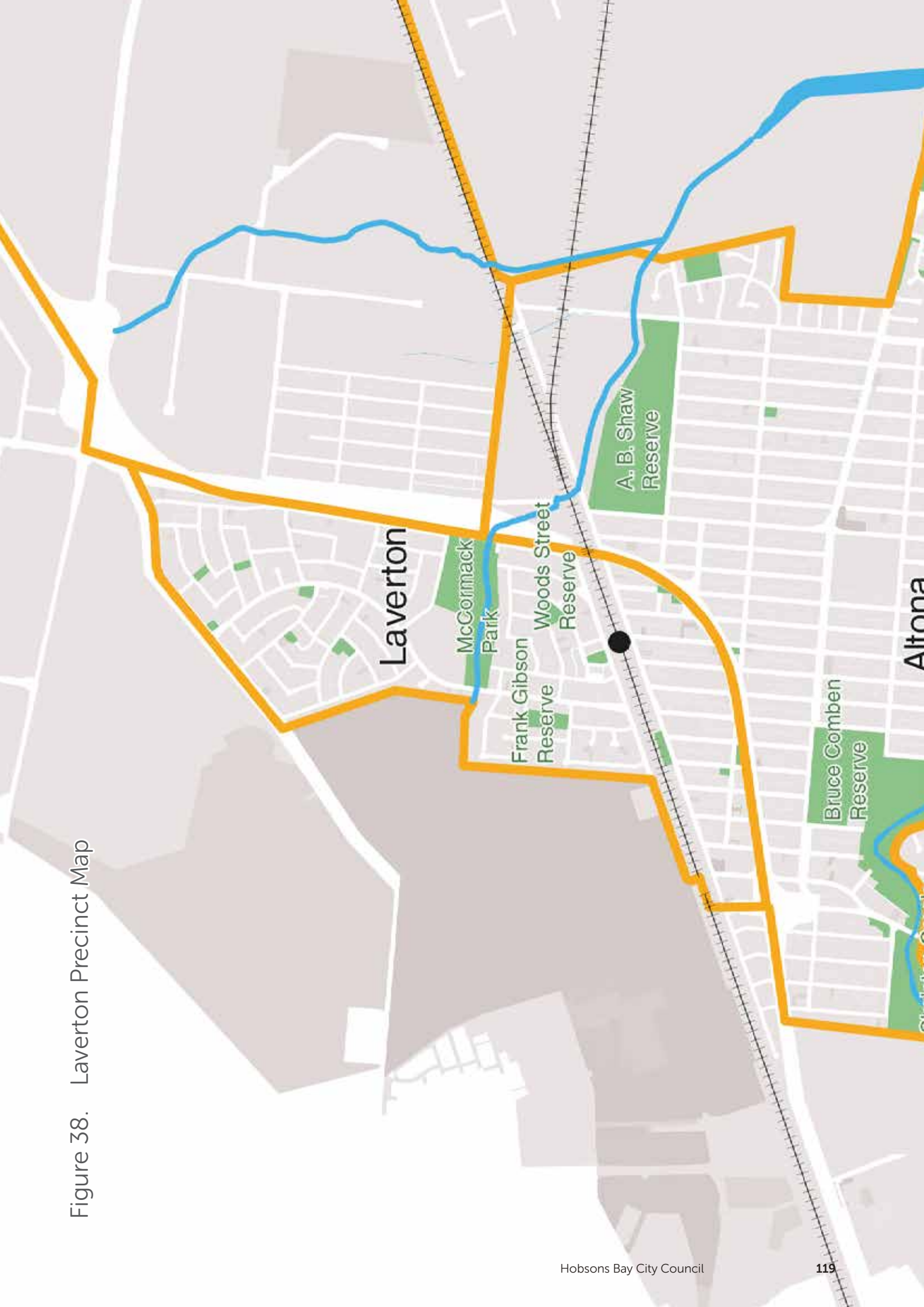
There are few physical gaps in this precinct, predominantly towards the northern extent of Laverton, adjacent to the Altona Industrial precinct.

Given the projected population growth rate, the quality and flexibility of open space will be important considerations for this precinct into the future.



PRECINCT FEATURES	
Current population (2016)	5,050
Forecast population (2036)	7,533 (+49.17%)
Amount of open space - 2016 (accessible)	25.88m ² per capita
Projected open space - 2036 (accessible)	17.35m ² per capita (32.96% reduction)
Total precinct area	213ha
Residential lots outside a 400m catchment to open space	4.40% (109 lots)
Total open space provision (all types including restricted)	7.82% of total precinct area (16.66ha)
Passive open space	6.14% (13.07ha)
Formal open space (e.g. sports fields)	0% (0ha)
Encumbered open space accessible to the public	1.69% (3.59ha)
Other open space (e.g. not accessible to the public)	0% (0ha)
Strategic or key development sites	-
Types of open space (Hierarchy classification)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 1 buffer » 4 district » 6 local » 6 neighbourhood » 1 regional

Figure 38. Laverton Precinct Map



PRECINCT OVERVIEW

Laverton has a good distribution of open spaces compared to other precincts with the recent purchase of the former Laverton School site on Epsom Street completing provision in the gap area south of the railway line.

Overall the amount of open space in this precinct is marginally below average for Hobsons Bay at 6.14%, however the current and future population will continue to place pressure on available open space with only 25.88m² per capita.

Although somewhat segregated by the freeway and railway line, the suburb has good public transport connections with two train stations and the Laverton Creek Trail under the freeway providing access to nearby sporting facilities and open space in Altona Meadows.

Current Profile

Laverton also has the lowest rate of English proficiency with the highest population of people born overseas in Hobsons Bay.

A lack of established trees in the area contributes to a higher level of vulnerability to heat stress in this precinct.



McCormack Park, Laverton (Image: Planisphere)



Bladin Street Reserve, Laverton (Image: Planisphere)



Dick Murdoch Reserve, Laverton (Image: Planisphere)



Henderson Street Reserve, Laverton (Image: Planisphere)

Future trends

The number of young children in Laverton is currently similar to the average in other areas in Hobsons Bay. However in future, these numbers are expected to grow, primarily due to the (current) high proportion of young couples without children in the area.

Creating diversity in play experiences for a range of age groups should be explored in this precinct over the coming period.

Key opportunities to enhance connectivity in this precinct are through advocacy for the continuation of an off-road shared trail connection along Laverton Creek via the RAAF base in adjacent Wyndham City Council and the future grade separation of the level crossing at Aviation Road.

Recent upgrades have improved the quality of some key spaces (Lohse Street Reserve and McCormack Park), however many of the smaller parks lack diversity in facilities and landscape settings.

Landscape values to celebrate and enhance in this precinct are the natural landscape character and indigenous cultural heritage of the Laverton Creek. References to post-war settlement and aviation history could also be included in wayfinding signage and design interpretations in future.

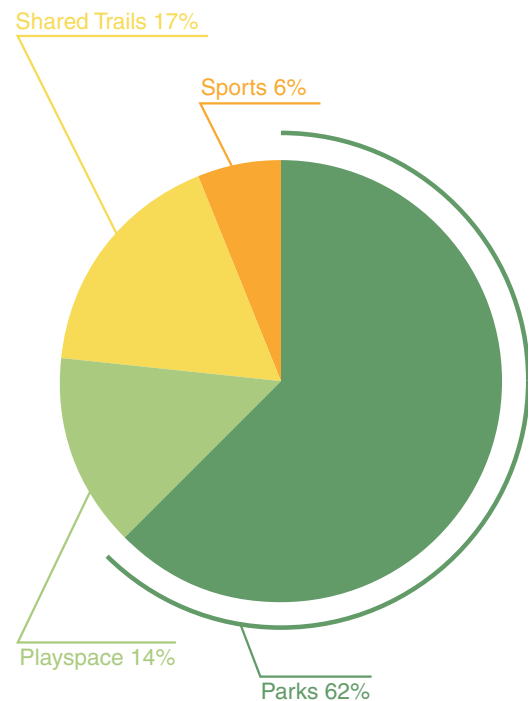
Tree planting and other cooling initiatives along key walking routes and within open space should be explored as a priority.

The following spaces have been highlighted as particular opportunities for upgrades:

- Dick Murdoch Reserve
- Laverton Netball Courts
- Lohse Street Reserve
- McCormack Park
- Laverton Creek Trail.

Refer to the actions table over the following pages for more detail and in Appendix E and F.

Allocation of Funding in Laverton



LAVERTON PRECINCT ACTIONS

The following table lists actions related to open space in the Laverton precinct, and highlights priority actions over the short, medium and long-term.

PRIORITY	ACTION
Short-term 0-2 years	<p>Continue to implement priority improvements to local and neighbourhood parks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Alma Avenue Reserve (Laverton) (Local/buffer) » Beverley Anton Reserve » Bladin Street Reserve (Local/micro) » Bruce Street Reserve » Cropley Reserve » Dick Murdoch Reserve » Frank Gibson Reserve » Henderson Street Reserve » Laverton Netball Courts » McCormack Park » Whittaker Avenue Reserve » Woods Street Reserve. <p>Implement findings of the Aquatic Strategy in regards to the future of the Laverton Swim Centre, continue to implement new pathway connections as identified in the master plan, and shared trail alignment requirements</p> <p>Continue development of the Epsom Street Masterplan (former Laverton Primary School site), including construction of a new public open space (Neighbourhood designation) after community consultation and design finalisation (community consultation planned for April - July 2018)</p> <p>Over the short to medium-term, undertake upgrade works to address existing demand for open spaces and facilities at the following Neighbourhood spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Jamison Street Reserve » Laverton Netball Courts » Lohse Street Reserve.
Medium-term 2-5 years	<p>Review local spaces in the precinct and prepare improvement plans that create a diverse range of play and other passive activities. Implement priority improvements at two reserves</p> <p>Continue to undertake upgrade works along the Laverton Creek Trail to cater for existing and future populations.</p>
Long-term 5-10 years+	<p>Upgrade the Werribee Rail Linear Reserve, including the outdoor netball court.</p> <p>Work with Vic Track to improve the amenity of Road Reserve in Maher Road</p> <p>Explore potential to expand the Laverton Community Garden function to the Laverton Community Hub - outdoor garden space.</p>
Advocacy	<p>Advocate for key off-road connections and gateway improvements to be undertaken as part of the grade separation at Aircraft Station</p> <p>Work with Wyndham City Council to gain in principle approval from RAAF for a shared path connection via Laverton Creek and the RAAF base to Lawrie Emmins Reserve and the Federation Trail.</p> <p>Investigate potential for shared use of sports fields, courts and facilities at the Laverton RAAF Base.</p> <p>Investigate potential for land acquisition on RAAF site following the introduction of a shared use arrangement</p>

LAVERTON PRECINCT UPGRADES: PARK-BY-PARK

The table below lists the Council-managed open spaces in the Laverton precinct and extent of upgrades proposed.

HIERARCHY/ROLE	NAME OF OPEN SPACE	PROPOSED WORKS	TYPE OF WORKS
Neighbourhood Open Spaces	Frank Gibson Reserve	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
	Laverton Netball Courts	Upgrade	Parks, sports
	Lohse Street Reserve	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds
	McCormack Park	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds
	Epsom Street Reserve	New Works	Parks, playgrounds
Local Open Spaces	Beverley Anton Reserve	Renewal	Parks
	Bladin Street Reserve	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
	Bruce Street Reserve	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
	Cropley Reserve	New works	Parks
	Dick Murdoch Reserve	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds
	Henderson Street Reserve	Renewal	Parks
	Whittaker Avenue Reserve	Renewal	Parks
	Woods Street Reserve	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
Linear/Links/ Buffers	Alma Avenue Reserve	Renewal	Parks
	Jamison Street Reserve	Renewal	Parks



Laverton Netball Courts
(Image: Planisphere)

4.11 NEWPORT EAST PRECINCT

OVERVIEW

The Newport East precinct has a high proportion of open space per person. Addressing gaps in distribution of open space away from the foreshore and an under-supply of passive open space in the north will ensure good provision of open space continues.

Given the proportion of regional open spaces in this precinct, it will be important to maintain these to a condition that can accommodate increased demand from outside the precinct, including visitors to Hobsons Bay, to ensure amenity for residents is not reduced in future.

Population Change



Precinct in Future

Newport East has a low projected population growth of only 0.22% from 2016 to 2036. Overall, the amount of open space per capita will remain higher than the municipal average rate, with only a 0.22% reduction in area (91.23m² to 91.03m² per capita). Gaps in the Network

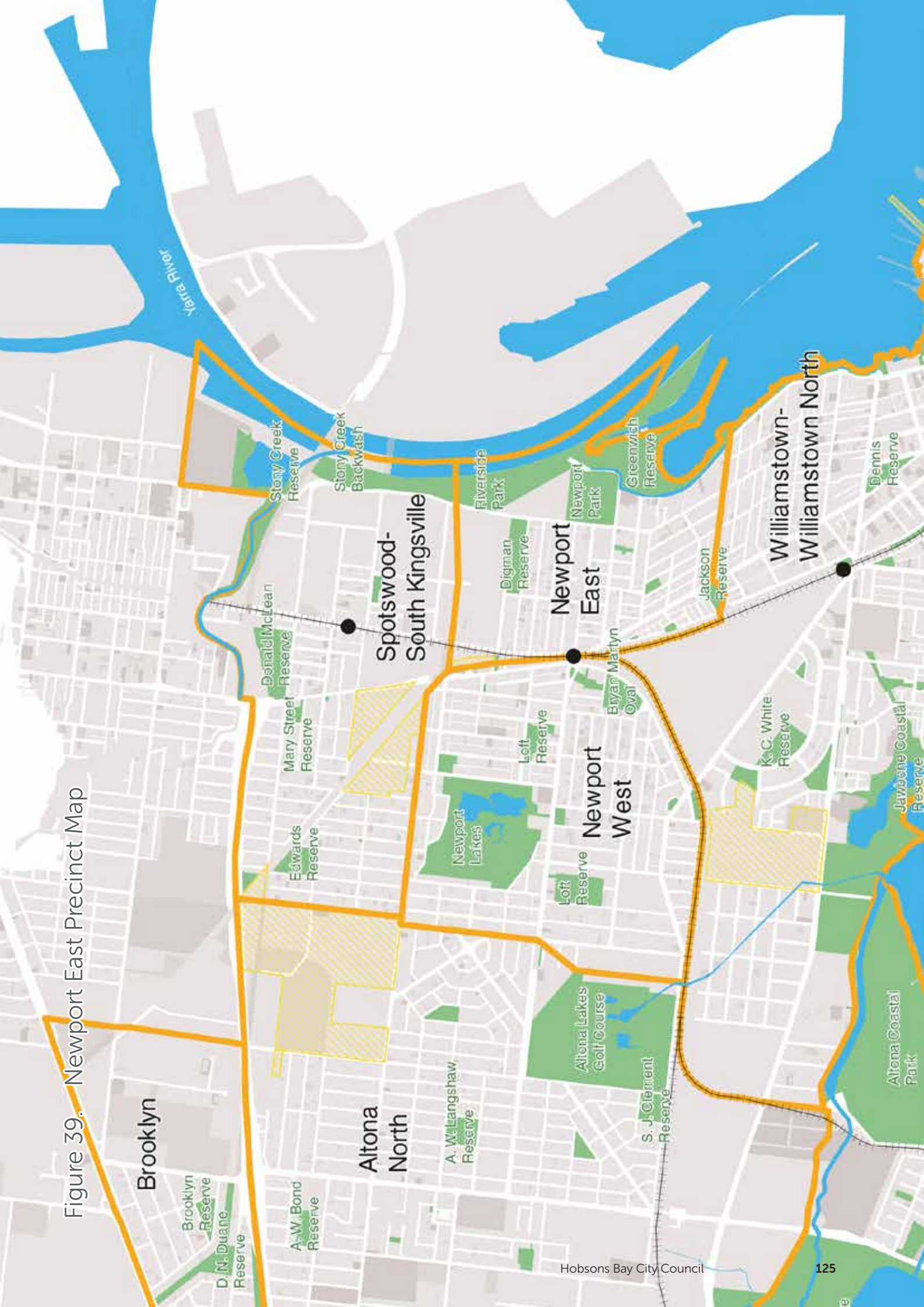
In Newport East, there are no residential lots in Newport East outside a 400m walkable catchment to open space, and this precinct also has five regional open spaces available to residents.

Although there are no physical gaps in Newport East, the precinct is located directly adjacent to Spotswood-South Kingsville, where the population is expected to grow by more than 80% towards 2036. Accordingly, residents in Newport East are likely to face increased competition for open space with residents from neighbouring precincts.

PRECINCT FEATURES

Current population (2016)	4,608
Forecast population (2036)	4,618 (+0.22%)
Amount of open space - 2016 (accessible)	44.54m ² per capita
Projected open space - 2036	44.45m ² per capita (0.22% reduction)
Total precinct area	241ha
Residential lots outside a 400m catchment to open space	0% (0 lots)
Total open space provision (all types including restricted)	18.66% (44.97ha)
Passive open space	4.81% (11.60ha)
Formal open space (e.g. sports fields)	3.70% (8.93ha)
Encumbered open space accessible to the public	4.79% (11.54ha)
Other open space (e.g. not accessible to the public)	5.53% (12.90ha)
Strategic or key development sites	-
Types of open space (Hierarchy classification)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 2 district » 4 local » 1 neighbourhood » 5 regional

Figure 39. Newport East Precinct Map



Brooklyn

Altona North

Spotswood-South Kingsville

Newport East

Newport West

Williamstown-Williamstown North

PRECINCT OVERVIEW

Newport East has very good open space provision, with 44.54m² of open space currently available per capita and all residential lots within a 400m walking distance from open space.

This high level of amenity is primarily due to the group of reserves located on the foreshore. The amount of open space available per capita is only marginally below the municipal average, which currently sits at 45.53m² per person.

Although all residential lots are within 400m of an open space, those towards the edge of the precinct (away from the foreshore) have less variety of open spaces and access to spaces with less functionality than the foreshore. This can primarily be addressed with improved pedestrian connections and standards of development, mostly at Digman and Armstrong Reserves. There is an under-supply of local and neighbourhood passive open space in the northern section of the precinct.

Newport East is connected to the Williamstown area and CBD by the Coastal Trail and across the railway line to Newport West via Kohry Reserve and Newport Station, however the condition of these connections needs improvement.

There is a great diversity of open spaces with sporting facilities, skate park, children's play, dog walking, fishing and boating, conservation areas and coastal environs.

Current Profile

Newport East's population has a higher than average number of couples with children (37.1% compared to the average of 31.7% for Hobsons Bay), and an increase since 2006 in single parent families. There are significantly lower numbers of 18-34 year olds in this neighbourhood and higher numbers of older workers and pre-retirees.

This population is the least disadvantaged community in Hobsons Bay with a SEIFA score of 1087.

A focus for this community, with its spectrum of age ranges, will be providing connected and accessible open spaces with diverse play opportunities and landscape settings and opportunities for self-directed exercise.



Newport Park, Newport East (Image: Hobsons Bay City Council)

Future Trends

There is limited to no large scale development potential in this precinct and the population is predicted to see minimal growth. There is however potential for the larger open spaces and facilities in the precinct to play an increasing role in addressing the formal sporting needs of surrounding areas.

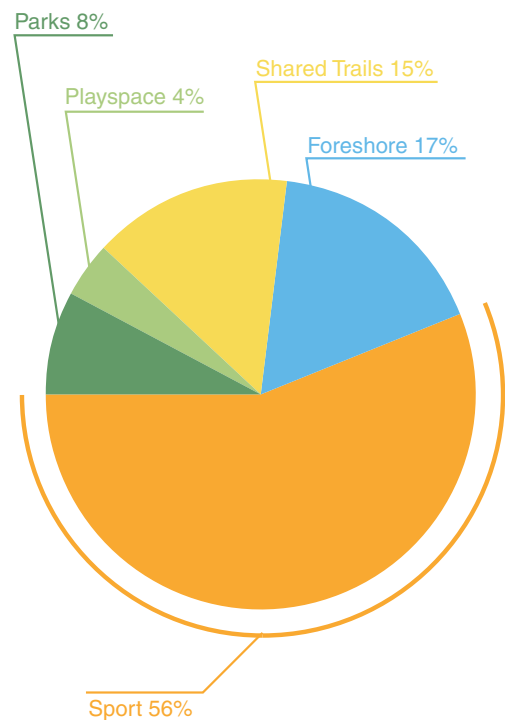
The key challenge for this precinct will be to address condition, quality and access at Riverside Park and resolving land ownership and management arrangements in this area.

The following spaces have been highlighted as particular opportunities for upgrades:

- Digman Reserve
- Greenwich Reserve
- Newport Athletics Track
- Newport Park
- Sandy Point Nature Reserve
- The Spit Nature Reserve
- Coastal Trails within Newport East
- Newport Angling Club Jetties.

Refer to the actions table over the following pages for more detail and in Appendix E and F.

Allocation of Funding in Newport East



Sandy Point Nature Reserve, Newport East (Image: Planisphere)

NEWPORT EAST PRECINCT ACTIONS

The following table lists actions related to open space in the Newport East precinct, and highlights priority actions over the short, medium and long-term.

PRIORITY	ACTION
Short-term 0-2 years	Finalise and implement the master plan for Digman Reserve addressing the priority development of sportsfields and associated infrastructure including new pavilion, new car park configuration and new play and family recreation space to the west.
	Include a shared path connection on the north boundary that can link the Kohry Reserve (Newport West) rail underpass to High Street and through to the Coastal Trail Network.
	Undertake assessments to prioritise renewal and upgrade works at Aphrasia Lane Reserve, Charles Bates Reserve to cater to existing demand in the precinct.
	In consultation with the local community prepare a park development plan for Armstrong Reserve to lift its status and amenity level to a Neighbourhood park.
	Ensure an appropriate landscape buffer is designed and implemented to delineate the park from the three-storey town house development on the southern boundary of the park.
Medium-term 2-5 years	Prepare a parkland development plan with extensive consultation for the Newport Riverside Park (refer to actions in Spotswood-South Kingsville)
	Undertake assessments and condition audits to identify and implement improvements to Williamstown Junction Reserve and Coronation Reserve
	Continue to implement priority improvements at the Newport waterfront parklands (Riverside Park and Greenwich Reserve)
	Implement the actions from the Foreshore Infrastructure Upgrade Plan (2015) as related to the open space network
	Implement the actions from the Foreshore Infrastructure Upgrade Plan (2015) as related to the open space network at Greenwich Reserve
	Upgrade playspace and amenity at The Strand
	Implement the Hall Street street and landscape improvements as part of the broader implementation of public space upgrades as identified in the Newport Structure Plan.
Long-term 5-10 years	Upgrade the playspace and general amenity at Greenwich Reserve (The Strand), Newport and investigate shade tree planting along The Strand
	Undertake upgrade works to Newport Park and Newport Athletics track to cater for existing and future demand. Undertake upgrades to the Newport Angling Club Jetties, Warmies Boat Ramp and Coastal Trails through the precinct to cater for existing and future demand, and to ensure these assets retain their unique character and function as district and regionally-significant spaces.
Advocacy	Undertake upgrade works to Newport Park and Newport Athletics track to cater for existing and future demand.
	Undertake upgrades to the Newport Angling Club Jetties, Warmies Boat Ramp and Coastal Trails through the precinct to cater for existing and future demand, and to ensure these assets retain their unique character and function as district and regionally-significant spaces.
	Undertake upgrades to the Newport Angling Club Jetties, Warmies Boat Ramp and Coastal Trails through the precinct to cater for existing and future demand, and to ensure these assets retain their unique character and function as district and regionally-significant spaces.
Advocacy	Advocate to VicRoads for the installation of priority pedestrian crossings on Melbourne Road
	Work with PoMC, Parks Victoria and DELWP to clarify foreshore management responsibilities and improved open space outcomes
	Advocate to the PoMC for improved amenity and access to parcels of open space land along the foreshore - and a full upgrade to the Bay Trail Shared Path Network
	Advocate for State Government funding to construct the Strand rock revetment wall Stage 3
Special Areas	Where appropriate, provide wayfinding signage and celebrate special areas through creative interpretive information linking visitors to:
	» The conservation values at Sandy Point and The Spit Reserves

NEWPORT EAST PRECINCT UPGRADES: PARK-BY-PARK

The table below lists the Council-managed open spaces in the Newport East precinct and extent of upgrades proposed.

HIERARCHY/ROLE	NAME OF OPEN SPACE	PROPOSED WORKS	TYPE OF WORKS
Regional Open Spaces	Warmies Boat Ramp	Renewal	Foreshore, parks
	Newport Athletics Track	Upgrade	Sports
District Open Spaces	Greenwich Reserve	Upgrade	Parks, sports
	Newport Park	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds
	Sandy Point Nature Reserve	Upgrade	Parks
	The Spit Nature Reserve	Upgrade	Parks
Neighbourhood Open Spaces	Armstrong Reserve	New works	Parks, playgrounds
	Digman Reserve	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds, sports
Local Open Spaces	Aphrasia Lane Reserve	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
	Charles Bates Reserve**	New works	Parks, playgrounds
	Coronation Reserve	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
	Williamstown Junction Reserve	Renewal	Parks

** Open space also plays a District function



Greenwich Reserve (Image: Planisphere)

4.12 NEWPORT WEST PRECINCT

OVERVIEW

The Newport West precinct has a good proportion of open space per person. Upgrades throughout the precinct will improve walkability, connectivity and ensure good provision of open space continues as the precinct experience high growth.

Population Change



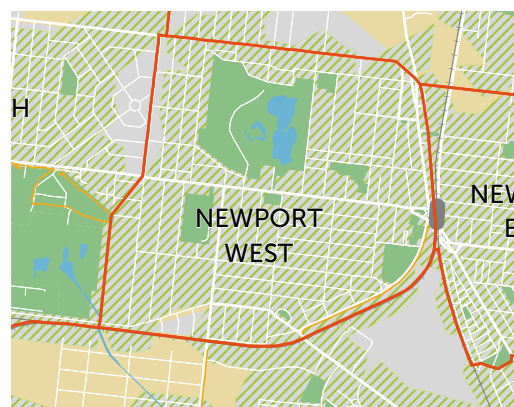
= 5,000 people



Current population (2016): 8,822



Forecast population (2036): 9,694 (+9.88%)



Precinct in Future

Newport West has a projected growth rate of 9.88% to 2036. Residents in this precinct will face a reduction in open space per capita from 32.14m² to 29.25m² towards 2036, a reduction of 8.99%.

As shown in the gap analysis, very few lots (59 lots) are outside a 400m walkable catchment to open spaces in the precinct; or 1.37% of all lots.

Gaps in the Network

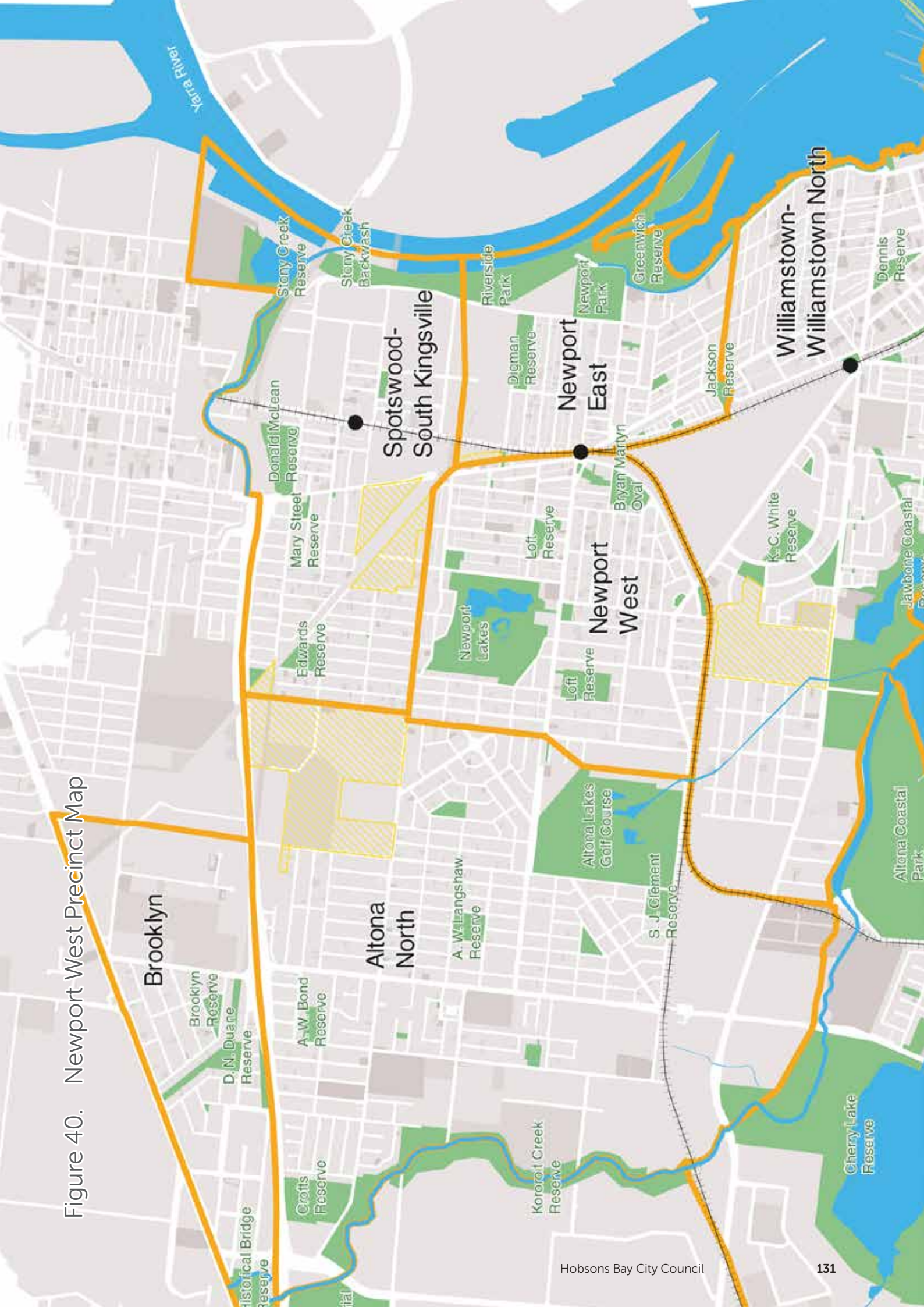
Very few residential lots are located outside a walkable catchment of open spaces in Newport West, and there is a good diversity of local and neighbourhood-scale open spaces.

This precinct may face greater competition for open space in future from residents in the neighbouring precinct of Altona North, where the population is projected to grow by more than 60% towards 2036.

Physical gaps in the network tend towards the precinct boundary, particularly towards the west.

PRECINCT FEATURES	
Current population (2016)	8,822
Forecast population (2036)	9,694 (+9.88%)
Amount of open space - 2016 (accessible)	32.14m ² per capita
Projected open space - 2036 (accessible)	29.25m ² per capita (8.99% reduction)
Total precinct area	275ha
Residential lots outside a 400m catchment to open space	1.37% (59 lots)
Total open space provision (all types including restricted)	17.70% (48.69ha)
Passive open space	7.32% (20.14ha)
Formal open space (e.g. Sports fields)	2.99% (8.21ha)
Encumbered open space accessible to the public	0.37% (1.03ha)
Other open space (e.g. not accessible to the public)	7.02% (19.3ha)
Strategic or key development sites	-
Types of open space (Hierarchy classification)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 2 link » 5 local » 4 neighbourhood » 1 regional

Figure 40. Newport West Precinct Map



PRECINCT OVERVIEW

There is more accessible open space in Newport West (10.31% or 32.14m² per capita) than other precincts in Hobsons Bay, however the population density brings the amount of passive (e.g. parks) and formal (e.g. sports fields) open space per capita is lower than the current municipal rate (6.6% open space, versus 45.53m² per capita across Hobsons Bay).

A range of passive and sporting reserves are relatively well-distributed throughout the neighbourhood. Newport Lakes is one of the most popular open spaces in Hobsons Bay offering a unique natural landscape setting and escape from the urban environment.

Current Profile

This precinct has experienced high growth due to medium density development (which is forecast to continue), but this may slow compared to other precincts in future with a forecast growth rate of less than 10%.

Gentrification is occurring at a rapid rate due to Newport West's location to services, infrastructure and public transport. The precinct has the highest population of pre-school aged children (0-4 years) in Hobsons Bay and increasing numbers of young people aged 12-24 years.

Improvements to the diversity of play and recreation experiences, particularly for very young children and young adults will be of particular benefit to this community.

Other priority improvements include: creation of greater diversity between landscape settings and activities in local and neighbourhood spaces in the north-eastern and south-western sections of the precinct and improved accessibility of spaces and facilities.



*Fowler Crescent Reserve, Newport West
(Image: Planisphere)*

Future Trends

Growth of young families is expected to steady in coming years with increasing numbers of 18-34 year-olds and those aged 70-84.

Walkability and its connectivity to the railway station, Newport East, Williamstown and the beach are key challenges for Newport West. It is recommended that a key focus be placed on providing safer walking routes and pedestrian crossings to overcome the barriers within the precinct.

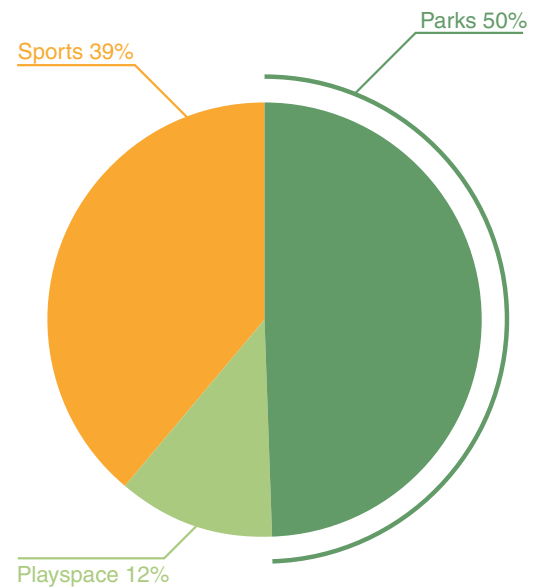
The area has some on-road and off-road cycling connections, however there are missing links between Champion Road and Maddox Road and north-south through Newport Lakes.

The following spaces have been highlighted as particular opportunities for upgrades:

- Bryan Martyn Oval
- Ducrow Reserve
- Fowler Crescent Reserve
- AW Knight Reserve (Newport)
- Kohry Reserve
- Loft Reserve
- Newport Lakes
- Paine Reserve.

Refer to the actions table over the following pages for more detail and in Appendix E and F.

Allocation of Funding in Newport West



NEWPORT WEST PRECINCT ACTIONS

The following table lists actions related to open space in the Newport West precinct, and highlights priority actions over the short, medium and long-term.

PRIORITY	ACTION
Short-term 0-2 years	Undertake assessments and condition audits to determine and implement priority neighbourhood park improvements at Leo Hoffman Reserve.
	Construct the remaining off-road shared path link from Newport Station to Maddox Road (Market to Railway Parade)
	In consultation with the community prepare a new community park design for Blenheim Road Park and implement a staged 2 year development
	Implement priority improvements, to the Kohry Reserve rail underpass to High Street to enable a cycle and pedestrian link through to the Bay Trail Network (Newport East and beyond).
	Upgrade Paine Reserve to improve activation and amenity particularly in relation to play activity, seating and entry points. Further explore and develop options for maximising use for family, social and cultural events
Medium-term 2-5 years	Develop a Master Plan for Mason Street and Market Street precinct within the Newport Activity Centre that considers accessibility and connections to Knight Reserve, the Substation Forecourt, Newport Train Station and bus interchange and connections through to Bryan Martyn Oval
	Implement these upgrades in the context of the Newport Structure Plan and identify opportunities for revitalisation of the public realm.
	Explore opportunities to implement upgrades at Jack Madigan Reserve and Market Street Reserve to respond to existing and future demand.
Long-term 5-10 years+	Review the Newport Lakes Master Plan with a focus on improved car parking, access and path connection, interfaces with adjacent residents, perceptions of safety, interpretation and protection of conservation values and development of a regional play space. Implementation of identified priority works. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Continue to implement priority improvements to Newport Lakes » Investigate potential dog off-lead/dog park space in Newport West Area
	Explore opportunities to improve Fowler Crescent Reserve for social gathering in consultation with the local community
	Explore opportunities to improve Ducrow Reserve and create a point of difference to surrounding spaces in consultation with the local community, particularly in light of increased densities; Precinct 16 development
	Negotiate a community shared use arrangement for the development of sports ovals and associated infrastructure at Bayside College Paisley Campus
	Investigate opportunity to improve amenities at North Williamstown Rail Reserve (Newport West)
	Implement lighting works and upgrades at Bryan Martin Oval as outlined in sports 10-year capital expenditure plan
	Investigate redevelopment on north oval of Loft Reserve and creation of accessible path network for whole reserve. Construct the car park and develop a better sense of place and interface from Mason Street, Loft Reserve Road (off Maddox) and Carmen Street.
Advocacy	Advocate to VicRoads for the installation of priority pedestrian crossings at Mason Street and Blackshaws Road.
	Work with VicTrack to deliver improvements to the condition of Kohry Reserve and lighting/amenity improvements to the underpass.
	Advocate for the development of family and social recreation space within Precinct 16
Special Areas	Where appropriate, provide wayfinding signage and celebrate special areas through creative interpretive information linking visitors to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Conservation values of Newport Lakes » Post settlement history of Jack Madigan Reserve
Other Actions	Continue sports infrastructure development through the joint service agreement with Newport Gardens Primary School. Investigate potential for community use and access for passive recreation for weekend use

NEWPORT WEST PRECINCT UPGRADES: PARK-BY-PARK

The table below lists the Council-managed open spaces in the Newport West precinct and extent of upgrades proposed.

HIERARCHY/ROLE	NAME OF OPEN SPACE	PROPOSED WORKS	TYPE OF WORKS
Regional Open Spaces	Newport Lakes	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds
Neighbourhood Open Spaces	Bruce Martyn Oval	Upgrade	Playgrounds, sports
	Leo Hoffman Reserve	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds
	Loft Reserve	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds, sports
	Paine Reserve	Upgrade	Parks
Local Open Spaces	A. W. Knight Reserve	Upgrade	Parks
	Ducrow Reserve	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds
	Fowler Crescent Reserve	Upgrade	Parks
	Jack Madigan Reserve	Renewal	-
	Ross Street Reserve	-	-
Linear/Links/Buffers	Kohry Reserve	Upgrade	Parks
	Market Street Reserve	Renewal	Parks

4.13 SEABROOK PRECINCT

OVERVIEW

The Seabrook precinct has a low proportion of open space per person. The condition of existing infrastructure and facilities is below average and requires significant upgrades. The diversity of passive opportunities and landscape settings would greatly improve open space provision within the precinct.

Population Change



= 5,000 people



Current population (2016): 5,439



Forecast population (2036): 4,847 (-10.89%)



PRECINCT FEATURES

Current population (2016)	5,439
Forecast population (2036)	4,847 (-10.89%)
Amount of open space - 2016 (accessible)	15.68m ² per capita
Projected open space - 2036 (accessible)	17.60m ² per capita (12.22% increase)
Total precinct area	162ha
Residential lots outside a 400m catchment to open space	1.56% (29 lots)
Total open space provision (all types including restricted)	6.50% (10.53ha)
Passive open space	5.27% (8.53ha)
Formal open space (e.g. sports fields)	0% (0ha)
Encumbered open space accessible to the public	1.10% (1.78ha)
Other open space (e.g. not accessible to the public)	0.14% (0.2ha)
Strategic or key development sites	-
Types of open space (Hierarchy classification)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 1 buffer » 3 linear » 3 link » 4 local » 2 neighbourhood

Precinct in Future

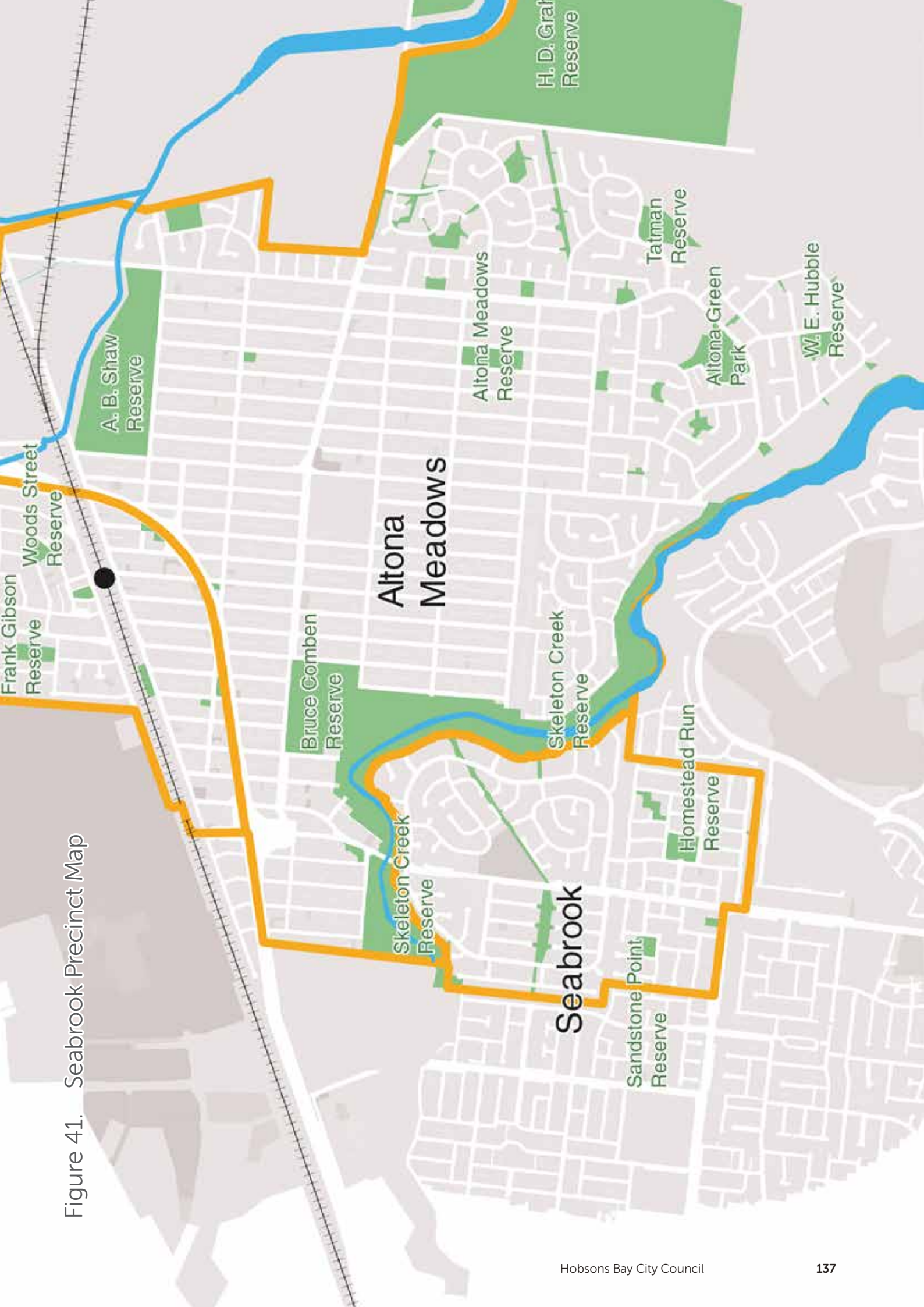
Seabrook is predicted to undergo a decline in population by approximately 10.89% in future. It is the most densely populated precinct in Hobsons Bay, and currently only 15.82m² of open space is available per capita, despite the amount of open space available.

Gaps in the Network

There are no residential lots in Seabrook located outside a 400m walkable catchment of open space. As the population declines, the amount of open space per person will increase to 17.60m².

It is important to note that a key gap in the Seabrook precinct is access to formal open spaces such as sportfields - currently, no open spaces that play a formal role in the network are provided.

Figure 41. Seabrook Precinct Map



PRECINCT OVERVIEW

Seabrook is the most densely populated suburb in Hobsons Bay and has the least amount of open space available per capita with 15.68m². However, the population is predicted to decline slightly in the next 20 years.

Although well-distributed, the amount of open space is below the municipal rate, at 6.5%. With enhanced walking and cycling connections, people living and working in Seabrook will have good access to nearby facilities at Bruce Comben Reserve, Carinza Drive Reserve, Point Cook and Sanctuary Lakes.

Seabrook is above the SEIFA average for Hobsons Bay in terms of disadvantage and with high employment rates.

The area is vulnerable to heat stress with few or immature street trees and pipeline infrastructure that presents a challenge to tree planting for shade along key routes.

Current profile

Seabrook has the highest number of families with children under 15 in Hobsons Bay. The provision of at least one neighbourhood park and play space is a high priority.



Barry Jones Park, Seabrook (Image: Planisphere)

Future Trends

The population profile has changed since the last census period with more seniors and pre-retirees moving into the area and families moving out. Therefore investment in accessible connections and reducing heat stress should be a priority for the current and future community.

Traffic on Point Cook Road presents a significant barrier to connectivity in the precinct, so improved pedestrian crossings are a priority.

The area could have good access to the Skeleton Creek Trail, however the condition of existing off-road paths is generally below average and there are a number of missing links.

The condition of facilities and diversity of passive opportunities and landscape settings requires improvement in this precinct.

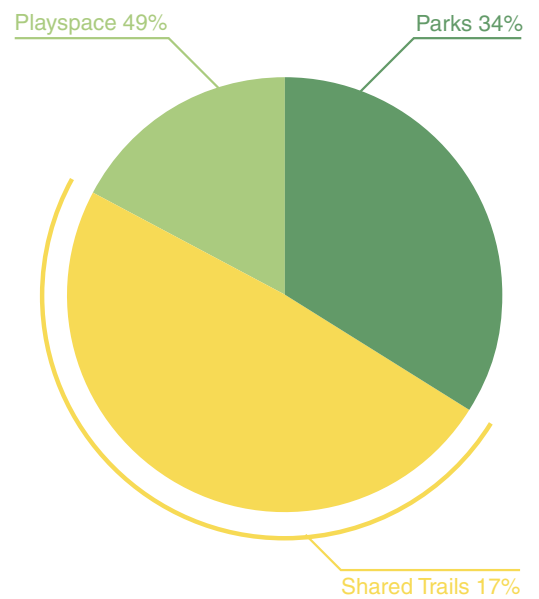
The natural and indigenous cultural heritage values of Skeleton Creek should be celebrated and enhanced through conservation activities and interpretation.

The following spaces have been highlighted as particular opportunities for upgrades:

- Homestead Run Reserve
- Skeleton Creek Trail.

Refer to the actions table over the following pages for more detail and in Appendix E and F.

Allocation of Funding in Seabrook



Sandstone Reserve, Seabrook (Image: Planisphere)

SEABROOK PRECINCT ACTIONS

The following table lists actions related to open space in the Seabrook precinct, and highlights priority actions over the short, medium and long-term.

PRIORITY	ACTIONS
Short-term 0-2 years	<p>Complete pathway links in reserves on priority routes including connections to the Skeleton Creek Trail and Wyndham.</p> <p>These links must include consideration of pedestrian ramps and crossings on local roads, directional signage to parklands and suitable landscape treatments including shade trees and resting places.</p> <p>Continue to upgrade the Skeleton Creek Trail in Seabrook, particularly Lan Avenue Bridge to Point Cook Road (south side) and the Lan Avenue pedestrian bridge. Ensure appropriate landscape amenity including, wayfinding signage, indigenous revegetation, shade trees, resting places along the trail. Also ensure suitable locations for both drinking water access and rubbish bins for all users of the shared trail.</p> <p>Continue to implement priority upgrade improvements to Homestead Run Reserve and Pipeline Reserve to ensure they meet the new standards for Neighbourhood Parks. Applying Councils Universal Design principles and best practise landscape design, the community facilities and amenity within each of these parks should give consideration to the following upgrade treatments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Full upgrade and potential expansion of playgrounds that cater for children for 1 to 12 years » Self-directed recreational activities for older children and teenagers including (but not limited to) kickabout spaces, goal practice nets/posts, basketball/netball half courts. » Self-directed recreational activities for all ages including (but not limited to) circuit and/or linear paths for walking, outdoor gym equipment, outdoor ping pong. » Assessment and upgrade of other key community park elements including the provision of park signage, drinking water, seating, shade (natural/constructed) picnic and barbeque facilities.
Medium-term 2-5 years	<p>Implement Local Community park upgrades at Barry Jones Park and Sandstone Point Reserve, to ensure they meet the new standards for Local Parks.</p> <p>Upgrade works should consider play space elements for small children, self-directed recreation activities for older children and teenagers, fencing, bins, seating, drinking water and shade trees.</p> <p>Implement park upgrades to links and buffers including but not limited to footpaths, signage, fencing, shade trees, seating for the following reserves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » John Lecky Reserve » Point Cook Reserve to Shane Road Reserve » Seabrook Blvd to Bowood Ct Reserve » Seabrook Blvd to Gowrie Ct Reserve » Seabrook Blvd to Point Cook Reserve » St Anthony Ct Reserve East & West
Long-term 5-10 years+	<p>Improve the environmental function of the Dunnings Road Drainage Reserve</p> <p>Investigate potential and appropriate locations for a designated dog park space - bearing in mind the high population and lack of park provision</p> <p>Implement the recommendations of the sports 10 year capital program</p>
Advocacy	<p>Advocate to VicRoads for the installation of priority pedestrian crossings and the continuation of an on road cycling link on Point Cook Road</p>
Special Areas	<p>Where appropriate, provide wayfinding signage and celebrate special areas through creative interpretive information linking visitors to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Indigenous cultural heritage (Skeleton Creek) » Conservation values and waterway health (Skeleton Creek)

SEABROOK PRECINCT UPGRADES: PARK-BY-PARK

The table below lists the Council-managed open spaces in the Seabrook precinct and extent of upgrades proposed.

HIERARCHY/ROLE	NAME OF OPEN SPACE	PROPOSED WORKS	TYPE OF WORKS
Neighbourhood Open Spaces	Homestead Run Reserve	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds
	Pipeline Reserve	Upgrade	Parks
Local Open Spaces	Barry Jones Park	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
	John Lecky Reserve	Renewal	Parks
	Sandstone Point Reserve	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
Linear/Links/ Buffers	Dunnings Road Drainage Reserve	-	-
	Seabrook Blvd to Bowood Crescent Reserve	Renewal	Parks
	Seabrook Blvd to Gowrie Crescent Reserve	Renewal	Parks
	Seabrook Blvd to Point Cook Road Reserve	Renewal	Parks
	Shane Avenue Reserve	Upgrade	-
	St Anthony Court Reserve^^	Renewal	Parks

^^ Open space also plays a Local function



Homestead Run Reserve, Seabrook
(Image: HBCC)

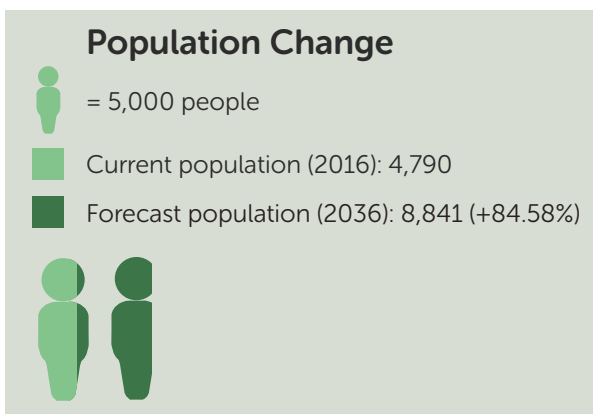
4.14 SPOTSWOOD-SOUTH KINGSVILLE PRECINCT

OVERVIEW

The Spotwood-South Kingsville precinct has a low proportion of open space per person. Improving gap areas and making more open space for passive uses is recommended to optimise the open space available to residents and workers within the precinct.

Of the open space provision available, a low proportion (6.72ha) is classed as formal open space suitable for active recreation (e.g. sports fields), and only 4.25ha is classified as passive open space (e.g. parks).

Physical gaps in this precinct are dispersed throughout the area, as shown in the map below.



Precinct in Future

The projected population growth in Spotswood-South Kingsville is the highest in the municipality, with a growth rate of 84.58% projected by 2036. Growth will largely be driven by the development of two strategic development sites, as shown in the table.

The current provision of open space is 74.97m₂ per capita, which will be reduced by 45.82% to 40.62m² per person as a result of projected growth.

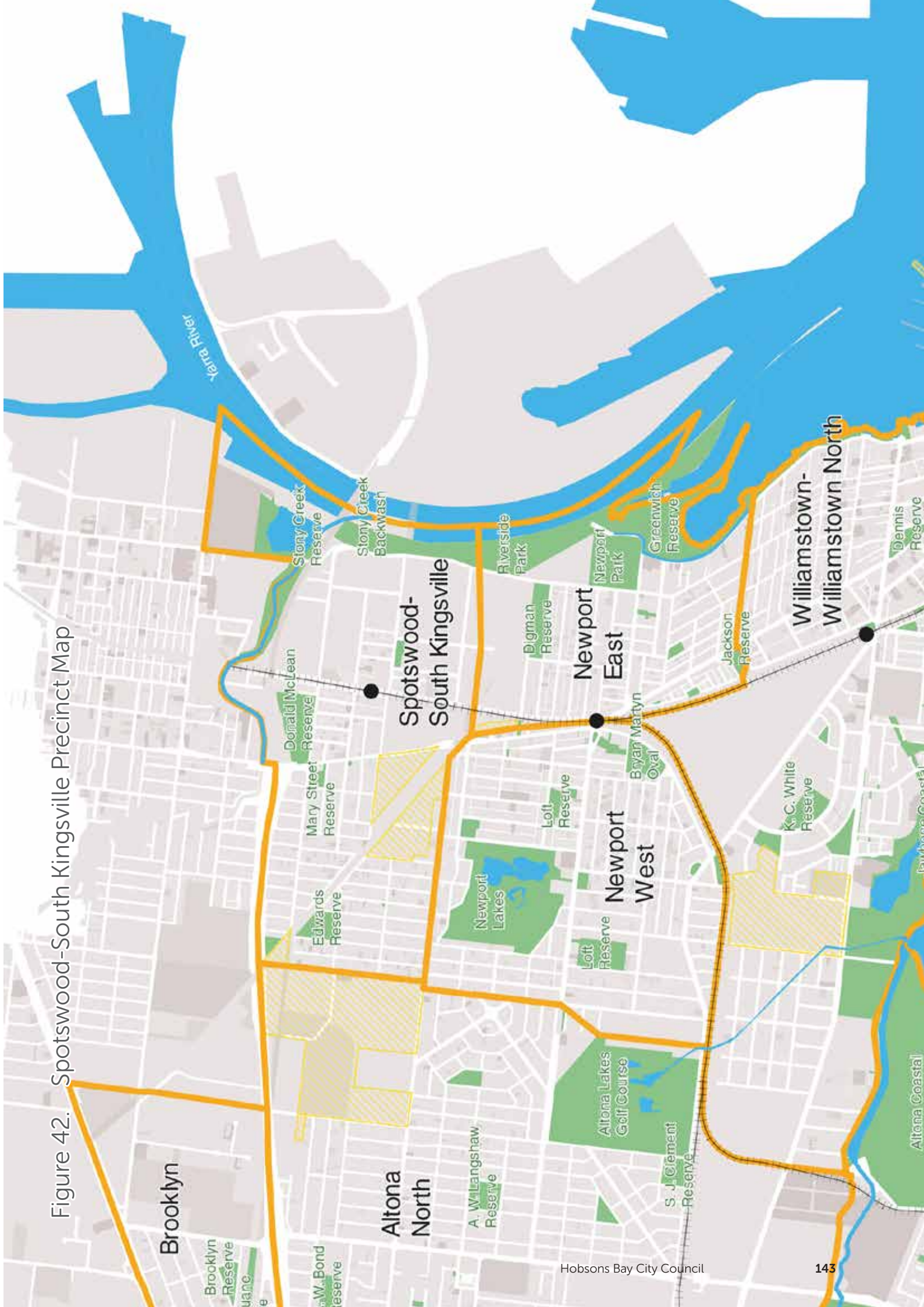
Gaps in the Network

In Spotswood-South Kingsville, 20.04% of residential lots are currently located outside a walkable 400m catchment to open spaces. In addition, there are few formal open spaces (e.g. sports fields).

A high proportion of open space in this precinct has restricted access (7.61% of the total precinct area, or 71.86% of all open space), meaning it is not accessible to the public.

PRECINCT FEATURES	
Current population (2016)	4,790
Forecast population (2036)	8,841 (+84.58%)
Amount of open space - 2016 (accessible)	74.97m ² per capita
Projected open space - 2036 (accessible)	40.62m ² per capita (45.82% decrease)
Total precinct area	371ha
Residential lots outside a 400m catchment to open space	20.04% (522 lots)
Total open space provision (all types including restricted)	10.61% (39.3ha)
Passive open space	1.15% (4.25ha)
Formal open space (e.g. sports fields)	1.81% (6.72ha)
Encumbered open space accessible to the public	0.04% (0.14ha)
Other open space (e.g. not accessible to the public)	7.61% (28.24ha)
Strategic or key development sites	Precinct 16 Former Caltex Site
Types of open space (Hierarchy classification)	» 2 district » 6 local » 3 neighbourhood » 1 regional

Figure 42. Spotswood-South Kingsville Precinct Map



PRECINCT OVERVIEW

The precinct has the lowest rate of overall provision (less than 3% of the precinct area is classed as formal and passive open spaces) and increasing pressure from development which is anticipated to see the population almost double in 20 years, particularly in Precinct 16. The precinct also has the second lowest open space per capita ratio at 22.91m² per person.

There are many gap areas where residents and workers do not have access to open space within walking distance, particularly the area between the Newport-Sunshine freight train line and the Williamstown suburban train lines and within industrial areas.

Connectivity within the precinct is inhibited by a range of road and rail barriers.

Current Profile

Spotswood-South Kingsville has a diverse mix of age groups. There have been increasing numbers of very young children (0-4 years) and adults aged 35-69 since the last census in 2006.

There are very high numbers of young adults 24 to 34 (19.9% compared to 14.5% average for Hobsons Bay) and 60% of households do not have children.

The area also has a higher than average number of group households. The precinct has seen change in cultural diversity with a significant increase in English speaking households.



*Stony Creek, Spotswood-South Kingsville
(Image: Planisphere)*

Future Trends

The most noticeable growth in this precinct is expected in the numbers of young and maturing families. Private open space is also likely to diminish, placing greater pressure on the existing low provision of open space.

Provision of a diverse range of self-directed activities, landscape settings, dog off-leash areas, play spaces and social gathering spaces should be a priority for this community.

Securing more open space when the opportunity arises, such as through purchasing surplus government agency land or as an open space contribution through large subdivisions, should be pursued to ensure that population increase does not impact on the livability of the area.

The trend for higher numbers of young couples and lone person households is also expected to continue as further high density development occurs.

Addressing the gap areas for Spotswood-South Kingsville involves securing new open space as part of large new developments (e.g. Precinct 16) and potential acquisition of open space. A review of open space restricted by buildings, fenced areas and fee paying uses (e.g. Mary Street Reserve) is recommended to identify opportunities to make more open space available for passive use.

It is not recommended that more sporting facilities are developed in this precinct, rather at nearby sporting precincts in Newport and Altona North. This is to ensure that what little open space there is can be optimised to meet the passive recreation needs of the community and more viable sporting areas can be created where more open space is available.

Advocacy with Port of Melbourne Corporation is required to improve the amenity of coastal open space for this community.

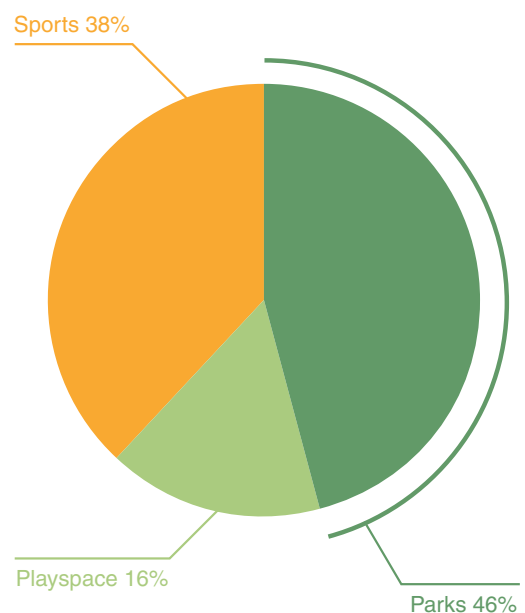
Consideration of pedestrian crossings, over or underpasses, an east-west cycling connection and potential off-road connection along Blackshaws Road could significantly improve access to open space within and surrounding this precinct.

The following spaces have been highlighted as particular opportunities for upgrades:

- Craig Street Park and Fred Goldsmith Oval
- Donald McLean Reserve
- Edwards Reserve
- Mary Street Reserve
- Stony Creek Backwash
- Veteran Reserve.

Refer to the actions table over the following pages for more detail and in Appendix E and F.

Allocation of Funding in Spotswood-South Kingsville



SPOTSWOOD-SOUTH KINGSVILLE PRECINCT ACTIONS

The following table lists actions related to open space in the Spotswood-South Kingsville Precinct, and highlights priority actions over the short, medium and long-term.

PRIORITY	ACTION	PRIORITY	ACTION	
Short-term 0-2 years	Upgrade Donald McLean Reserve from a local park to a neighbourhood park, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Renewal of the play, skate and picnic spaces » Major sports field upgrade works 	Advocacy	Advocate to VicRoads for the installation of priority pedestrian crossings on Melbourne Road	
	Develop a concept plan for Mary Street Reserve to improve passive recreation opportunities and implement priority improvements, that incorporate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » An assessment of all public space within the precinct including the Spotswood RSL and Veterans Reserve » An investigation about the potential to collaborate with Spotswood RSL to develop improved activation and integration with the nearby parks. 		Advocate for east–west off-road cycling connection and a large new neighbourhood space as part of Precinct 16 development.	
	Complete the priority improvements at Edwards Reserve including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Installation of public toilets » Pathway and fencing improvements » Complete playground upgrades/renewal » Sports grounds improvements under the 10-year capital works program. 		Advocate for improvements to soundwalls and noise attenuation as part of the West Gate Tunnel Project advocate for no loss of open space as part of the project. Advocate for enhanced cycle routes from the Federation Trail extension to key open spaces and Spotswood Train Station as part of the project.	
	Develop Craig Street Reserve from local to neighbourhood park status, including the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Incorporate Fred Goldsmith oval into the precinct » Work with the local community to rename Craig Street Reserve to a more suitable choice reflecting the park’s improvement and an opportunity for local collaboration 		Advocate for community compensation and funds to improve Donald McLean Reserve as a result of the Western Distributor Project.	
	Implement improved street scape and public realm improvement works in Hudsons Road as identified in the Spotswood Structure Plan.		Advocate to the PoMC for improved access and quality of open space: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Refer to Newport East recommendations to advocate for improved access, connectivity and amenity for Bay Trail/Yarra River interface and top section of Riverside Park. 	
	Undertake works to implement minor asset renewal works in Walkers Corner (Vernon Street Reserve) to cater for existing demand.		Special Areas	Where appropriate, provide wayfinding signage and celebrate special areas through creative interpretive information linking visitors to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Stony Creek Backwash
	Develop a pedestrian connection between east Craig Street and Scienceworks			Other Actions
Medium-term 2-5 years	Fully cost and partner with the PoMC to develop and upgrade Riverside Park (refer also to actions for Newport East precinct) and Stony Creek Backwash. Improvement works to include upgraded shared trail, furniture, tree and landscaping to cater for existing and future demand.	Investigate opportunities for land acquisition for the development of a new community park in the Simcock Avenue area		
	Undertake works to renew assets in E. G. Smith Reserve and The Avenue Reserve to cater for existing demand	Explore opportunities to partner with Scienceworks for the development and improved access to their site.		
			Investigate development of a shared use agreement with Spotswood Primary School to enable community access to open space for passive recreation use during weekends.	

SPOTSWOOD-SOUTH KINGSVILLE PRECINCT: PARK-BY-PARK UPGRADES

The table below lists the Council-managed open spaces in the Spotswood-South Kingsville precinct and extent of upgrades proposed.

HIERARCHY/ROLE	NAME OF OPEN SPACE	PROPOSED WORKS	TYPE OF WORKS
District Open Spaces	Donald McLean Reserve	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds, sports
Neighbourhood Open Spaces	Craig Street Park	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds
	Edwards Reserve	Upgrade	Playgrounds, sports
	Fred Goldsmith Oval	Upgrade	Parks
	Mary Street Reserve	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds
	Veteran Reserve	Upgrade	Parks
	Riverside Park***	New works	Parks
Local Open Spaces	Stony Creek**	Upgrade	Parks
	The Avenue Reserve	Renewal	Parks
	Walkers Corner (Vernon Street Reserve)	Renewal	Parks
Linear/Links/ Buffers	E.G. Smith Reserve^^	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds

** Open space also plays a District function

^^Open space also plays a Local function

*** Open space also plays a Regional function



Donald McLean Reserve,
Spotswood
(Image: Planisphere)

4.15 WILLIAMSTOWN- WILLIAMSTOWN NORTH PRECINCT

OVERVIEW

The Williamstown-Williamstown North precinct has a good proportion of open space per person. There is a lack of open space in the north of the precinct and the condition and accessibility of paths require improvements, particularly with an ageing population to ensure good provision of open space continues.

Due to the popularity of Williamstown’s beaches and foreshore reserves and the Botanic Gardens, it will be important to ensure the quality of open space is maintained to support changes in the rates of visitors, ensuring residential amenity is also protected.



Precinct in Future

The population in Williamstown-Williamstown North is expected to increase towards 2036 by approximately 12.25%.

As a result of this increase, the amount of open space per capita changes from 38.73m² to 44.08m².

Gaps in the Network

There are physical open space gaps towards the north-western and north-central parts of the Williamstown-Williamstown North precinct.

Less than 1% of residential lots (80 lots) are located outside a 400m walking distance from open spaces. This amenity is greatly enhanced by the number of district and regional open spaces in the precinct. Like Newport East, many of these open spaces form the network of open space foreshore reserves and beaches around Port Phillip Bay, which are located in this precinct.

PRECINCT FEATURES	
Current population (2016)	16,401
Forecast population (2036)	18,669 (12.25%)
Amount of open space - 2016 (accessible)	38.73m ² per capita
Projected open space - 2036 (accessible)	44.08m ² per capita
Total precinct area	739ha
Residential lots outside a 400m catchment to open space	0.99% (80 lots)
Total open space provision (all types including restricted)	16.86% (124.63ha)
Passive open space	5.44% (40.17ha)
Formal open space (e.g. sports fields)	3.16% (23.34ha)
Encumbered open space accessible to the public	3.59% (26.51ha)
Other open space (e.g. not accessible to the public)	4.68% (36.40ha)
Strategic or key development sites	Former Port Phillip Woollen Mills Winky Pop Site
Types of open space (Hierarchy classification)	» 6 buffer » 2 linear » 9 link » 13 local » 11 neighbourhood » 8 district » 5 regional

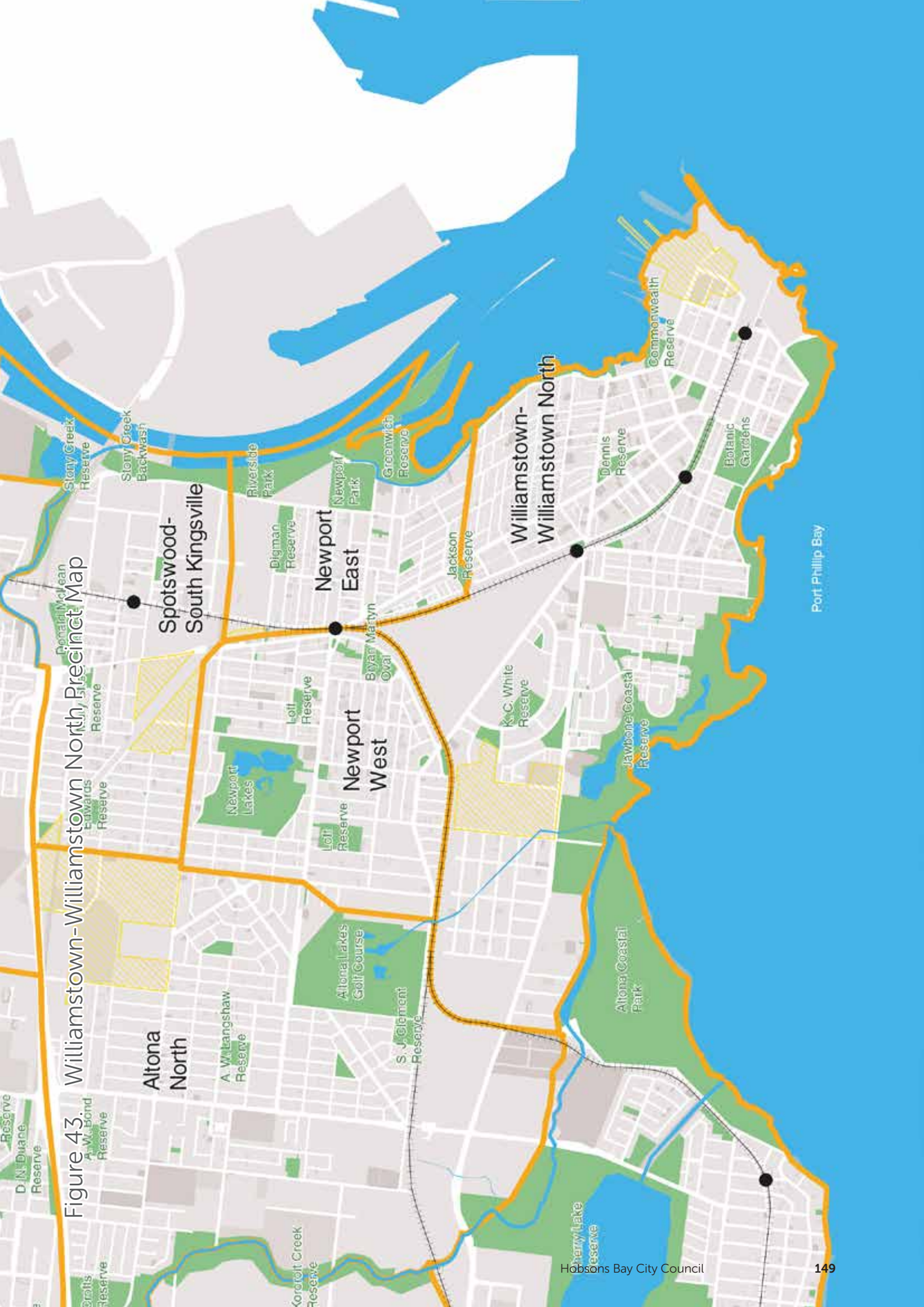


Figure 43. Williamstown-North Precinct Map

PRECINCT OVERVIEW

Williamstown is Hobsons Bay's most popular tourist destination, characterised by its heritage landscapes, established mature trees and coastal setting. Key open space attractors in this precinct are the Williamstown Botanic Gardens, Commonwealth Reserve, Williamstown Beach, Williamstown Cricket Ground and Point Gellibrand Coastal Park.

Although open space provision is higher than the municipal average at 8.59%, population density brings the amount of available open space down below the municipal average to 38.73m² per capita.

Most open space is concentrated in the coastal areas, where the local community competes with seasonal and regional visitors.

In the northern parts of this Williamstown and some industrial areas of Williamstown North, there is a lack of open space; particularly space for passive recreation.

The Coastal Trail provides a regional cycling and walking link, however the condition and accessibility of walking paths within reserves and local streets requires significant improvement, particularly as the precinct has a high proportion of residents over 60.

Current Profile

Williamstown and Williamstown North comprise of a comparatively high proportion of school-aged children and the highest number of secondary school students (12-17 years). The area also has a large cohort of adults aged between 35-69 years and couples with young children. The number of young children and young people under 18 years and those aged 35-69 years increased in numbers over the census period.

Compared to other parts of Hobsons Bay, Williamstown residents have higher than average wages, higher levels of education and low unemployment (3.7% is considerably lower than the 5.7% average for Hobsons Bay).

A focus for this precinct is creating quality passive open space with a range of settings and facilities to cater to the diverse local community, particularly older people, people with a disability and school-aged children including teenagers.



*Williamstown Botanic Gardens, Williamstown
(Image: Hobsons Bay City Council)*

Future Trends

Population forecasts to 2016 anticipate all age ranges will increase, particularly the 50-69 age group.

Small scale infill development is predicted to continue in this precinct (i.e. less than 3 lot subdivisions) with few sites identified for larger scale development.

A likely by-product of increased small-scale development, is an incremental loss of private open space and an increase in the demand for locally accessible open space.

A priority in this precinct is also managing areas of high use, particularly on the shared trail near dog off-leash areas and distributing open space uses to minimise impacts e.g. Williamstown Botanic Gardens and Williamstown Beach.

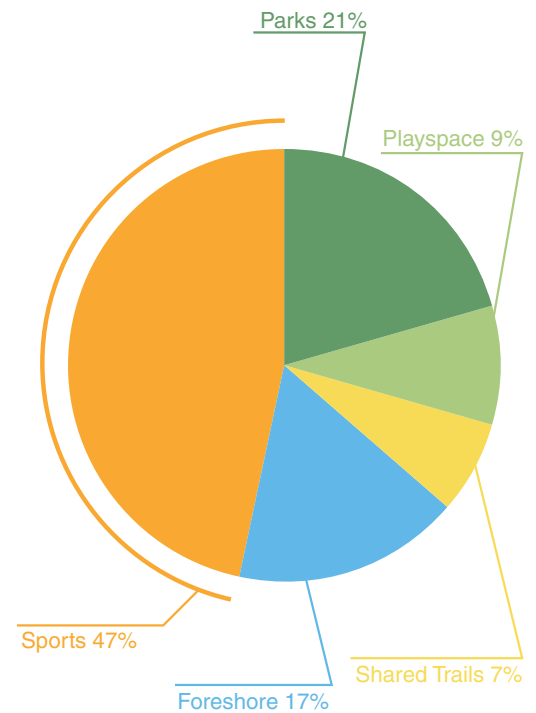
This precinct has significant conservation areas and heritage values that should be interpreted (e.g. signage) protected and celebrated as part of open space improvements and activities.

Numerous upgrades are proposed in this precinct. The following spaces have been highlighted as particular opportunities for upgrades that will cater to existing demand:

- Clough Street Reserve
- Long, R. V. Reserve
- Parker, L. A. Reserve
- Proctor Street Reserve
- Quarry Reserve
- White, K. C. Reserve.

Refer to the actions table over the following pages for more detail and in Appendix E and F.

Allocation of Funding in Williamstown-Williamstown North



WILLIAMSTOWN-WILLIAMSTOWN NORTH PRECINCT ACTIONS

The following table lists actions related to open space in the Williamstown-Williamstown North precinct, and highlights priority actions over the short, medium and long-term.

PRIORITY	ACTION
Short-term 0-2 years	Complete a master plan for Dennis Reserve that considers the passive and active recreation needs of the local community. Resolve the future community use and development of the Lady's Bowls Club.
	Resolve the future use and development of the public toilet at Burgoyne Reserve currently owned by Parks Victoria
Medium-term 2-5 years	Prepare a master plan for the Williamstown Beach precinct (Gloucester Reserve, Sadler Reserve, Williamstown Beach and Hatt Reserve) with a focus on improving immediate asset renewal priorities (e.g. the historic seawall), creating a comfortable and attractive environment, distribution of use through the creation of diverse facilities, improved access and shade. Implement priority improvements.
	Assess, consult, design and implement priority improvements at local and neighbourhood reserves:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Bates Drive Reserve » Bayview Reserve » Burgoyne Court Reserve » Caspian Terrace Reserve » Clough Street Reserve » Crofton Drive Accessway » Crofton Drive Reserve » Edina Street Reserve » Farrell Court Reserve » Gray, W. G. Reserve » Jackson Reserve » MacLean Reserve » Nth Williamstown Railway Station Reserve » Quarry Reserve » Ralph Willis Reserve » Robertson Reserve » Rotary Park » White, K. C. Reserve » Williamstown Croquet Club
	Undertake assessments and condition audits at RV Long Reserve and the Riffle Range Reserve and implement priority improvements.
	Develop a staged park upgrade plan for The Strand foreshore reserves (Burgoyne Reserve and Charles Hatt Reserve) including review of four existing play spaces to create diversity and improve access and amenity. Implement priority improvements.
	Continue to implement the annual Foreshore Capital Works program. Deliver foreshore protection works at Cyril Curtain and Hatt Reserves and formalise foreshore access points
	Upgrade Williamstown Beach access points to meet climate and sea level change requirements

PRIORITY	ACTION
Long-term 5-10 years+	Investigate options to activate Commonwealth Reserve at night with decorative lighting and other treatments and activities.
	Investigate the feasibility of purchasing new open space in the area north of Ferguson Street
	Continue to implement the Williamstown Botanic Garden Master Plan and fund an annual rolling capital works program to deliver on all actions listed for upgrades.
	Complete sports capital improvements at Fearon Reserve, KC White Reserve and Hatt Reserve.
	Implement the recommended oval reconstruction and lighting works at Williamstown Cricket Ground
	Work with Williamstown Seagulls Football Club to potentially activate the rear of the pavilion to Cyril Curtain Reserve.
	Implement the recommended infrastructure upgrade actions from the Foreshore Improvements Plan as they relate to the open space network along the Esplanade and Strand.
	Continue to work with Bayside College to achieve shared use outcomes for sport.
	Continue to implement public space improvements as per the Nelson Place action plan
	Review and amend fees charged for weddings in Botanic Gardens and surrounding parklands.
	Implement the conservation actions from the Biodiversity Strategy including weed and pest control, habitat fencing, interpretive signage, decommissioning of informal tracks and reiteration of resting places/viewing locations.
	Continue to upgrade the Bay Trail network and develop a suite of wayfinding signage at key locations. Undertake a feasibility study to upgrade the Bay Trail at Nelson Place
	Review off-lead zones and strengthen responsible dog management through the amendment of the Local Law.
Long-term 5-10 years+	Investigate and implement priority improvements at local and neighbourhood reserves (and consider elevation to medium-term actions as relevant):
	» Gloucester Reserve
	» JT Gray Reserve
	» Hatt Reserve
	» Hoffman Terrace Easement
	» Jackson Reserve
	» Jawbone Conservation Reserve
	» Jawbone Reserve
	» John Morley Reserve
	» Kingshott Close Reserve
	» Kokoda Road Reserve
	» LA Parker Reserve
	» Proctor Street Reserve
» Sandpiper Place Accessway	
» Sandpiper Place Easement	
» Smith Avenue Reserve	
» Teal Court Reserve	
» Tregutha Road Reserve	
Advocacy	Advocate to Level Crossings Removal Authority (LXRA) as part of the grade separation at Williamstown North Station for improved pedestrian and cycling connections; no loss of open space; no negative impacts on the amenity of open space; and new ancillary open space west of the station.
	Work with Parks Victoria and DELWP to clarify foreshore management responsibilities and gain improved management and outcomes for Marine Park, Point Gellibrand Coastal Heritage Park and Jawbone Reserve.
	Advocate for State Government funding to upgrade the Gloucester Reserve seawall
Special Areas	Where appropriate, provide wayfinding signage and celebrate special areas through creative interpretive information linking visitors to:
	» Conservation values at Jawbone Reserve and Point Gellibrand Coastal Park » Heritage values in open spaces with a Heritage Overlay (HO)
Other Actions	Improve access and connectivity across Kororoit Creek Road to open space to the south and north.

WILLIAMSTOWN-WILLIAMSTOWN NORTH PRECINCT: PARK-BY-PARK UPGRADES

The table below lists the Council-managed open spaces in the Williamstown-Williamstown North precinct and extent of upgrades proposed.

HIERARCHY/ROLE	NAME OF OPEN SPACE	PROPOSED WORKS	TYPE OF WORKS
Regional Open Spaces	Jawbone Conservation Reserve	-	-
	Jawbone Reserve	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
	Williamstown Beach	Upgrade	Foreshore, parks
	Williamstown Botanic Gardens	Upgrade	Parks
	Williamstown Cricket & Football Ground	Upgrade	Sports
District Open Spaces	Commonwealth Reserve	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
	Cyril Curtain Reserve	Upgrade	Foreshore, parks, sports
	Fearon Reserve	Upgrade	Parks, sports
	Gloucester Reserve	Upgrade	Parks
	Hatt Reserve	Upgrade	Foreshore, playgrounds, sports
	J. T. Gray Reserve	Upgrade	Sports
	L. A. Parker Reserve	Upgrade	Parks
	Williamstown Rotunda Gardens (Sirens)	Upgrade	Parks
Neighbourhood Open Spaces	Bayview Reserve	New works	Parks
	Dennis Reserve	New works	Sports, playgrounds
	Jackson Reserve	Renewal	Parks, Sports, Exercise Equipment Program
	K. C. Reserve	Upgrade	Sports
	MacLean Reserve	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds
	Quarry Reserve	Upgrade	Parks
	R. V. Long Reserve	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds
	Ralph Willis Reserve	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
	Robertson Reserve	Renewal	Parks, sports

HIERARCHY/ROLE	NAME OF OPEN SPACE	PROPOSED WORKS	TYPE OF WORKS
Local Open Spaces	Burgoyne Reserve**	Upgrade	Foreshore, playgrounds
	Crofton Drive Reserve	-	Parks
	Edina Street Reserve	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
	Farrell Court Reserve	Renewal	Parks
	John Morley Reserve**	Upgrade	Foreshore, playgrounds
	North Williamstown Railway Station Reserve	Renewal	Parks
	Queen Street Reserve	-	-
	Rifle Range Park	Renewal	Parks
	Rotary Park	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
	Sadler Reserve**	Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds
	Tregutha Road Reserve	Renewal	Parks
	W.G. Gray Reserve	Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
	Williamstown Croquet Club	-	-
	Linear/Links/Buffers	Bates Drive Reserve^^	Renewal
Burgoyne Court Reserve^^		Renewal	Parks
Caspian Terrace Reserve		Renewal	Parks
Clough Street Reserve		Upgrade	Parks, playgrounds
Crofton Drive Accessway		Renewal	Parks, playgrounds
Hoffman Terrace Easement		Renewal	Parks
Kingshott Close Reserve		Renewal	Parks
Kokoda Road Reserve		Renewal	Parks
McGuire Crescent Reserve		-	-
Merrett Drive Median		Upgrade	-
Procter Street Reserve		Upgrade	Parks
Rifle Range Drive Reserve		Renewal	Parks
Sandpiper Place Accessway		Renewal	Parks
Sandpiper Place Easement		Renewal	Parks
Sea Breeze Lane Reserve		-	-
Smith Avenue Reserve		Renewal	Parks
Teal Court Reserve		Renewal	Parks
Williams Bay Grove Reserve		Upgrade	-
Williamstown Railway Reserve	New works	Parks	

** Open space also plays a District function

^^Open space also plays a Local Function

5

IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW

5.1 OVERVIEW

The projects in this strategy will be implemented over the next 10 years. To achieve major works outlined in Chapter 4, Hobsons Bay will work in partnership with the State government, various government authorities with public open space ownership in Hobsons Bay, private organisations and the development industry.

The planning for major upgrades and delivery of sports facilities as identified in the **Sports Facilities Needs Analysis** (refer to Appendix E) needs to occur early in the planning process for urban renewal areas (e.g. strategic redevelopment sites identified in Chapter 4) to ensure that adequate land area is set aside.

Where possible and as the opportunity arises, smaller open spaces should be created through site redevelopment, conversion of government land, or upgraded through works identified to ensure they can meet increased demand in existing areas where acquisition is less likely over the short-term.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Hobsons Bay City Council will take a leading role in implementation of the Open Space Strategy. Successful implementation will require the following:

- Relevant State government authorities contribute to the future of regionally significant spaces that form part of the open space network but are not owned or managed by Hobsons Bay City Council.
- The development industry provides open space contributions on behalf of the forecast population towards additional land area and capital works to achieve the strategy's recommended actions.
- Hobsons Bay City Council provides facilities and open space land area on behalf of the existing community's open space needs.

NEXT STEPS

To ensure successful implementation of this open space strategy, the following steps are recommended:

- Implement the recommended open space contribution rate of (TBC) using the planning scheme amendment process.
- Undertake detailed investigations into the provision of additional open spaces identified in the strategy in identified strategic redevelopment sites as well as those areas expected to undergo significant population change towards 2036.
- Continue to prepare and implement master plans for major parks, including upgrade works.
- Plan for and upgrade existing open spaces as identified in the precinct recommendations.

5.2 IMPLEMENTATION

PRIORITY PROJECTS

As highlighted in Chapter 4, actions in each precinct have been allocated a timeframe for recommended commencement. It is crucial that the timeframe be reviewed and updated on a regular basis, to ensure that longer-term actions are not seen as less important than those identified for commencement over the next 2 years.

The following timeframes have been suggested:

- Short-term: 0-2 years
- Medium-term: 2-5 years
- Long-term: 5-10 years+.

Again, it is noted that achievement of the actions above over the recommended timeframe will be contingent on capital raised through various avenues including developer contributions, rates revenue and special budget allocations for particular projects.

For special areas, other actions and advocacy projects, these are works that should be part of Council's ongoing activities and relate to works that support the overall improvement of Hobsons Bay's Open Space Strategy.

Figure 44. Overview of approach for priority-setting

1	<p>Existing gap or under-provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open space is beyond comfortable walking distance - Area per capita below municipal average - Existing project/master plan requiring completion
2	<p>Known change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landuse change due to strategic redevelopment site - Community priority project identified through stakeholder engagement and related to future need
3	<p>Forecast change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trends in population growth - Trends in demographic change

Strategic Priorities

The priorities identified in this Strategy provide guidance on the order in which actions are intended to be implemented. Informed by the Strategy's vision and principles for open space planning, they are broadly based on the following:

- Forecast trends in population growth and demographic change
- Landuse changes, including strategic redevelopment sites
- Community consultation from 2014-present for open space priorities, the Community Vision and Council Plan
- Gap areas where people have to travel further than a safe walking distance to public open space
- Other current master plans, strategies and plans that relate to this Strategy.

Many of the actions presented in Chapter 4 are in response to forecast development trends and population growth. Changes associated with forecast trends and growth (such as the release of 2016 Census data) will require priorities to be adjusted to respond to these changes.

Factors likely to influence a change to priorities for action over the next 10 years include:

- Changes in landuse trends including market trends and directions
- Changes to forecast population growth or the demographic profile
- Allocation of adequate resources, budgets and funding to implement the proposed actions
- Other unexpected changes that arise and cannot be foreseen at this stage.

As highlighted above, priorities have been assigned to the Strategy's actions and recommendations by precinct.

The priority indicates the timeframe within which each action should commence. Completion of the action will be dependent on its complexity, the rate of forecast change, growth and funding.

*Altona Coastal Park
(Image: Hobsons Bay City Council)*



5.3 COST OF IMPLEMENTATION

FUNDING

Council will need to continue to allocate, and to increase as appropriate, resources for open space improvements to the Hobsons Bay open space network, to ensure existing inequities are addressed, and to ensure future communities do not experience disadvantage in the network.

As part of the works proposed, it is also crucial that an adequate and ongoing budget for maintenance, asset renewal and landscape works is allocated to ensure maximum lifespan of investments can be achieved to the benefit of all Hobsons Bay residents, workers and visitors.

Funding for the capital works and any future land acquisition (if available) required for the projects identified in this strategy will be sourced from a combination of:

- Council revenue;
- External grants and partnerships with other State and Federal Government agencies; and
- Open space contributions with rates set at a percentage (TBC) to be established in the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme. The contributions will be required as a land and/or cash contribution at Council's discretion.



*100 Steps of Federation,
Truganina Park, Altona Meadows
(Image: Hobsons Bay City Council)*

Cost of Implementing the Strategy

The estimated cost of implementation for all proposed works, including implementation of the significant works proposed by the *Sports Facilities Needs Assessment*, will continue to be funded through existing programs within Council, including the budgeted key capital works programs for:

- Sportsfields
- Foreshore
- Shared trails
- Play spaces
- Local open space upgrades
- Conservation upgrades
- Open space hierarchy change/new open space development

Applying the findings of the baseline analysis together with the provision guidelines and service standards, the costs established reflect the core 10-year open space capital works program for Council.

The cost is based on meeting the current and future requirements of the community, including the need for upgrades and new open space provision for each precinct and a change of hierarchy classification based on demand, function and setting.

The specific costs identified for each site are based on the current established rates for typical public open space infrastructure works and upgrades, including:

- Council's *Urban Design Guidelines* (standard furniture, fixtures and infrastructure technical notes, costs and rates)
- The cost of new play spaces based on the hierarchy classification in Council's *Play Space Strategy*

- Known estimated costs associated with sports infrastructure, such as complete ground renewals, training lights and irrigation systems
- Fully costed shared trails program
- Fully costed foreshore space projected program
- Estimated costs of new park development for neighbourhood and regional passive parklands.

The programs on the previous page are funded using existing revenue streams including Council revenue, external grants/partnerships and open space contributions collected through the standard rate of 5% currently in the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme (or as varied on a case-by-case basis through legal agreements).

In order to maintain and provide a quality open space network that upholds the vision and principles for open space planning presented in this strategy, while responding to increased pressure from climate change, an ongoing maintenance budget will also be required. The cost of maintaining the network and managing new open spaces within strategic redevelopment sites and other locations must be factored into annual operational budgets by Council now and into the future.

The proposed budget for the next 10 years provides for works in open spaces that are new, renewal (e.g. asset replacement), or upgrades. The works proposed respond to existing or future demand, based on current needs and future population projections.

5.4 MONITORING AND REVIEW

Monitoring of the Strategy will aim to:

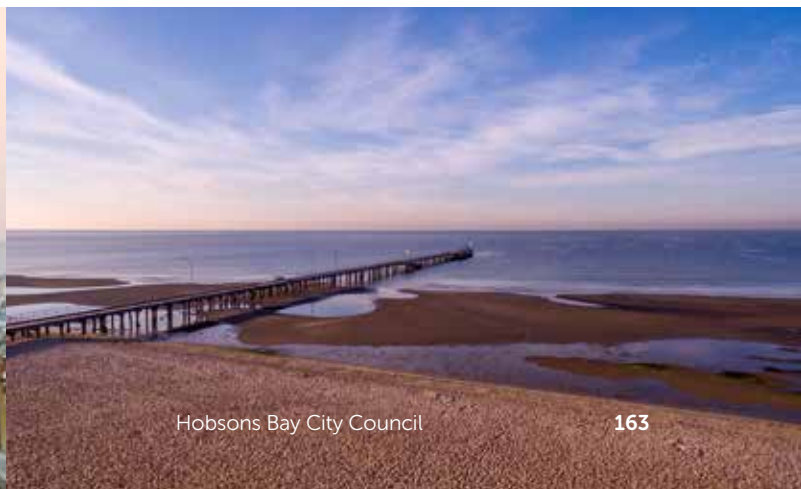
- Establish an appropriate system of planning, documenting and recording the works completed from the Strategy.
- Regularly monitor the implementation of the Strategy to assess the progress and success of the recommendations and actions.
- Regularly report on the Strategy progress including the open space contributions program (annually).
- Review the Strategy at each key implementation threshold of 2, 5 and 10 years for the duration of its operation.
- Integrate implementation of the Strategy with other existing and future Council plans.

Community satisfaction with Hobsons Bay's parks and reserves should also be regularly monitored as part of information gathered for Customer Satisfaction Surveys by Council.

Progress in implementation of this Strategy should be monitored and reported annually to Council and to the community via Council's annual reporting process. It should also be reported internally to the group of key internal stakeholders responsible for implementing the Strategy.



*Williamstown
(Image: Hobsons Bay City Council)*





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