



# **CITY OF PORT PHILLIP OPEN SPACE STRATEGY**



**Reviewed August 2009**

## **Acknowledgements**

This Strategy was developed with the assistance of the following City of Port Phillip staff.

Ann Cremean	Open Space Planner
Sandra Wade	Co-ordinator Strategic Planning
Sue Wilkinson	Manager Planning
Rob Palmer	Manager Infrastructure and Environment
Martin Hartigan	Strategic Planner
Maria Tomasetig	Sub-divisions Officer
Fiona Blair	Co-ordinator Youth and Recreation

## **About this document – City of Port Phillip Open Space Strategy, 2009 (updated)**

In 2009 an Implementation Plan Framework for the City of Port Phillip's Open Space Strategy was developed in consultation with councillors. The Implementation Plan framework will guide Council's delivery of the actions detailed in the strategy and achieve Council's vision for public open space.

As part of this process the Open Space Strategy 2006 was reviewed and updated to include an additional principle (Principle 9), reflect current policy and objectives in the Council Plan and provide an update of the status of actions identified in 2006.

The original document, City of Port Phillip Open Space Strategy, 2006 is based upon the work undertaken by @leisure Recreation Consultants, in developing an Open Space Strategy Review for the City of Port Phillip during 2005. The results of this work are Part One: Strategy and Actions and Part Two: Appendices.

As part of developing the Open Space Strategy in 2006 the City of Port Phillip Open Space Strategy, 1998 was reviewed and comment made on the status of its recommended actions, noted progress and change since the last open space plan and completed a household survey of Port Phillip residents regarding use of public open space. The Review also identified key issues to be addressed in relation to open space and listed issues and actions for each neighbourhood.

Additional work for the 2006 review was the development of Open Space Principles by City of Port Phillip Councillors and Guidelines for Developer Open Space Contributions.

The Open Space Strategy, 2006 uses data from the Review and the open space principles to set new actions for neighbourhoods and new strategic directions for open space provision in the City of Port Phillip.

## **Community Consultation for the Open Space Strategy**

Consultants undertaking the Open Space Review distributed surveys to all households via Diversity magazine in February 2005. Of all these, 385 useable responses were received. This data tracks the most used spaces, distances travelled to visit parks, most popular activities undertaken in open space, facilities most desired in open space and comments related to key issues. Stakeholder groups, such as sporting and environment groups also provided input. Summary data from all modes of consultation are presented in the appendices of the Open Space Review. Council officers from a broad range of service delivery also provided input to the Open Space Review Volume 2. A period of public exhibition in early 2006 received 7 community submissions to the Draft Strategy.

## **Definition of Open Space**

Public open space in this context refers to outdoor space that is in the public realm and is freely accessible.

Public open space maybe grassed or paved depending upon its function. Public plazas provide meeting and socializing spaces and are just as important as the provision of grassed and landscaped open space. Paved walking and cycling trials, skate parks, small city squares and sporting surfaces provide for a variety of physical and social activity in public open space. Areas of native vegetation with a focus on conservation are also included in the definition.

Private open space in this context refers to space not freely accessible to the general public or in public ownership. This includes balcony space in high-density residential estates.

Communal space refers to open space associated with multi unit residential developments that is shared by those residents.

## **Executive Summary**

### **Background**

The challenge Council faces is to continue to offer open space that is diverse and can accommodate the future needs of a growing population in an established urban environment and in a sustainable way.

This led Council to update the Open Space Strategy in 2009 and engage @leisure consultants to develop an *implementation plan framework*.

The Open Space Strategy was initially developed in 2006. Work undertaken as part of the 2006 review included, on site assessments of all public open space, development of an inventory of all spaces, status of actions from the previous plan, collation of works since last plan and recommendations for policy change and works in neighbourhoods. Community consultation for the new strategy was completed by way of a household survey and stakeholder telephone interviews. Internal officers and other stakeholders were also consulted as part of this process. All results of consultation are available in the Open Space Strategy Review, 2006.

### **Definition of public open space**

Public open space in this context refers to outdoor space that is in the public realm and is freely accessible. Public open space not managed by the City of Port Phillip is also included in this document.

### **City of Port Phillip Vision for Public Open Space is:**

*A city where public open spaces define the city's character and respond to its people's need for places to rest, recreate and be inspired.*

### **City of Port Phillip Open Space Principles**

In 2009 an additional principle (principle 9) was incorporated into the strategy which was developed by councillors. The original eight principles were developed by the City of Port Phillip Councillors in 2005.

The principles inform the Open Space Strategy and are intended to guide future decisions taken by Council in regard to the supply and management of public open space.

### **Principle 1: Optimum provision of open space**

Provision of optimum open space will be addressed by:

- Increasing the amount of useable open space in appropriate locations to offset increases in population and the decline in private open space
- The use of urban design strategies that produce functional and pleasing spaces irrespective of size
- Strong design elements in the creation and renewal of open space to inspire people and develop parks that will respond to community needs
- Creating connections between spaces to maximise use and functional public open space
- Community benefit to underpin the use of open spaces

## **Principle 2: Commercial events in public open space**

Commercial events in parks need to demonstrate net community benefit. The impacts of commercial events upon public access to open space will be monitored and regulated.

## **Principle 3: New residential development and public open space**

The boundaries of public and private open space in residential developments should be clearly delineated. Where residential developments border public open space, the values of the existing public open space must be enhanced or preserved not degraded.

## **Principle 4: Safe Access to Public Open Space**

The objectives of the City of Port Phillip Lighting Strategy will be implemented in public open space to provide safe access to high profile spaces and public transport connections as a priority.

## **Principle 5: Access for all**

Public open space will offer a diversity of functions and experiences, and be accessible to all.

## **Principle 6: Streetscapes as public open space**

Streetscapes provide opportunities for public use particularly for communal meeting and exercise. Design and treatment of streetscapes should respond to these potential uses.

## **Principle 7: Public Open Space managed by others**

The City of Port Phillip will continue to work with other public authorities as managers of public open space, to achieve high quality spaces for all residents.

## **Principle 8: Supply of Public Open Space**

Parkland is a highly valued community asset. The inner city has a very limited supply of public open space, which is increasingly under pressure from high use by residents and competing demands from other community uses.

Any loss of land currently used for open space will only be considered in the following situations:

- The available land offers poor amenity for public open space use
- Alternative sites of higher quality can be identified for acquisition
- Net community gain can be guaranteed by an alternative land use.

## **Principle 9: Sustainable open spaces (New principle)**

Sustained drought conditions have had an adverse impact on open space. To respond to this change in climate, environmentally sustainable design features will need to be considered in the management and renewal of open space.

Examples of this could include the use of drought tolerant plants, warm season grasses, low energy public lighting, alternative water sources and water sensitive urban design.

### **Criteria for definition of poor amenity of public open space:**

- Is under utilised
- Offers poor connection to other spaces or streets
- Is unsafe for users
- Offers poor accessibility
- Has little potential for improvement as functional public open space.

### **The Open Space Strategy summary of Key Recommendations**

#### **Demographic factors driving the strategy are:**

- High population density
- High visitation to the foreshore
- Limited private open space
- High land values
- Projected residential growth in South Melbourne and Port Melbourne.

#### **Social factors driving the strategy are:**

- High community value on public open space
- High use of key open spaces
- Need for diversity of activity for all ages

### **KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Address areas underserved by public open space by linking existing spaces, use of streetscapes or other public realm opportunities. Priority areas are South Melbourne and East St Kilda.
- Promote the City of Port Phillip Open Space Principles across all council service areas.
- Develop a Playground Strategy to provide strategic direction for play-spaces across the city.
- Use the Guidelines for Developer contributions in this strategy as basis for collection and expenditure of contributions collected under s 18 of Subdivision Act.
- Establish integrated planning mechanisms for open space management, to include sporting facilities, urban planning, cultural services, urban design, environmental planning and maintenance service delivery.
- Regularly collect data related to community demands and use of open space to inform open space planning.
- Implement key master plans such as Light Rail Reserves, Sandridge Beach, St Kilda's Edge, and Elwood Foreshore Management Plan.
- Enhance existing open spaces to deliver greater diversity of activity especially for youth and young adults.
- Continue to manage conflicting uses in open space particularly at popular destinations such as foreshore.
- Increase capacity of sporting reserves to provide for junior and female sport by upgrading facilities and grounds.

- Provide opportunity for casual sport at more locations across the city.

## **Snapshot of projects completed and funded since 2006**

### **Key projects completed**

- Hewison Reserve renovation

The renovation of Hewison Reserve has reinvigorated the park and now caters for a multitude of users for play and passive recreation. The reserve also features drought tolerant vegetation.

- Elwood Canal Linear Park improvements

The improvements to the Elwood Canal Linear Park include upgrade to the garden bed and furniture installation.

- Playground Strategy 2007

Document guides implementation of playground facilities in open space over next 5 years.

- Sandridge Beach masterplan updated 2009

The original masterplan was revisited and amended to reflect current community views and works scheduled to commence in September/October 2009.

- Foreshore Connections

Project under construction at beach end of Fitzroy Street to improve pedestrian and cycle movement and tram superstops

- Foreshore Promenade

Redesign of foreshore to create a special relationship between the foreshore, timber decking, viewing area, and restaurants. The design is a flagship project for St Kilda as a vibrant place to be.

- Port Melbourne Light Rail

Removal of Raglan Street Parking and return to park land

- Garden City Reserve

Upgrade of facilities in Reserve and better link to surrounding areas

- Structure Plan – South Melbourne

Structure Plan for South Melbourne, including Sth Melbourne Market and Town Hall

- Skinners Adventure Playground

Upgrade facilities, including new indoor activity space

- Jacoby Reserve Playground

Upgrade facilities and play experience in Jacoby reserve

- Ashworth Reserve  
Master Plan completed
- West Beach Pavilion redevelopment  
Upgrade facilities, and landscape design for 'nature' area
- Port Melbourne Light Rail
- Alma Park Playground Upgrade  
New senior playground created and slug mound upgraded
- Alma Park Heritage pavilion  
Heritage Pavilion Restored
- Elwood Foreshore  
Elwood Foreshore Management Plan implemented, including improved car parking and facilities along foreshore
- Improve Point Ormond Hill  
Warm season turf installed at Point Ormond Hill
- Upgrade to the St Kilda Adventure Playground  
Installation of flying fox, in ground trampoline, new garden play area and improved parent retreat area
- Catani Gardens Playground  
Installation of new play equipment and improved seating
- The improvement of pedestrian and bike paths including the Jacka Boulevard bike lanes Gardens Playground
- North Port Oval Masterplan  
Development of a master plan to increase access to open space and encourage female participation in sport
- The improvement of streetscapes in Coventry Street,  
Implementation of Coventry Street and Claredon street intersection to commence August 2009
- The improvement of streetscapes in Carlisle Street  
Implementation of water sensitive urban design in Carlisle Street, adjacent to Town Hall, to commence late 2009



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## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Open space unique to Port Phillip**

The City of Port Phillip's open space network is shown in Map 1, Page 17. It has a number of unique aspects. These are summarised below.

The City's open space resources will face continuing pressure in the context of increasing demand for land development, increasing regional-level use, high population density and limited public funds.

#### **Proximity to the beach and foreshore**

Most of the municipality is within close proximity to the beach where a wide range of beach dependant activities are offered such as swimming, sand play, lifesaving events, angling, sailing, sail boarding, kite surfing and jet skiing as well as cafes and restaurants, skating, walking and cycling on the foreshore and land-based sports and recreation activities. The foreshore is also host to numerous regional events and is a significant tourist destination particularly in the St Kilda precinct. Infrastructure on the foreshore needs to respond to the demands of high tourist visitation. It is important to recognise that the foreshore area is an integral and important component of open space for the City of Port Phillip.

#### **Historical nature of parks**

Many of the City's parks and gardens were created in the 19th century and are of cultural significance, particularly those with formal landscapes such as St Kilda Botanical Gardens and St Vincent's Gardens. These need to be protected as well as utilised for leisure. There is demand to utilise these spaces even more in neighborhoods such as South Melbourne and East St Kilda where both private open space and public space are in short supply.

#### **Events space**

Unlike many other municipalities there is a range of programmed activities in spaces in the City of Port Phillip. These include beach and foreshore events such as triathlons, beach swimming and life saving carnivals, as well as walks, supervised playground activities, community horticultural activities and arts programs (at the Gasworks Park). The Grand Prix as an annual event at Albert Park removes a large tract of public open space from public access.

Programmed activities add considerable value to open space opportunities but the impacts of events upon local needs for parkland does need to be monitored.

#### **Supervised play**

The City has two supervised adventure playgrounds (St Kilda and South Melbourne). This is more than any other municipality and represents two of four existing in Australia. The St Kilda and South Melbourne Adventure Playgrounds are unique environments that provide a recreation space for children to explore, use their imagination, and play in a space that encourages risk taking, within safe boundaries. The St Kilda playground is the most popular play space in the city and attracts visitors from across Melbourne.

### **Living streets**

There is a strong commitment to walkability and sustainable transport, not witnessed in other municipalities. This is a great strength. Policies and strategies already developed to support these goals should be closely integrated with open space plan outcomes, especially in the light of a high demand for walking and cycling as expressed in the community consultation processes undertaken for this strategy.

### **Celebration of cultural expression and diversity**

The City of Port Phillip has a great strength in its cultural and demographic diversity. The City's parks and public places provide references to, and interpretations of the lives of residents, and diversity is celebrated in housing and the range of activities accommodated in the public realm. Street furniture and infrastructure are palettes for artistic expression, and art pieces and landscape design provide elements of surprise, playfulness and spiritual reflection to the built environment.

## **1.2 Progress and change since the last plan**

### **New policies and actions**

A major policy shift has been in the area of sustainability, including Streets for Living and a focus on sustainable transport. The 2009 Council Plan also improved emphasis on community engagement.

### **New residential developments**

The Inner Regional Housing Statement 2006 projects the future population increases in Port Phillip be 32,191 between 2001 and 2031. It is anticipated that much of this growth will occur in the Port Melbourne/ South Melbourne vicinity.

One of the most significant impacts on open space in the City of Port Phillip has been the establishment of the Beacon Cove residential development in Port Melbourne

The high number of residents living in medium to high density housing with limited or no private open space presents challenges for the provision of public open space. Activities more usually provided for in private backyards such as child's play, dog exercise, contemplation space, BBQ space, entertainment areas, large shade trees, green space, need to be provided in the public realm.

### **Public housing**

The City contains a number of public housing estates. Typically, these contain high-rise towers and walk-up flats built in the 1970s, although earlier, post-war brick apartments of higher quality were built in Port Melbourne. Refurbishment and redevelopment of public housing is now occurring. Most estates include areas of semi-public open space, some containing play equipment and other recreation facilities. However, these areas are not zoned as open space and may be lost in any redevelopment. The impact of this issue needs to be assessed.

## **Demographics**

The City of Port Phillip covers an area of 20.62 km<sup>2</sup> and at the 2006 census, it contained a population of 85,096 people. Port Phillip is the most densely populated Local Government Area in inner Melbourne. The city's population is projected to continue to grow strongly as inner city areas remain attractive particularly to young adults. (Estimated population according to census for 2008 is 93,752)

Flats, units and apartments represent over 50% of dwellings within the city.

Between 2001 and 2006, the City of Port Phillip grew by 3,556 people (excluding overseas visitors). Other trends relevant to open space provision are:

- Significant increases in the number of children between 0-4 and adults 30-34
- Decreases occurred in the proportion of families with children.
- Lone person households make up a significant proportion of all age groups.
- Couples without children are the fastest growing type of household in the city.

St Kilda at the 2006 census had a population of 16,122 and had one of the highest population densities with 6,100 people per square metre, making it the fifth most Populated Statistical Local Area. Port Melbourne and Elwood also had high populations at 13,293 and 13,785 respectively.

In 2007 the City of Port Phillip attracted 3,733 million visitors.

## **Shift in public thinking**

Since the last Plan, momentum has been gathering around the need to address issues that relate to open space provision, such as how to protect the local environment, how to improve sustainability, what to do about declining levels of physical activity across the population.

Public expectations related to open space have increased. The demand for social sports opportunities has changed along with an additional range of sand and water based leisure pursuits.

An increased awareness of the value of the City of Port Phillip's open space also makes changes to parkland more controversial.

## **1.3 Policy context**

A list of policies relevant to this plan are provided in Appendix 1. The key Council policies and plans that influence this plan are:

- The Port Phillip Planning Scheme and Municipal Strategic Statement
- The Council Plan (2009-2013)
- The Community Plan (2007-2017)
- The Residential Strategy Issues Paper 2004
- Foreshore Management Plan 2004
- The Greening of Port Phillip Plan 2004
- The Cycling Strategy 2005-2010
- Walk Plan 2005-2010
- City Plan 2005

- Inner Melbourne Action Plan 2006

### **Port Phillip Planning Scheme: Municipal Strategic Statement**

*The key relevant objectives to this plan are the Parkland and Open Space and the Residential Land-Use objectives.*

#### **Parkland and open space objectives**

- To enhance and maintain a range of open space facilities that are easily accessible and match the needs of the local community.
- To balance the needs of parkland users with the need to preserve the physical and cultural heritage values and environmental attributes of public open space.
- To continue a management and maintenance regime for Port Phillip's parklands and public open spaces based on sound environmental principles and designed to ensure that these assets are kept clean and safe.

#### **Residential land-use objectives**

- To protect the important heritage and streetscape characteristics of the established residential areas.
- To ensure a high level of amenity for residents, including adequate open space, privacy, and sunlight and daylight, parking and transport options.
- To achieve a constant residential population level by compensating for losses caused by falling household sizes with population growth.
- To encourage the retention and construction of larger dwellings to cater for larger households.
- Encourage design excellence for all residential development, with an emphasis on preserving and enhancing the built and natural environment of Port Phillip, whilst conserving resources and energy.
- Encourage a range of housing types to suit the diverse needs of Port Phillip's community and to provide reasonable access to low-cost housing for low-income households.

#### **The Community Plan**

The Community Plan 2007-2017 outlines five core topics for action:

- Parking – managing competing needs: *While tougher parking strategies are required, better public transport is the real long-term solution*
- Building our community – connecting people. *Taking action and working together develops strong communities*
- Urban planning and development: *The community wants Council to advocate and stand up for sustainable development practices*
- Entertainment and residential amenity – managing the price of popularity: *Lets share the benefits of living in Port Phillip with visitors, but not at the cost of undermining a local sense of place and belonging*
- Public open spaces – looking after streets and parks: *Preservation of our parks for community enjoyment in the face of drought, dumping and visitor demand is vital and needs strong Council leadership.*
- Environmental Responsibility: *to place a minimal and balanced load on our environment while recognising that the City is highly complex, urbanised and altered.*

Of particular relevance in the Community Vision is the following:

*“The goals of social equity, economic viability, environmental responsibility and cultural vitality remain central to our desire to foster a sustainable and harmonious future. We acknowledge*

*there is a shared responsibility to ensure that everyone, regardless of age or cultural or socio-economic background, can access services that meet their needs and can participate in community life.”*

### **Council Plan 2009 – 2013**

The 2009-2013 Council Plan identifies four key strategic directions. These are:

- Engaging and governing the City
  - Value and utilise skills and knowledge in the community
  - Governing
  - Commitment to service
  - Managing for the longer term
  - Reducing consumption and emissions
  - Changing transport priorities
- Taking Action on Climate Change
  - Adapting and sustaining
  - Working together
- Strengthening Our Diverse and Inclusive Community
  - Pursuit of social equity
  - Creative, active and culturally diverse life
- Enhancing Liveability
  - A sense of place
  - Shaping the future of our city
  - Caring for our natural environment
  - Major city projects

### **Residential Strategy Issues Paper 2004**

Housing outcomes that will deliver on the ‘4 pillars’ of sustainability are identified under the four themes of ‘Housing growth’, ‘Affordable Housing and Special Needs’, ‘Responsive Housing’ and ‘Liveable Neighbourhoods’. The Strategy identifies key components of a ‘balanced’ residential strategy that are to include:

- ‘Focused growth opportunities’ on strategic sites and precincts in and adjacent Activity Centres and on the Principle Public Transport Network. Growth precincts (Port Melbourne, St Kilda Rd, South Melbourne, Carlisle Street)
- ‘Incremental change’ through infill development in residential areas of varied character and where sites are proximate to a Major Activity Centres and/ or accessible to the PPTN.
- ‘Limited infill’ in established residential areas identified as of valued, consistent neighbourhood character
- ‘Minimal change’ in residential Heritage Overlay areas.

### **Foreshore Management Plan 2004**

The key principles for management of the City of Port Phillip foreshore are:

- Protect and enhance the environmental integrity of the foreshore and ensure its sustainability.
- Manage for a diversity of landscapes and features, including natural, man made and cultural, that contribute to the overall interest of the foreshore.
- Ensure that new and on going activities and developments make a positive contribution to the coast and offer a net community benefit.
- Ensure a predominance of free and accessible activity.
- Maintain an active waterfront of relevant coastal dependent uses.
- Ensure the important social and recreational role of the foreshore is maintained and contributes to the overall quality of life enjoyed by all Victorians.

- Ensure the foreshore can continue to host a range of tourist and recreational activities.
- Recognise the economic value and contribution of the foreshore to both the Local and State economy.

### **Tree Planting (Greening of Port Phillip)**

The purpose of the Tree Planting Initiative (previously named Greening Port Phillip) is to provide greener public spaces, backyards and balconies in Port Phillip. The working principles / objectives for Tree planting are:

- To expand the street tree planting / replacement program
- To provide a net increase in useable public open space
- To increase permeable surfaces within the public and private realm
- To review and refocus our capital works projects and tree planting program to support the above principles and provide a stronger focus on main roads, key neighbourhood linkages and areas of the City with degraded streetscapes or poor access to open space.

### **The City of Port Phillip's Cycling Strategy (2005-2010)**

This plan identifies that there are a variety of cyclists with different needs and abilities; therefore Council has defined routes as either "greenways" or "speedways". Greenways are defined as off-road paths, which are predominantly designed for low speeds, catering for learners and recreational cyclists. The major benefit of a greenway is the increased level of safety due to separation from the roadway. The greenway provides less disruptions and a more visually aesthetic environment in which to cycle. Passing through parks, the foreshore and local attractions, the greenway is attractive to tourists and locals alike. These greenways are directly relevant to the planning of off-road trails in open space. Speedways are defined as being designed for commuters and training cyclists with the priority on getting where they're going with as minimal delay as possible.

### **Walk Plan (2005 –2010)**

This plan outlines the following strategies to promote walking in the City of Port Phillip.

- Deliver pedestrian priority in all capital and maintenance works
- Ensure high quality pedestrian links to public transport and
- Provide high quality public spaces
- Enhance pedestrian safety
- Increase walking connections

### **City Plan 2005**

This plan shows in map form, projected works on open space and other Council assets.

### **Inner Melbourne Action Plan 2006**

This plan covers the Cities of Melbourne, Port Phillip, Yarra, parts of Stonnington and Docklands. The aim of the action plan is to provide a framework for growth and development of the inner suburbs of Melbourne with the objective of making inner Melbourne more liveable. The Inner Melbourne Action Plan (IMAP) was written in parallel with the Inner Regional Housing Statement. Strategy 10 of IMAP is to complete the regional open space network.

Key actions from IMAP related to open space in the City of Port Phillip are;

- The foreshore is a major focus for open space improvements in Port Phillip, as recreational, walking and bike riding destinations.
- Creation of walking links to other open space destinations such as Westgate Park

## 1.4 Objectives

The objectives of this Strategy are:

- To devise a strategy for effective planning, monitoring and evaluating open space across the city to ensure appropriate provision and development of open space.
- To set a program of priority actions for each neighbourhood
- To respond to new or changed demands for open space provision and use
- To provide clarity and reasonable certainty for developers and land owners in relation to the requirements and expectations of planning authorities in respect of open space provision.

### **Factors Driving the Strategy**

- Increasing population density
- Decreasing private open space
- Increasing land values and limited public open space
- Desire to link existing open spaces
- Increasing use of public open space by regional visitors
- High community value on open space
- High community expectations of quality and design



## City of Port Phillip Open Space Map No: 1



Source: City of Port Phillip and Land Victoria Vicmap data, produced by GIS City of Port Phillip 2009.

## **2. A Basis For Open Space Planning**

### **2.1 Open Space principles**

State government open space principles are expressed as the Melbourne 2030 Parklands Code, which is a part of Policy 5.6 in Melbourne 2030. Its objective is to ;

*Improve the quality and distribution of local open space and ensure long-term protection of public open space.*

Although the code was written specifically for regional open space managed by state government, it is assumed that local government will have due regard to these principles where relevant.

#### **Involving the community**

This will be achieved by encouraging and promoting community involvement, including taking an active role in decision-making and the protection of natural and cultural values. Open community consultation should be encouraged especially when major changes to park management and use are proposed.

#### **Transparent planning processes**

More transparent processes will help to ensure clear understanding of the management objectives for parks.

Either a management plan or an explicit statement of management objectives should be developed for urban parks. Exclusive occupation of parkland by organisations should be restricted to activities that are consistent with the park's management objectives. Development proposals should be subject to processes under the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

Buildings and other infrastructure must be consistent with the management objectives of the park and subject to appropriate Planning Scheme processes.

#### **Securing the future of open space**

Appropriate zoning of open space is integral to its long-term security and Public Park and Recreation Zone or Public Conservation and Resource Zone are the most applicable zonings for parkland. The zoning should be consistent with management plans and objectives for the land.

Public land that adjoins waterways and coasts must remain in public ownership, and developments, which prevent public access along stream banks, or foreshores will not be permitted. When land is identified as being critical to completing open space links, planners will seek to ensure that the link becomes public open space, through any rezoning or subdivision of land.

## **Changing land use**

If a change in land use or occupation occurs that will reduce open space, the open space network should be protected by replacement parkland of equal or greater size and quality. Areas that are under-supplied with parkland are the priority to establish new areas of parkland.

The environmental and recreational value of surplus government land will be fully evaluated before any decision to sell land held by the Crown, a government department or a statutory authority.

## **Diversity**

Open space should accommodate people of all abilities, cultures and ages. Nature conservation, recreation and play, sport, social interaction, and peace and solitude should be accommodated.

Significant sites will be protected by government legislation.

## **CITY OF PORT PHILLIP Principles**

### **Principle 1: Optimum provision of open space**

Provision of optimum open space will be addressed by:

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The City of Port Phillip will continue to work with other public authorities as managers of public open space, to achieve high quality spaces for all residents.

### **Principle 8: Supply of Public Open Space**

Parkland is a highly valued community asset. The inner city has a very limited supply of public open space, which is increasingly under pressure from high use by residents and competing demands from other community uses.

Any loss of land currently used for open space will only be considered in the following situations:

- The available land offers poor amenity for public open space use
- Alternative sites of higher quality can be identified for acquisition
- Net community gain can be guaranteed by an alternative land use.

Criteria for definition of poor amenity of public open space:

- Is under utilised
- Offers poor connection to other spaces or streets
- Is unsafe for users
- Offers poor accessibility
- Has little potential for improvement as functional public open space.

### **Principle 9: Sustainable open spaces (New principle)**

Sustained drought conditions have had an adverse impact on open space. To respond to this change in climate, environmentally sustainable design features will need to be considered in the management and renewal of open space.

Examples of this could include the use of drought tolerant plants, warm season grasses, low energy public lighting, alternative water sources and water sensitive urban design.

## **2.2 Measuring the adequacy and value of open space**

The Open Space Strategy Review proposed a system of measuring the adequacy of open space based upon benefits and functions provided by these spaces.

A set of indicators to assess adequacy was suggested as:

- All residential areas should have a Social Family Recreation space within walking distance (400-500m).
- There should be opportunities for core activities undertaken in open space to be provided in every neighbourhood (walking, cycling, walking the dog, swimming, relaxing, enjoying the views, jogging, playing or watching sport, informal ball games, skating and play).
- There should be access to an off-road trail within approximately 3 minutes walk of all residences.

- There should be access to a space for Relaxation Contemplation Escape (high environmental quality or views, no facilities other than seats / paths).
- There should be at least three different functions present and four different setting types present in every neighbourhood, or three where there is no beach / foreshore.
- Open space in all neighbourhoods should provide the six categories of benefit described in the Appendices: Healthy Living, Child Development / Play, Conservation of Habitat, Civic Pride, Education and Recreation (see Volume 2. Appendix 3).

### **2.3 Distribution and supply of open space in Port Phillip**

Map 1 shows the City of Port Phillip's open space network, including school sites, and land owned and managed by other government agencies (ie Albert Park).

Albert Park Reserve forms nearly 60% of public open space in Port Phillip and is used by a large proportion of residents from Albert Park, St Kilda Road and South Melbourne. Whilst the City of Port Phillip does not support hosting of the Grand Prix at Albert Park, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Parks Victoria, Australian Grand Prix Corporation and City of Port Phillip to agree to common objectives, set out roles and responsibilities and mechanisms for consultation between parties.

Estimates based upon Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) housing capacity analysis show a projected population increase of 32,191 by 2030. In this context we must assume that all current open space must be preserved, and some additional open space may be required to meet the demand in certain areas and for a wider range of experiences.

#### **Areas underserved**

The criteria established above at 2.2 Measuring the Adequacy and Value of Open Space, allows a measure of areas that are currently underserved. The following precincts are underserved by open space of any kind:

- Ripponlea south of Glen Eira Road
- East St Kilda especially east of Hotham Street
- South Melbourne, especially north of Park Street

#### **Range of experiences**

The range of experiences available in open space is the key driver for the success of that space. The most visited spaces in the city are also the largest and most diverse (Albert Park, St Kilda Botanical Gardens, Alma Park, St Kilda Beach, St Vincent Gardens)

Opportunities to increase diversity exist in Port Melbourne and South Melbourne as spaces are small or offer limited range of activity.

Play spaces are found in nearly all of Port Phillips parks but offer poor variety of experience. Improvements to play spaces offer a major opportunity to diversify park experiences. The quality of related facilities in parks associated with play spaces and the play value of playgrounds are opportunities for improvements.

A Playground Strategy has been prepared to set priority actions for all play spaces in the city.

Several key spaces should be developed along the foreshore to cater for large community gatherings. These will need significant seating and shade facilities.

There are a number of long medians and open space corridors in Port Phillip such as in Middle

Parks (Dank Street), the Light Rail corridor through Port Melbourne, the Foreshore Reserves and pipeline easements such as Howe Street in Port Melbourne. In some instances these could be diversified along their reaches so that several landscape settings or function types are represented in each.

## **2.4 Guidelines for open space contributions by developers**

### *Definitions of open space*

Public open space in this context refers to outdoor space that is in the public realm, is freely accessible and serves a recreation function.

Public spaces maybe grassed or paved, but the function of the space is defined as “providing for public resort or recreation” in all its forms from socially organized sport, casual exercise, family recreation, walking trails and areas of native vegetation.

Public plazas and the foreshore also provide a recreational function such as relaxation and social interaction.

The City of Port Phillip has many small landscaped spaces, which provide rest and relaxation within an inner city environment and as such are defined as public open space.

The City of Port Phillip is supportive of negotiating public use of privately owned open space where appropriate.

### **Population pressure**

Melbourne 2030 suggests that there will be projected growth in the number of households in the inner suburbs of approximately 90,000 dwellings in the period 2001-2030.

This projected growth equates to an increase of approximately 32,200 persons in the City of Port Phillip.

The objectives of the Inner Regional Housing Statement aim to achieve housing growth in locations that have capacity for change, whilst protecting heritage assets and neighbourhood character. The strategies are to:

Direct growth predominately to strategic sites and precincts, which are proximate to Activity Centres and or Principle Public Transport Network. These include Mixed Use zones and business strips (eg Business 5 zone of St Kilda Rd)

Enable limited growth within Major Activity Centres including Bay Street, Clarendon Street, South Melbourne Central, Fitzroy Street, Acland Street, and Carlisle Street East, St. Kilda. This recognises the fact the Major Activity Centres in the City of Port Phillip have reached capacity for development.

Seek to significantly reduce the rate and intensity of development in established areas (ie Residential 1 zones). Projected population growth in suburbs nearest designated City of Port Phillip Major Activity Centres 2001-2030

<b>Port Melbourne (Bay Street)</b>	<b>7,953</b>
<b>St Kilda (Fitzroy Street)</b>	<b>6,729</b>
<b>St Kilda (Acland Street)</b>	<b>2,356</b>
<b>East St Kilda / Balaclava</b>	<b>3,801</b>
<b>South Melbourne (Clarendon / Coventry Streets)</b>	<b>11,352</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,191</b>

City of Port Phillip has one of the highest population densities in inner Melbourne. There are also a high percentage of lone households and highly mobile populations especially those aged between 25 and 54.

More than fifty percent of dwellings in the City are flats or apartments. Much of future housing will be higher density dwellings with little or no public open space. The impacts upon public open space are likely to be increased: usage of existing public space, conflicts between users, demand for 24 hour safe access to spaces, use of public spaces for activities typically undertaken in private space (eg BBQs, exercise, relaxation, children learning to ride bikes etc), and increased demand for open space for socialising.

Projected changes in the working population are also valid to note in reference to demands placed on public open space. Higher numbers of workers are expected in the industrial areas of the city as land uses change from warehousing to commercial office use. These areas are currently under served with open spaces for casual recreation or exercise.

### **Use of public open space in Port Phillip-participation rates and trends**

The most used open spaces in the City are the beach and foreshore, Albert Park Reserve, and St Kilda Botanical Gardens. The foreshore continues to be the most regularly used space in Port Phillip<sup>1</sup> especially by residents of Albert Park and Middle Park.

The 2003 Community Satisfaction Survey suggests 66% of residents use the foreshore for some recreation activity.

The foreshore, and off-road trails were nominated by residents as the highest priority for upgrades to the open space network. Community satisfaction surveys also indicate desire for improvements to foreshore facilities such as drinking fountains and showers.

As walking is the most common means of getting to public open space, proximity and accessibility of space is of up most importance. Walking (including dog walking) was also identified as the most popular activity in open space use by residents. Playground use and children's recreation is also a major use of Port Phillip's public open space.

### **Parkland managed by others**

Some of the larger spaces in the City of Port Phillip, such as Albert Park Reserve are not owned or managed by the City of Port Phillip, but provide considerable opportunities for local recreation. Albert Park also provides a regional role for sporting activity and venue for state significant events.

The City of Port Phillip has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Parks Victoria and the Australian Grand Prix Corporation.

The MOU establishes mechanisms for consultation and liaison between parties to facilitate a more collaborative approach to the roles and responsibilities of each party.

Continued cooperation with other land owners such as Port of Melbourne Corporation and Parks Victoria and key organisations such as Melbourne Water should be pursued, opportunities for obtaining funding to improve and optimise open space outcomes for the community should also be investigated.

### **Strategies to address this issue**

The City of Port Phillip Open Space Strategy addresses important local open space issue in several places, particularly in the over arching principles and Key Issues to Address.

Key strategies to address issues of higher population density and participation trends include:

- Use of streetscapes as attractive open spaces for social and casual recreation and exercise
- Provision of broad range of facilities in public open space to compensate for limited private provision (e.g. community gardens, BBQs, communal meeting spaces, places to learn to ride bikes, etc)
- Provision of attractive walking and riding spaces
- Provision of public plazas where traditional green open spaces might not be feasible
- Provision of spaces for communal interaction in high density housing
- Protection of the values of existing public open spaces (see Principle no. 3)
- Provision of a variety of high quality facilities in parks to cater for a diverse community
- The appropriate management of conflicting uses and pressures in public open space
- Provision of lighting at key open spaces to provide safe 24 hour access
- Creation of links between existing open spaces.

### **Policy guideline**

The Open Space Strategy has considered the supply and function available in each neighbourhood as well as open space use across the City such as off-road trails and foreshore use.

Areas deficient in public open space have been identified as Ripponlea south of Glen Eira Road, East St Kilda especially east of Hotham Street, South Melbourne especially north of Park Street. Open space deficiency is defined as areas with both poor pedestrian access to local open space (no social family recreation space within 400m without crossing a major rail or road trail) and / or poor quality of existing open space.

### **Minimum Requirements of Open Space**

As a minimum all residences should have access to:

- A social family recreation space and an off-road trail within 400metres
- Outdoor playing fields within 800 metres
- Easy access to dog walking spaces, including dog off-lead spaces.
- Access to outdoor spaces for relaxation within easy access of all places of work

### **Developer Contributions**

Council will seek contributions of 5% of land area across the City (as either cash or land) in residential, commercial or industrial zones, pursuant to the section 18 of the Sub-division Act 1988.



5% contributions are required in all zones and areas of the City to assist in the implementation of Council's capital works program for open space development. The works program is based on a neighbourhood analysis of local needs and participation trends as presented in this strategy.

Open space development works in parks includes: implementation of endorsed Master Plans, creation of off-road trails, works on building and landscape conservation, and playground developments, sporting fields, seating, picnic areas and park landscapes.

In most cases Council will seek cash contributions, as appropriate sized land may not be available for acquisition.

However, there are parts of the City where land would be desirable if available in useful size and location. The neighbourhood analysis lists these areas.

Land will not be taken as a public open space contribution that is: encumbered by steep grades, too contaminated for use as public open space, a drainage reserve, subject to flooding, an easement, road verge (unless to create a planned off-road trail), road way, buffer, water treatments, or has no ability to provide a recreational function.

Land contributions are sought where:

- There is a lack of social family recreation space in the neighbourhood
- Land of a suitable usable size is available to support the identified function required
- A strategically important link is required to other open spaces
- Mature trees, or other cultural values will be protected and usefully incorporated into the development
- Industrial areas in transition that result in higher numbers of workers or residents
- Useful links (off-road trails) to existing open space can be created.

Public open space is required in industrial and commercial areas of South Melbourne and Port Melbourne, to provide recreation opportunities for the increasing number of workers in these neighbourhoods.

**Table 5. Priorities for open space contributions by neighbourhood**

<b>Neighbourhood</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Priority works</b>	<b>Status</b>
Port Melbourne and Garden City	Turville Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade as teenage play space to compliment Graeme Street overpass</li> </ul>	Not completed
	Light Rail reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade lighting along pathways</li> <li>Complete the Master Plan</li> </ul>	Partly completed
	Murphy Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Playground upgrade and major landscape upgrade including boundary fencing and BBQs Upgrade the sporting capacity of the Reserve</li> <li>Consider integrating the depot site into the reserve</li> </ul>	Master Plan to be undertaken 2009/10
	Port Melbourne Football Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscape / fences consider useability of non playing areas for informal or landscape use for benefit of workers in Port Melbourne area</li> </ul>	Underway
	Sandridge Beach Construct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementing Sandridge Beach Master Plan</li> <li>Bike path connection to Todd road</li> <li>Fred Jackson Reserve landscape upgrade</li> </ul>	Underway
	Perce White Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to enhance as nature reserve</li> </ul>	Underway
	Industrial zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek land for new POS as pocket parks for workers</li> </ul>	Not completed
	Garden City Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade facilities in Garden City Reserve and better link with surrounding open space</li> </ul>	Completed / underway
	Lagoon Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade sporting surfaces</li> </ul>	Not completed
South Melbourne	Overall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop open space opportunities as per South Melbourne Structure Plan at South Melbourne market, and the Town Hall</li> <li>Seek new open space as part of developer contributions should suitable land become available</li> </ul>	Not completed / partly underway
	Eastern Road Reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider redesign of northern section to facilitate greater use</li> </ul>	Not completed

Neighbourhood	Location	Priority works	Status
	St Vincent Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete implementation of Master Plan</li> </ul>	Partial completion
	James Service Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create wide green centre median</li> </ul>	
	Skinners Adventure Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to upgrade playground to meet standards and provide appropriate facilities</li> </ul>	Completed
Albert Park and Middle Park	Small reserves such as Ashworth, Neville, Little Page, Finlay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review use of small play spaces and redesign to provide maximum use</li> </ul>	Ashworth underway
	Gas Works Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make furniture and paths DDA compliant</li> <li>Restore park lighting to suitable standard</li> </ul>	Pending resolve of site contamination
	Johnstone Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade playground and landscape</li> </ul>	Not completed
	Foreshore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to maintain and enhance foreshore facilities</li> <li>Enhance access to the beach and provide shade</li> </ul>	Partly completed / ongoing
	All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue opportunities to increase size of small parks if land becomes available</li> </ul>	Ongoing
	Dank Street median	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Redesign median and playgrounds to function more as a linear park and upgrade playgrounds and facilities</li> </ul>	2009/10 upgrade
St Kilda and Queens Road	Overall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a path along the east side of Albert Park</li> <li>Create pedestrian bridge link to Albert Park across Queens Road</li> <li>Retain set backs and landscape amenity of the streetscape</li> <li>Pursue high quality public realm, especially in streetscapes to provide for social recreation spaces.</li> </ul>	Not completed

Neighbourhood	Location	Priority works	Status
St Kilda	St Kilda Foreshore	Implement St Kilda Edge Project including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Kilda</li> <li>• Foreshore promenade and Pier entry upgrades</li> <li>• Future use of Triangle Site</li> <li>• Shakespeare Grove</li> <li>• West Beach pavilion redevelopment</li> <li>• St Kilda Harbour</li> <li>• Repairs to rock walls at Catani Gardens</li> <li>• Alfred Square upgrade</li> </ul>	Completed : St Kilda Promenade and pier entry, Foreshore connections  Underway: West Beach, path replacement at Alfred Square  Not completed: Catani Rock repairs, St Kilda Harbour, Shakespeare grove
	Botanical Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Future Directions Plan</li> </ul>	Plan completed. Stage one works to be undertaken 2009/10
	Determine appropriate site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide skate park</li> </ul>	Ongoing
	Catani Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade playground</li> </ul>	Completed
St Kilda	Peanut Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider closing Blessington Street between Peanut Reserve and Renfrey Gardens to maximise open space</li> </ul>	Not completed
	Adventure Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade playground to meet standards and ensure Playground</li> </ul>	Completed
East St Kilda/ Balaclava	Alma Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create new senior playground</li> <li>• Create new pathways at Olive Grove and Elm walk</li> <li>• Restore heritage pavilion</li> <li>• Consider ball-playing spaces in park</li> </ul>	Completed
	All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue opportunities for additional public open space</li> </ul>	Ongoing

Neighbourhood	Location	Priority works	Status
	St Kilda Cemetery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Cemetery Trust to promote as an open space for walking and consider interpretation</li> </ul>	Not completed
	Balaclava Railway Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect open space associated with station</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Elwood and Ripponlea	Elwood Canal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School park – upgrade in consultation with the school for shared use.</li> <li>Implement the Elwood Canal Master Plan</li> <li>Path improvements</li> <li>Landscape improvements</li> </ul>	Completed
Elwood and Ripponlea	Elwood Foreshore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement Elwood Foreshore Management Plan including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Realignment of trail and car parking at rear of Sails restaurant</li> <li>Provision of grasses area at Elwood Beach</li> <li>Improvements to Elwood Park carpark and associated landscapes</li> <li>Improve Pt Ormond Hill</li> <li>Upgrade beach facilities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Stages Completed and Underway
	Elwood Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade pavilion as per Master Plan</li> <li>Shelter over BBQ</li> </ul>	Partly completed. Shelter outstanding

### Policy guideline

Developers shall be required to fund or undertake basic development works in parks and open space as part of their contribution, including tree planting, turf or grass, irrigation (if deemed appropriate), and paths and furniture or equipment; consistent with the purpose of the space.

The landscape design and standard of embellishment of new open space provided by developers shall be at a level able to be sustained by Council after the developer has left the site, unless alternative funding strategies are put in place.

Developers are required to plant vegetation in accordance with species approved by Council, suitable to the area.

Open space taken, as part of subdivision shall be transferred to Council in a developed and useable condition

Relevant landscape guidelines documenting recommended practices, acceptable levels of basic development works, species and where appropriate, design, shall be provided by, or negotiated with Council.

Some facilities needed by a new residential community may not be appropriate or viable to provide on their own, or within one development.

Some types of open space facilities needed by the new population are more viable off site or in conjunction with those for a wider catchment. Where this is the case, Council will either:

- Take a cash contribution
- Negotiate to provide the facility for the a district or local area catchment within the development
  
- Take a proportion of the land required where the remainder may be able to be taken in adjoining land from another development
- Require a contribution of an equivalent amount to have them provide elsewhere, or
- Embellish an existing reserve elsewhere to cater for the identified need.
- Provision of open space in each neighbourhood should consider (as a priority) provision for:
  - Social family recreation space to serve apartments where one is not within 200m and
  - Shared trails in the road verge to the local social family recreation and to connect with existing trail to the foreshore, and the provision of outdoor playing fields or sporting facilities within 800m.

### **3 Key Issues to be addressed**

The issues below are those identified in The Open Space Strategy Review.

#### **3.1 Park / Open Space planning process**

##### **A planning framework that guides what open space is needed and where**

The development of the Open Space Review has highlighted the wide range of staff that can either influence open space planning and management or who have a role in open space. One agreed planning framework and process that is supported and resourced is imperative, at a time when open space is subject to considerable development pressures, and as a land use has little profile.

The ongoing co-operation of staff in leisure, planning, parks and design related departments across Council is important to implement this plan and monitor open space outcomes.

Where additional open spaces or facilities are developed, they should reflect requirements of park users. Data from park users and community satisfaction surveys needs to be regularly collated and communicated to park planners to inform asset planning and park design.

## Policy guideline

Council shall keep open space information up-to-date in order to facilitate ease of decision-making. This includes:

- Regular data collection on key aspects of open space services and provision
- A cross branch open space planning forum
- Better integration of open space and sport/recreation planning
- An endorsed strategic direction to guide planning and provision of open space that is communicated internally and externally.

## Changing residential areas and decline in private open space

Melbourne 2030 suggests that there will be projected growth in the number of households in the inner suburbs of approximately 90,000 dwellings in the period 2001-2030.

This projected growth equates to an increase of approximately 32,200 persons in the City of Port Phillip.

The objectives of the Inner Regional Housing Statement aim to achieve housing growth in

locations that have capacity for change, whilst protecting heritage assets and neighbourhood character. The strategies are to:

Direct growth predominately to strategic sites and precincts, which are proximate to Activity Centres and or Principle Public Transport Network. These include Mixed Use zones and business strips (eg Business 5 zone of St Kilda Rd)

Enable limited growth within Major Activity Centres including Bay Street, Clarendon Street, South Melbourne Central, Fitzroy Street, Acland Street, and Carlisle Street East St. Kilda. This recognises the fact the Major Activity Centres in the City of Port Phillip have reached capacity for development.

Seek to significantly reduce the rate and intensity of development in established areas

(i.e. Residential 1 zones)

Projected population growth in suburbs nearest designated City of Port Phillip Major Activity Centres 2001-2030

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<b>Total</b>	<b>32,191</b>

The dual impacts of higher residential densities with diminishing private open space and lack of opportunity for the creation of new large public open spaces, requires strategies to provide opportunities for public recreation.

Strategies to respond to changing residential areas and decline in private open space:

- Using the Greening of Port Phillip program to increase and link public open space and green space in streets
- Provide high quality walking and cycling trails in areas of medium and high density housing
- Use of Structure Plans as planning tools for increasing open space in Activity Centres
- Appropriate developer open space contributions sought in areas of high population density to enhance existing public open space or create more
- Municipal Strategic Statement be reviewed to include new Open Space Strategy directions and actions
- Existing public open space be enhanced to cater for higher levels of use and facilitate a diversity of uses
- Seek opportunities to develop open space with other land managers such as schools, Parks Victoria, Vic Track
- Ensure clear delineation between public and private domains in multi storey housing
- Consider the use of communal open space or other opportunities for social interaction as a part of high density housing

### **Protection of Public Open Space as Legitimate land use**

Open space is highly valued by local residents, but in many instances open space doesn't appear to be viewed as a legitimate land use by public authorities and as such is vulnerable to inappropriate uses. Scarcity of land in the inner city and competition for new uses can place public open space in a vulnerable position.

The values and benefits of public open space need to be understood and protected, by local authority planners to ensure the spaces themselves are not de-valued or lost to other uses.

Any proposal for acquisition or disposal of open space should be supported by a local demand and supply assessment and be assessed against the Open Space Principles developed by the City of Port Phillip. (See 2.1)

### **3.2 Opportunities for more low key and competition sport**

The City of Port Phillip contains many sporting facilities, however the carrying capacity of several are low or exceeded and there are others where carrying capacity can be increased by lighting, better irrigation and drainage or field development.

To provide the maximum use and enjoyment of sporting areas, issues such as lighting, multiple playing fields and enhanced community access to foundation level sport opportunities, need to be addressed.

Many sports facilities do not have lights and therefore are not able to be utilised to the degree desirable.

There are opportunities to enhance the viability of sports by providing multiple playing fields and enhancing community access to foundation level sport opportunities, through free access ball courts, skate facilities and developing under-utilised spaces for local sports in demand such as soccer. Some tennis facilities have limited community access, when the demand for tennis appears to be increasing for social night tennis.

Some clubs in the City such as bowls clubs have targeted social and corporate markets to increase use of these community assets. This should be encouraged and expanded to include a wider range of other clubs offering greens, water based opportunities and court sports.



### **Strategies to address this issue**

- Investigate further development of reserves for sporting use as outlined in the neighbourhood actions
- Provide a budget allocation each year for the next 5 years for additional lights and sports turf development to increase the carrying capacity of one key reserve and tennis facility in every neighbourhood.
- Encourage a wider range of clubs (e.g. tennis and trugo) to offer social nonmembership based activities for residents to meet current demand and aid their long-term viability.
- Support the development of other newer non-club based sports such as BMX, skating and beach based sports in suitable locations across the City.
- Upgrade pavilions to respond to changed patterns of sporting use (eg to facilitate girls and junior members of clubs or social activities)

### **3.3 Managing dog activity**

The dog of leash policy is currently being reviewed (July 2009) and will consider and address the issues identified in 2006 for managing dog activity.

As urban density increases and the size of private open space decreases, more and more pressure is being placed on public open space for dog exercising.

There are approximately 5,300 registered dogs within the City of Port Phillip. This is high, considering that over 50% of all dwellings are flats, units and apartments. Thus, in Port Phillip there is a correspondingly high demand for spaces where residents can let their dog's run and play. There are currently 24 designated off-leash locations in the municipality, including parks, reserves and beaches. These facilities generally are well signed, although the signs themselves could be made more attractive visually, and made more consistent throughout the municipality. The map reveals that the following four areas lack adequate dog off-leash provision:

- South Melbourne
- St Kilda Road / Queens Road neighbourhood, and
- The eastern border of the municipality in the Elwood / Ripponlea neighbourhood
- Between Albert Park Lake and the Bay.

In fact, none of the southern area of East St Kilda / Balaclava is served in terms of dog off-leash provision.

The householder survey conducted to support this strategy also found that residents were concerned about dogs being on the beach, and about conflict between dogs and trail users (cyclist, runners, roller bladders). Respondents said they would like:

- More areas to exercise dogs (especially off-leash)
- Better quality and distribution of off-leash areas
- A better system to enforce dog owners to clean up after their dog.

During the consultation process undertaken for this strategy, stakeholders expressed concern about conflict between dogs and birds, particularly wading birds and penguins.

### **Strategies to address this issue**

#### **Management**

- Continue to provide education about dog activity and dog management.
- Continue to monitor community attitude to dogs on beaches and trails.
- Ensure some spaces remain dog free.

- Clarify dog management policy for trail users and sign accordingly.
- Introduce a new signage system for dog management that is clear, attractive and consistent across the municipality.
- Monitor areas of high dog use and conflicting uses at Gasworks Park

### **Enforcement**

- Continue to enforce laws, e.g. in areas such as on-leash areas, playgrounds, BBQs, sports fields and when owners do not pick up after their dog.
- Enforce dog on-leash policy in St Kilda Botanical Gardens.

### **Provision**

- Identify suitable sites in four areas for new dog off-leash provision (south of East St Kilda / Balaclava neighbourhood, east of Elwood / Ripponlea neighbourhood, the South Melbourne neighbourhood, and an additional area (either in Albert Park Lake) to serve the St Kilda Road / Queens Road neighbourhood).
- Refer dog owners to dog off lead areas in parks just outside City of Port Phillip boundaries such as Fawkner Park, Elsternwick Park and Albert Park Lake.
- Review the need for off-leash areas in sensitive or high-use environments, including between West Beach and St Kilda pier, and the Peanut Farm. Consider changing these to on-leash.

## **3.4 Meeting the demand for off-road trails**

There has been a significant growth in walking and trail based activities in recent years, particularly as a result of awareness of the importance of physical activity. Cycling is now a major recreational activity conducted in the City due to the popularity of the foreshore trail and the route for training and recreational cyclists through the municipality down Beach Road toward Frankston. Many of these cyclists are groups of friends who make the trip as a social activity and stop at cafes in the City.

The community survey for this project indicated the high demand for cycling and walking as a recreation activity. Respondents identified walking as the main activity undertaken across all parks, and walking and jogging as the most important. If funds become available for open space development, residents nominated 'walking / cycling paths' as their priority.

- 71.9% of respondents indicated that bike / walking trails are either extremely or very important park or open space features.
- 94.3% of respondents indicated that that they either walk (86.2%) or cycle (8.1%) to their most used open space.
- 18.9% of respondents indicated that they like their most used open space because it is good for walking and walking the dog, or because it has a good walking / bicycle track.
- 88.4% of the respondents indicated that the activities they participated in at their most used open space had to do with trails (ie, they walk, cycle, run or skate).
- Bicycle off-road / walking trails were used more frequently than other types of open space used, after the beach.
- 28.8% of respondents said that bicycle off-road / walking trails should be the priority for upgrading. This was second behind the beach.
- After picnics and BBQ, cycling was the second highest activity recorded as liked but not undertaken. The main reason for not using cycling paths was that facilities are either in poor condition, or too far away.

The City of Port Phillip's Cycling Strategy (2005-2010) identifies that there are a variety of cyclists with different needs and abilities; therefore Council has defined routes as either "greenways" or "speedways". Greenways are defined as off-road paths, which are predominantly designed for low speeds, catering for learners and recreational cyclists.

The major benefit of a greenway is the increased level of safety due to separation from the roadway. The greenway provides less disruptions and a more visually aesthetic environment in which to cycle. Passing through parks, the foreshore and local attractions, the greenway is attractive to tourists and locals alike. Speedways are defined as being designed for commuters and training cyclists with the priority on getting where they're going with as minimal delay as possible.

Greenways also include perimeter paths. Perimeter paths are located in areas where learner cyclists can develop their skills in a non-threatening environment and in doing so, not cause a distraction to other cyclists.

Greenway design standards are consistent with Austroads Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice, Part 14 – Bicycles. (City of Port Phillip Cycling Strategy 2005- 2010 )

There are few off-road circuit trails around parks and / or connecting parks, including from the beach to residential areas. There are opportunities in the wide verges in some suburbs, to create off-road trails for skating, cycling, walking, use of wheel chairs and prams and small-wheeled toys. There are also opportunities to create path circuits around some of the larger reserves for jogging and walking. A hierarchy of paths is required across the City.

Access to off-road trails in Port Phillip is principally along the foreshore and around Albert Park Lake. The Foreshore Trail has regional significance however residential suburbs to the east are relatively remote from this path due to major roads separating the foreshore from residential areas and lack of bike links running east west. Similarly there are barriers for residents accessing the existing trails in Albert Park. A crossing over Queens Road is required as is a path along its verge to enable trail users to walk around the golf course.

The use of walking and cycling paths for commuting to shops, schools, workplaces, and to community and public transport hubs needs to be recognised, especially the desire for direct routes that are safe for all users.

#### **Recommended actions to support cycling on off road trails:**

- Construct perimeter path around Murphy Reserve as Greenway
- Upgrade Elwood Foreshore Trail to resolve points of conflict with vehicles and pedestrians
- Pursue bridge over Queens Rd into Albert Park
- Complete Elwood Canal path
- Complete Garden City Reserve connection
- Create circuits for exercise and social recreation by linking up existing open space, off-road paths and linear reserves.
- Create and advertise activity hubs as destinations for people who drive to the foreshore trail and rest stops along the way for those on longer rides / walks
- (e.g. Port Melbourne Foreshore and St Kilda Marina Reserve, St Kilda).
- Provide trail connections where possible that connect with shopping centres, schools, transport hubs, community centres, and other recreation destinations to increase the convenience of exercise circuits and enhance the value of local trips.
- Promote walking and cycling circuits and trails with clear, consistent signage and trail information and distance markers (maps, web site etc).
- Create better links to the foreshore trail from neighbouring residential areas.
- Investigate options to develop key linear trails in partnership with Land Management Agencies, Parks Victoria, VicRoads and adjoining Councils, and provide consistency of signage and management across municipal boundaries.
- Work with Bayside and the City of Melbourne to develop a consistent signage strategy for the foreshore trail and Albert Park Lake.
- Create activity hubs or break out spaces to serve trails to minimise the conflicts created

by users stopping in the path of others.

- Continue to promote and support the development of programmed walking, skating and cycling opportunities especially the guided walks.

### **3.5 Equity, and access for people with a disability**

Council has a Disability Action Plan and many parks have defined entries, however accessibility to parks for people with a disability is still relatively poor. Accessibility is compounded by fencing of some sites, the lack of defined path systems, and the lack of accessible furniture and toilets.

The community survey for this project identified play facilities for children with a disability and access for people with a disability (paths furniture and toilets) as features of parks considered most important yet least well provided by Council.

Of the people with a disability who answered the survey, the majority said that “access, provide safer paths, transport, park amenities and educating the community” (in that order) were the main things Council could help people with a disability to use open space more.

The degree to which each is accessible should be determined by the catchments of the park (e.g. a regional or district park should exhibit the highest degree of accessibility).

A number of common issues to most parks were identified in the site inspections across the City. These include:

- Seats not having a space at the end or without extended concrete pad beneath to enable a person in a wheel chair to sit next to others
- Lack of accessible public toilets
- Granitic sand surfaces impassable by wheelchairs
- Tables that do not allow users of wheel chairs to sit up to them
- Many parks without kerb crossings or without access through car parking
- Poorly identified accessible facilities such as the public toilets
- Fences with unsuitable gates or barriers across the entries
- Play equipment not being designed to include children with a disability

#### **Strategies to address this issue**

Council will aim to provide (as far as practicable) relatively equitable access to open space - for at least social family recreation, trail activities and sport - in all neighbourhoods. Universal access should be the first principle of design.

- There should be opportunities for the core activities undertaken in open space to be provided in every neighbourhood (walking, cycling, walking the dog, swimming, relaxing, enjoying the views, jogging, playing or watching sport, informal ball games, skating and play).
- There should be access to a space for Relaxation Contemplation Escape (high environmental quality or views, no facilities other than seats / paths) within the neighbourhood.
- There should be at least three different functions present and four different setting types present in every neighbourhood (or three in neighbourhoods that do not abut the beach / foreshore).
- Open space in all neighbourhoods should provide the six categories of benefit described in the Appendices: i.e. healthy living, child development / play, conservation of habitat, civic pride, education and recreation (see Volume 2. Appendix 3).

- Instigate a process whereby all briefs require DDA compliance, and all design and construction works are signed off as DDA compliant.
- Introduce a process at the beginning of design that identifies the purpose, target market key activities - before design commences.
- Investigate the introduction of a relatively standard suite of robust and accessible park furniture that is DDA compliant.

Implement a program to retrofit public spaces commencing with:

- Creating access to all parks, and onto all trails;
- Investigate opportunities at Elwood, Lifesaving, Port Melbourne and St Kilda Life Saving clubs to provide portable access to the water for people in wheel chairs
- Retrofit one playground and social family recreation space in each neighbourhood.
- Encourage the Disability Advisory Committee to identify ongoing issues for resolution associated with access to opportunities in open space, for people with a disability.

### 3.6 Enjoying the beach and foreshore

The foreshore of the City of Port Phillip is one of the most visited public spaces in the City. In most cases it plays a different role to the beach and so has been classified separately. Community satisfaction Survey of 2004 revealed 66% of residents participated in foreshore activities of some description. (Newton Wayman Chong 2004)

Despite high levels of satisfaction, areas nominated for improvement on the foreshore were facilities such as drinking fountains, beach showers. Beach trails were perceived as excellent or good by 77% of respondents.

The foreshore performs a dual role of destination for visitors to Melbourne and local residents. High visitation especially at St Kilda requires sophisticated urban design responses as expressed in St Kilda Urban Design Framework.

Other areas of the foreshore, Sandridge and Elwood should be managed for other primary open space outcomes, such as family outings, casual physical exercise, sail boarding and appreciation of the natural environment. Foreshore plantings at Elwood provide a natural setting and habitat for local fauna.

Port Melbourne waterfront is an important leisure and tourist precinct for Melbourne. It serves capital city and regional functions as well as providing key open spaces to the local community. The Port Melbourne Waterfront Revitalisation Plan sets the strategic direction for this precinct. Perce White Reserve at Sandridge provides a naturalistic setting and opportunity to experience native landscapes and associated fauna.

A primary function of the foreshore is as an Access way / Trail. In some instances there are many competing interests associated with the foreshore, and the width and design of trail limits the full potential to fulfill this function, which is in very high demand. The promenade component of St Kilda's Edge may provide an appropriate model for managing high usage of shared trails.

The City of Port Phillip Foreshore Management Plan 2004 identifies the following issues related to open space.

- The provision of shade and seating along the foreshore
- Provision and design of the foreshore trail (there are several gaps and walking / dog walking and cycling / skating activities are not separated in some parts, and there are

- some conflicts with cars and other users)
- Trail users are not well serviced with relevant facilities such as beach showers, shelter, and drinking fountains.
- The need to create better connection to residential areas from the foreshore
- Access to and across the beach for people with a disability
- Maintaining a diversity of opportunities along the foreshore (ie in different neighbourhoods, and to support different water based recreation activities with minimal conflict between users)

The majority of these issues is either addressed by the Foreshore Management Plan 2004, or are the subject of other specific plans.

Two issues: shade and the provision and design of the foreshore trail (addressed previously in this plan) need to be addressed as a matter of priority. Beach access for the disabled is the subject of separate project.

### **Strategies to address this issue**

- Continue to enhance trail opportunities along the foreshore for walking cycling skating and wheeling.
- Continue to provide shade at foreshore
- Continue to improve litter and dog management in the vicinity along the foreshore and beaches.
- Provide access to the water and the beach at key nodes for people with a disability as an outcome with Joint Councils Access for all Abilities.
- Continue to implement the following Master plans, Sandridge Beach, Port Melbourne Waterfront, St Kilda Edge, Elwood Foreshore Management Plan.
- Collect data on foreshore visitation to inform appropriate planning.

## **3.7 Protecting biodiversity and the natural environment**

The City has a number of sites of native vegetation, significant trees and sites of cultural significance. The City also provides several community gardens. Community consultation for the open space strategy highlighted the high value placed on the natural environment and sites of biological significance by residents and community groups.

Coastal vegetation sites at Perce White Reserve and Elwood foreshore offer areas of regional conservation significance. Mature plantings provide habitat for a variety of bird species. These sites also provide an opportunity for areas that reference and showcase original coastal landscapes.

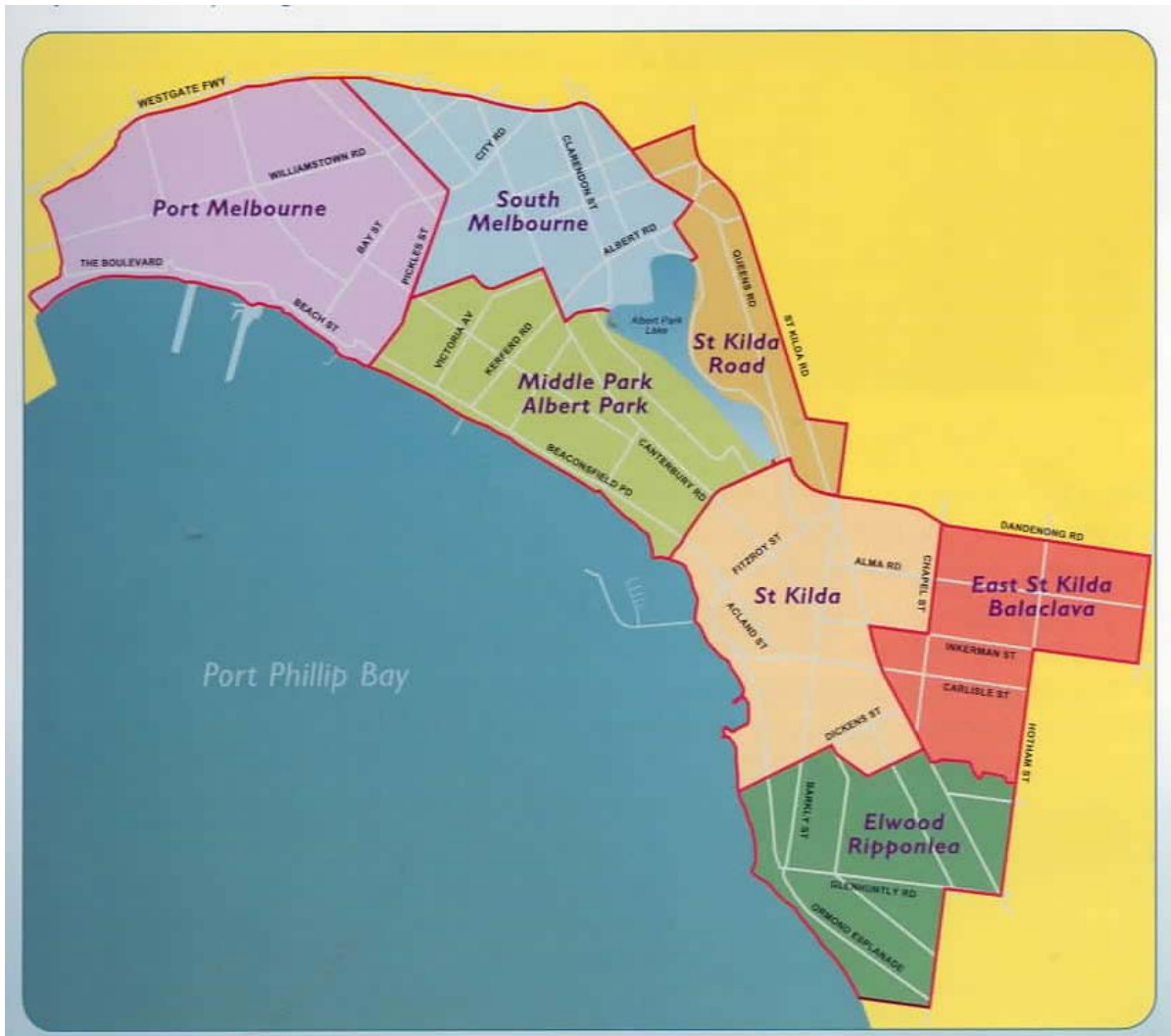
Public open space landscapes in all precincts should complement and enhance the environmental integrity and neighbourhood character of an area. Native plantings in

The City of Port Phillip should complement neighbourhood landscape character.

Strategies to address protection of the natural environment include:

- Preserve all sites of native vegetation
- Protect and enhance sites of conservation significance (cultural and flora fauna) particularly at Perce White Reserve and Elwood Foreshore.
- Continue to implement the Greening of Port Phillip program
- Continue to implement site specific master plans and conservation plans in consort with relevant community groups
- Encourage further planting in local open spaces.
- Continue to work with Friends groups to enhance the natural environment

## 4 Issues by Neighbourhood



The map above shows the boundaries of neighbourhoods in the City of Port Phillip

## 4.1 Port Melbourne and Garden City

### Population

In 2006, the resident population of the neighbourhood was 13,293. Port Melbourne experienced massive growth between 2001 and 2006, with an extra 2,920 people. Most of this growth is related to apartment development near the waterfront.

In the 2006 Census 11.6% of the Port Melbourne population usually were children aged between 0-14 years, and 23.3% were persons aged 55 years and over. The median age of persons in Port Melbourne was 37 years. This median age is consistent with the median age in Australia

### Overview of supply

Open space is well distributed in this precinct. There are some areas with generous spaces that are not well developed, several large sporting reserves not central to residential areas and a series of small landscaped spaces with a high degree of ornamentation at Beacon Cove. There is no prominent social family recreation space in this precinct. The foreshore provides variety of experience from natural landscapes of Perce White Reserve to tourist precinct of Station Pier.

### Planning directions<sup>4</sup>

The locality's established residential areas retain high quality residential environments, distinguished by strong heritage character and predominantly low-rise built form. New residential developments in these areas are limited. However, there is significant residential development of former industrial sites in mixed-use areas.

The area attracts increasing numbers of visitors who wish to experience its distinctive waterfront heritage and character and who increasingly access the area on foot, by public transport or by bicycle. As a result, there is an increase in retail and tourist related uses, particularly in areas abutting the foreshore.

The traditional focus on industrial land use at Fisherman's Bend will continue, although the nature of land use in the area is changing, with more low-key uses such as offices, warehousing and high technology manufacturing.

The Port Melbourne Management Framework 2004 provides the major strategic direction for Port Melbourne. The Management Framework guides and manages urban change with respect to private and public investment, land use, neighbourhood character and public realm. The plan addresses the Port Melbourne piers, Bay Street development, Fishermans Bend industrial precinct and transport infrastructure.

The Sandridge Beach Masterplan seeks to improve linear connections to residential areas along the foreshore and enhancement of landscape buffers.

<sup>4</sup> Port Phillip Municipal Strategic Statement, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2004



## **Issues and actions from the 1998 plan**

The following issues highlighted in the previous Open Space Strategy are still considered current for the locality.

- Increase the numbering of winter flowering, nectar-bearing trees to enhance the potential habitat, and selectively prune and remove the dense understorey vegetation from edges of shared pathway at Port Melbourne Light Rail Reserve.
- Retain the hard court area under the overpass at Graham Street, and prepare a concept plan with the local community for the adjoining reserve.
- Plant Todd Road Reserve using indigenous species to encourage habitat provision.
- Remove artificial mounds at E Jackson Reserve.
- Implement the Perce White Reserve management plan and secure ongoing management agreement with Melbourne Ports Corporation
- Ensure public access is maintained to the foreshore area from Princes Pier to Station Pier.

## **Issues and challenges**

Port Melbourne and Garden City neighbourhood have a predominately single storey scale of development in established residential areas that reflects the working class origins of the neighbourhood. Beacon Cove waterfront residential development represents a departure from the surrounding urban grain both in street network and residential density.

### **Garden City**

Garden City is dominated by Garden City Housing Estates that have significant heritage value to the City of Port Phillip. The estate has several key reserves including Garden City Reserve, RF Julier Reserve, Fred Jackson Reserve, Buckingham Reserve, Perce White Reserve and the Sandridge Foreshore.

### **Fisherman's Bend**

The Fisherman's Bend industrial area is the core industrial area for the City of Port Phillip and it is not envisaged to change in the medium to long term. Public open space is needed in this area to provide recreation space for workers and visitors to this precinct.

### **Port Melbourne**

The southern end of Bay St is an old industrial area that has been intensively redeveloped for housing. There is a lack of lighting in existing open space areas.

Port Melbourne will undergo further change with predominately unit developments. Many 'balcony' developments do not provide sufficient open space, and in the higher density development open space has rarely been taken as land.

Where industrial land is being converted to residential, open space contributions could be used to seek land for public open space.

The Port Melbourne foreshore will continue to be developed to retain Station Pier as a viable port and act as a gateway to Melbourne for visitors and 5 star shipping tourists. The public spaces of Port Melbourne have the potential to provide quality links to other foreshore areas and to become vibrant people spaces.

## **Beacon Cove**

Public open space in Beacon Cove residential development is typically small and highly ornamental. Whilst the spaces within the precinct maybe visually pleasing, they offer a limited range of recreational activity. Garden City Reserve and other associated spaces should be developed to serve as the major Social Family Space in this area.

The challenges in this neighbourhood will be to:

- Achieve the directions stated in the Port Melbourne Waterfront Revitalisation Plan
- Achieve the actions of the Sandridge Beach Masterplan
- Redesign existing overly ornamental spaces to better meet the needs of the growing number of residents who lack access to private open space
- In the light of increasing residential use, provide for demand from a diversifying population
- Ensure no net loss of usable open space if existing public housing estates undergo redevelopment (since some contain semi-public open space)
- Provide greater diversity within the existing stock of open space
- Manage open spaces, bearing in mind drainage issues
- Introduce open space into the industrial area (with the support of industry)
- Create more opportunities for local sport.

There are opportunities to enhance the use of J Murphy Reserve through provision of a perimeter path, rationalising of fencing and layout of grounds.

There are opportunities to create additional activities on the foreshore that would enhance its vibrancy and image and set it apart from other beaches in the City. There are opportunities to establish beach volleyball, programmed beach activities such as yoga, and introduce trampolines and bat tennis for example on the foreshore.

There are opportunities to enhance open space benefits in industrial areas through streetscape improvements.

### **Issues raised by the community**

The following key neighbourhood issues were raised through the community consultation process.

- Household survey respondents identified Port Melbourne Foreshore as the main open space used in the neighbourhood.
- Strong community views were expressed against using Garden City Reserve to develop Council's aged care facility.
- Walkways and pedestrian links in Beacon Cove were considered 'boring'.
- Stakeholders identified a need for more open space near the foreshore.
- Issues around the impact of large sporting events at Murphy Reserve upon local residents was raised.

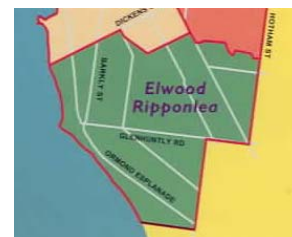
## ACTIONS

- Implement the recommendations of the Port Melbourne Water Front Revitalisation Report.
- Upgrade the sporting surfaces and lighting at Lagoon Reserve along with shade trees and plantings for passive recreation. (shade trees and planting completed)
- Redevelop Garden City Reserve for community sport and social family recreation uses, and better link with surrounding open space. (complete 09/10)
- Enhance the diversity of and link open spaces by varying the purpose and setting types of spaces in Port Melbourne.
- Improve accessibility for people with a disability at Edwards Reserve Park and Murphy Reserve.
- Diversify the setting types of the reserves abutting the light rail line, upgrade lighting and complete the Master Plan. (Pathway works and Raglan St car park closure for new open space complete)
- Develop circuit off-road trails throughout the precinct to connect key reserves (eg Murphy Reserve with the foreshore), and at least one perimeter path around Murphy Reserve.
- Enhance the viability and carrying capacity of sporting reserves at Murphy Reserve (lighting, relocation of the depot, rationalising of fences etc.) and local sporting areas at R F Julier Reserve subject to community consultation. (Irrigation upgrade at Murphy was extended into the baseball ground)
- Upgrade playground at Murphy Reserve, redevelop perimeter fencing and BBQs. Construct a perimeter path around the reserve. Consider integrating the depot site into the reserve. (To be considered in master plan to be undertaken 2009/10)
- Enhance the visual amenity of the Williamstown Road frontage of Port Melbourne Football Ground.
- Review opportunities to enhance open space provision, or access to existing open space, in the area bounded by Williamstown Road, Ingles Street, Graham Street, and Ross Street, as well as the area bounded by Bay Street, Graham Street, Beach Street and Princes Street. (Pocket Park developments completed 08/09)
- Manage new development in the mixed-use area so that it does not overshadow key public spaces, including the foreshore.
- Redevelop the area south west of the light rail reserve for BMX purposes to encourage a youth precinct at this reserve.
- Prepare a management plan for the Port Skate and BMX area.
- Consider taking open space in the Fisherman's Bend industrial area to enhance visual amenity, relaxation contemplation escape and off-road trail access for workers.
- Consider planting the centre median of Ingles Street to enhance visual amenity for workers and residents.
- Investigate opportunities for enhanced boulevard plantings at The Boulevard and Esplanade East
- Investigate opportunities to establish beach volleyball, programmed beach activities such as yoga, and trampolines and bat tennis on the foreshore. (Bat tennis established)
- Retain a social a family recreation space in the Beach St public housing estate, should it ever be redeveloped.
- Upgrade fencing for the Port Melbourne Football Ground.
- Upgrade Turville Reserve as teenage play space to compliment the area under Graeme Street overpass.
- Implement the Sandridge Beach Master Plan. (complete 09/10)
- Continue to enhance Perce White Reserve as a high quality native landscape
- Upgrade Port Melbourne Tennis Club courts, pavilion and toilets
- Review the function of Elder Smith Reserve as high value public open space.
- Upgrade playgrounds in Port Melbourne precinct as per Playground Strategy
- Upgrade bike routes on Todd Rd and The Boulevard
- Link Westgate Park with Port Melbourne foreshore
- Improve visitor domain at Port Melbourne

## 4.2 Elwood and Ripponlea

### Population

In 2006, the resident population of the neighbourhood was 13,785 in Elwood and 1,379 in Ripponlea. Elwood / Ripponlea's population increased by 1,116 people between 2001 and 2006.



In the 2006 Census 11.6% of the Elwood population were children aged between 0-14 years, and 15.1% were persons aged 55 years and over. The median age of persons in Elwood was 34 years, compared with 37 years for persons in Australia.

In the 2006 Census 13.4% of the Ripponlea population were children aged between 0-14 years, and 16.5% were persons aged 55 years and over. The median age of persons in Ripponlea (Suburb) was 34 years, compared with 37 years for persons in Australia.

### Overview of supply

Mature street trees and period architecture contribute to the high environmental amenity in sections of this neighbourhood.

This area is served by Elwood Park and foreshore, the Canal, School Park, Clarkes Reserve and Elsternwick Park (Bayside City Council). However, the Nepean Highway and the railway line create barriers for residents who live in the east of the neighbourhood to access open space. The areas between Barkly Street, Mitford Street and Brighton Road and Hotham Street, (south of Carlisle Street) are poorly served by public open space.

The only off-road trails serving this neighbourhood are along the foreshore, and part way along the Elwood Canal.

### Planning directions

Established residential areas are to retain their distinctive suburban character, including large front and rear setbacks, established gardens, and low rise built form. There will be limited new development. Established homes are to be retained and refurbished to ensure that a range of housing choices are available.

Marine Parade and Ormond Esplanade are to retain their residential character. Council's Elwood Foreshore and Recreation Reserves Management Plan details the future directions for the management and development of the significant network of parks, reserves and foreshore. Seven key focus areas for capital works have been highlighted in the plan for future landscaping, walking / cycle trail realignment and other works. These key focus areas are:

- Point Ormond car park
- Elwood Beach (open grass area)
- Elwood foreshore plaza
- Beach House Café car park
- Off-road trail at the rear of Elwood Life Saving Club
- Elwood Park car park
- Elwood Park pavilion

## Issues and challenges

The steady loss of single dwellings on large garden allotments is changing the character of this previously family-based suburb. However, current policies discourage new medium density development except in appropriate locations (eg around nodes).

The challenges in this neighbourhood will be to:

- Protect the stock of large dwellings with private open space
- Protect residential character (e.g. Marine Parade, Ormond Esplanade)
- Accommodate future use of the foreshore while avoiding over development and environmental degradation.
- Provide off-road trails connecting to the foreshore trail
- Provide for the demand for social family recreation and dog exercising away from the foreshore
- Create better accessibility to the foreshore from the rest of the suburb
- Allow appropriate development of the Elwood Canal corridor (eg ensuring that new developments do not overshadow Elwood Canal Reserve and that provides visual surveillance over the canal)

## Issues raised by the community

The following key neighbourhood issues were raised through the community consultation process.

- Household survey respondents identified Elwood Foreshore and Reserves as the most-used open space in the neighbourhood.
- Residents requested that Elwood Canal be cleaned, and the Elwood Foreshore revitalised.
- Free car parking was sought at Point Ormond and Elwood Beach.
- 'Better presentation and maintenance of open space' is required.
- 'Elwood Park has plenty of opportunities for activity, lots of passive users, it has a good mix.'

## ACTIONS

Implement the Elwood Foreshore and Recreation Reserves Management Plan 2005 including:

- Realignment of trail and car parking at rear of Sails restaurant (to be completed in 09/10)
- Improve Elwood Park sports pavilion (due for completion 06/10)
- Provision of grassed area at Elwood Beach (complete)
- Improvements to Elwood Park car park and associated landscapes (completed)
- Improve Pt Ormond Hill (complete)
- Upgrade beach facilities including lighting (complete)
- Promote the Elwood Canal Linear Park as an important recreational asset for the local community. (ongoing)
- Encourage new development adjoining the Elwood Canal to address and provide visual surveillance over the Canal. Ensuring new development does not overshadow Elwood Canal Reserve. (ongoing)
- Protect and upgrade the School Park as a public open space, in consultation with the school. (completed)
- Redesign the edges of the Elwood Canal, and its interface with the School Park to enhance community recreation and natural environmental values. (completed)
- Extend and enhance the quality of the trail along Elwood Canal.
- Provide an off-road circuit trail through this area, linking the foreshore and schools and

Elwood Canal. Connect the off-road trail from Bent Street and Elsternwick Park to Elwood Beach and the foreshore trail.

- Review opportunities in the areas identified as under-served to provide open space benefits: i.e. between Barkly Street, Mitford Street and Brighton Road and Hotham Street, (south of Carlisle Street).
- Implement the Elwood Canal Master Plan (ongoing)
- Upgrade cricket wicket at Wattie Watson and provide additional lighting and seating (complete)
- Consider opportunities to improve access to parks and walkability for example investigate upgrading the crossing on Glenhuntly Road near the primary school to a zebra crossing.

## 4.3 Albert Park and Middle Park

### Population

In 2006, the resident population of the neighbourhood was 5,827 in Albert Park and 4,012 in Middle Park. There has been minimal growth in Middle Park/Albert Park, with only 290 more residents in 2006 than 2001.



In the 2006 Census 13.0% of the Albert Park population and 14.1% of the Middle Park population were children aged between 0-14 years. In Albert Park 27.7% were persons aged 55 years and over and 27.1% in Middle Park were 55 years and over. The median age of persons in Albert Park was 39 years and 38 yrs for Middle Park, compared with 37 years for persons in Australia.

### Overview of supply

This neighbourhood (apart from the foreshore) is characterised by low-rise period housing. It is likely to remain this way due to heritage controls.

Most of the neighbourhood is within easy access to either the foreshore or Albert Park Reserve, both are highly visited public spaces. Albert Park Reserve is managed by Parks Victoria and is subject to a Memorandum of Understanding in relation to communication and roles between major stakeholders. The Grand Prix as an annual event removes a large part of local open space from public access for sporting clubs and individuals.

There is also a series of small parks located in narrow streets. St Vincent Gardens is a highly ornamental park and play-space. Gasworks Park is a unique arts precinct and popular dog exercising space offering a variety of landscapes and activities in a small area.

### Planning Directions<sup>5</sup>

Established residential areas are to retain their strong heritage character and substantially low-rise form. Only limited opportunities exist for new low-rise development and modest growth will occur in these areas in a carefully managed way to ensure that the high quality residential environment is maintained and enhanced.

Beaconsfield Parade is to retain its strong residential role and character. Sites of identified heritage significance are to be conserved and the boulevard qualities of Beaconsfield Parade enhanced.

### Issues and challenges

Residents use the foreshore and Albert Park Lake and it will be important to ensure that access to these major regional assets remains available to local communities.

There are several tiny house-block-sized play places, small sites and medians offering visual amenity. The viability of very small play spaces in this neighbourhood needs to be assessed.

The foreshore's accessibility is constrained by Beaconsfield Parade, which is crossable at five locations. There is no wheel chair access to the beach in this or any other neighbourhood.

The tiny reserve in Neville St is not zoned as open space and has some accessibility issues. It should be protected in the absence of any larger open space.

Key challenges in this area are:

- Provision of adequate social family recreation and relaxation space for residents away from the foreshore
- Pressure for new development along Beaconsfield Parade that may diminish the open space values of the foreshore and further restrict views and diminish residential amenity.
- Minimise the impact of seasonal tourism activity, such as the Grand Prix.
- Utilizing spaces such as the Dank St median as open space without conflicts. Consider opportunities to make the best use of this open space through redesign.

### **Issues raised by the community**

The following key neighbourhood issues were raised through the community consultation process.

- Household survey respondents across the municipality identified three open spaces in the neighbourhood that were used most: Albert Park / Albert Park Lake (13.8%), St Vincent Gardens (5.2%) and Gasworks Park (3.9%).
- Albert Park Lake is a highly valued open space.
- Generally there is appreciation for the existing network of parks and open spaces in the neighbourhood.

### **ACTIONS**

- Review the purpose and setting type of HR Johnson Reserve (on the south side of Canterbury Road) and consider use as for biodiversity plantings, tree reserve, relaxation / contemplation space or visual amenity.
- Redesign the tiny single-house-block play spaces to improve accessibility and quality.
- Enhance boulevard plantings in Beaconsfield Parade and strong landscape connections with Albert Park Reserve
- Increase accessibility to St Vincent Gardens (curb crossing and entries from the street) and Gasworks Park (furniture and paths).
- Wherever possible expand existing house block sized parks in this neighbourhood to provide social family recreation
- Consider expanding/ designing the Dank St medians to provide better for play (and in another section: dog exercise) (Playground upgrade planed 09/10. Extension of median complete)
- Protect the tiny open spaces in this neighbourhood and zone as PPRZ in the planning scheme; especially Jacoby Reserve and Johnston Reserve. (completed)
- Upgrade the play space at Gasworks Park to complement role of park as Arts Space. (pending contamination issues)
- Review use of small play spaces and redesign to provide maximum use for small reserves such as Ashworth, Neville, Little Page and Finlay. (Ashworth 2009/2010)



## 4.4 South Melbourne

### Population

In 2006, the resident population of the neighbourhood was 8,790 and increase of 1,046 residents from 2001.

In the 2006 Census 10.3% of the population were children aged between 0-14 years, and 22.4% were persons aged 55 years and over. The median age of persons in South Melbourne was 35 years, compared with 37 years for persons in Australia .



### Overview of supply

This neighbourhood has access to one large open space, Albert Park, and a number of significant smaller ones, that contribute to the heritage fabric of the City, including Skinners supervised adventure playground, St Vincent Gardens, and several civic and formal spaces that contain mature elms, including Anzac Gardens to the east.

Interesting and attractive street treatments in this neighbourhood offer open space benefits, including visual amenity. As well, pockets of garden plantings on nature strips and traffic management spaces are utilised as lunch spaces.

South Melbourne, especially in the central area is generally underserved by public open space.

### Planning Directions<sup>6</sup>

South Melbourne is identified in Melbourne 2030 - Planning for Sustainable Growth<sup>7</sup> as one of Port Phillip's future Activity Centres. The South Melbourne Central precinct is a genuine example of an integrated mixed-use precinct anchored around the South Melbourne Market and Clarendon Street strip shopping centre.

A planning project is being undertaken looking at the future of the area of South Melbourne Central (SMC) focused on the Clarendon Street and Coventry Street shopping strips. The SMC Structure Plan has been prepared in response to development pressure and recommendations of an Industry and Business Strategy prepared by the Council. The major actions recommended in the SMS Structure Plan related to open space are;

- The streets of South Melbourne Central should also reflect their role as the activity spaces
- A balance must be met between using the street for private and public uses. The two uses should be well integrated
- Connection to nearby open spaces such as Albert Park or foreshore must be improved as detailed in Council's Walk Plan
- The Civic Precinct space in front of the Town Hall is an under-utilised space and should be redeveloped
- Redevelopment of the South Melbourne Market will create new public spaces

<sup>6</sup> Port Phillip Municipal Strategic Statement, 15th July 2004

<sup>7</sup> South Melbourne Central Draft Structure Plan, 2005

- Dead end streets such as Coventry Street and Chessell Street could be better used as public spaces

South Melbourne's industrial areas continue to have a mixed-use industrial and commercial character but now increasingly accommodate lower impact uses, such as offices, service industries and high technology manufacturing. These areas continue to be a significant source of employment for Port Phillip, adding to the diverse economic base of the municipality and providing economic support to the Clarendon Street retail centre and South Melbourne Market.

A scheme to upgrade South Melbourne Market proposes that the building gathers in footpaths on its east, west and northern edges to provide small public spaces in the same manner as the awnings along Clarendon Street. Apart from the amenity benefits, this will appear to bring the Market closer to the South Melbourne Centre.<sup>8</sup>

Council's Greening Port Phillip Initiative identifies three working principles, which are relevant to the development of public open space. They are:

- To expand the street tree planting / replacement program
- To provide a net increase in usable public open space
- To increase permeable surfaces within the public and private realm.

The initiative has highlighted sections of Smith Street and Cobden Street in South Melbourne as priority areas for the implementation.

#### **Issues and actions from the 1998 plan**

The following issues highlighted in the previous Open Space Strategy are still considered current for the locality.

- Continue to support staffing requirements of Skinners Adventure Playground and promote the playground to improve visitation. Conduct an annual safety audit and review of play facilities.
- Explore potential partial street closures and links to Anzac Gardens (from Howe Crescent Reserve North and South) to improve general amenity and use.
- Prepare a concept plan for Dorcas and Lyell Street Reserves.

#### **Issues and challenges**

There are several opportunities for open space redevelopment in this neighbourhood, including the Park Towers Park<sup>9</sup>, South Melbourne railway station, South Melbourne Market forecourt and the small park on Kings Way. Several wide streets in this neighbourhood could be reconfigured to provide additional open space benefits.

While a core area of South Melbourne will be retained as an industrial zone (Montague Street) and promoted for offices and high-tech industry, there appear to be no plans to provide for public open space in this area.

<sup>8</sup> Patrick Partners. South Melbourne Centre, Retail Analysis Final Report

<sup>9</sup> –Land not managed by Council

Key challenges in this neighbourhood include:

- Creating new types of spaces in developing mixed use and higher density zones whilst retaining the form of heritage spaces
- Creating pedestrian / cycle and skate access through the neighbourhood, and
- Catering for activities that require larger open spaces, e.g. foundation sports activities, dog walking.

Care should be taken to avoid creating spaces that are too small (e.g. street closure spaces) and limited in their capacity to offer the desired experiences. Instead, opportunities to extend existing spaces and create off-road trails should be considered.

### **Issues raised by the community**

The key neighbourhood issue raised through the community consultation process was concern over the lack of parks in the South Melbourne area.

### **ACTIONS**

- Review the use, purpose and design of the open grassy areas with elm / palm trees.
- Consider opportunities to provide horticultural opportunities, foundation sports skills and a dog park in this neighbourhood.
- Review options to create spaces in the area currently under-served, and to provide higher streetscape amenity in areas where new open space is unlikely to be taken.
- Consider opportunities to take open space in the industrial zones and vegetate wide medians.
- Upgrade the accessibility of access into St Vincent Gardens.
- Advocate for a redesign of Park Towers Reserve to encourage more physical and social activity (community garden installed)
- Continue to upgrade Skinners Adventure Playground. (complete)
- Complete implementation of Vincent Gardens Master Plan. (ongoing)
- Create a wide green centre median at James Service Place.
- Seek new open space in this neighbourhood as developer contributions should land become available.
- Develop open space opportunities as per South Melbourne Structure Plan at South Melbourne Market and the Town Hall
- Consider redesign of the northern section of Eastern Road Reserves to facilitate greater use.

## 4.5 St Kilda Road and Queens Road neighbourhood

### Population

Rapid development has taken place since the early 1990s, with the population nearly doubling between 1991 and 2001. Rapid growth continued between 2001 and 2006, a result of new dwellings being added to the area, particularly high density housing. Recent growth has been due largely to the demolition of office



There is a lower proportion of 0-17 years olds 5.6% compared to the Port Phillip 11.3%.

### Overview of supply

This area lacks access to municipal public open space. Albert Park Reserve sporting facilities<sup>11</sup> include tennis courts but these are only available for hire at select times of the year. Most non-enclosed sections of Albert Park available for public use are more than a 400 metre walk for residents in this precinct, and there is no pedestrian or cycle access across Queens Road. Also, there is no playground within 500m, and no public open space opportunities for Relaxation / Contemplation Escape, Community Horticulture or Social Family Recreation Space, nor Off-road Trails for residents in this neighbourhood.

### Planning Directions<sup>12</sup>

St Kilda Road and Kings Way are seen as key gateways to the Melbourne Central Activity District from the southeastern suburbs.

St Kilda Road and Albert Road will retain their boulevard character and important views and vistas to the Shrine of Remembrance and Albert Park Reserve respectively. Albert Park Reserve will continue to provide a range of recreational and sporting activities set within an attractive parkland setting, accessible to the local and wider community.

The high standard of front setback landscaping along St Kilda Road is to be maintained and enhanced with more active frontages at street level, including convenience shops and restaurants that create a greater level of pedestrian activity and interest. The boulevard character of St Kilda Road is to be retained and important views and vistas to the Shrine of Remembrance protected.

Queens Road continues to be a high-quality residential area with development at higher densities than in the established residential areas of Port Phillip. New development in the area around High Street and Punt Road will consolidate this as an area of medium density development and improve streetscape amenity.

The Joint Action Plan 2004 (for this neighbourhood) recommends that the Cities of Melbourne and Port Phillip work together in preparing long-term concept plan for St Kilda Road, as part of the Melbourne Boulevards Strategy project. Such concept plans will explore opportunities for maintaining/improving the aesthetic and landscape values of St Kilda Road, as well as improving the functional priority given to trams, pedestrians and cyclists.

A pedestrian crossing of Queens Road to access Albert Park should be pursued.

<sup>11</sup> Albert Park is managed by Parks Victoria

<sup>12</sup> Port Phillip Municipal Strategic Statement, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2005

## Issues and actions from the 1998 plan

The following issues highlighted in the previous Open Space Strategy are still considered current for the locality.

- Council to continue to maintain medians throughout St Kilda and Albert Roads.

## Issues and challenges

High-rise unit developments are taking place here, as well as conversion of office accommodation to residential living. A recent study:<sup>13</sup> of apartment dwellers in the Cities of Port Phillip, Yarra, Stonnington and Melbourne identified issues regarding the use and perceptions of open space areas that are relevant to this report. The study suggested that the external environment is valued by residents of high-density developments. Relevant findings are listed below.

- Just under a third of all respondents reported owning a bicycle, and 10.4% of those used it daily.
- Overall, respondents were very active, having higher rates of participation in almost all activities when compared to other areas of Melbourne. This was identified as being reflective of the younger age structure, the greater affluence and higher levels of education of inner City residents, and the relative ease of accessing recreational activities in the inner City.
- A number of the more strenuous activities were popular with inner City residents. However, this high rate of participation may be due to lifestyle factors, including the absolute need to leave home to access any exercise opportunities at all.
- Only one-quarter of respondents reported being satisfied with the private open space they currently had (28.4%). Almost half reported a desire to have larger private open spaces.

Key challenges in this area are to:

- Minimise poorly designed new development that threatens to diminish the special character of the area by eroding the spacious 'boulevard' character of St Kilda Road and Queens Road, (i.e. not maintaining the landscaped front setbacks, view lines and separation between buildings, and by intruding upon key vistas to the Shrine and adjacent parklands)<sup>14</sup>
- Create access across Queens Road into Albert Park
- Avoid wind tunnels, overshadowing and other adverse amenity impacts
- Minimise further facility development in Albert Park.

## Issues raised by the community

- The following key neighbourhood issues were raised through the community consultation process.
- Household survey respondents identified Albert Park and Albert Park Lake as the most used open space in the municipality (13.8% of total respondents use the park / lake).
- Better pedestrian access to Albert Park from Queens Road was sought.

<sup>13</sup> Inner City Apartment and Residents Survey 2004, Metropolis Research (Cities of Yarra, Stonnington, Port Phillip, Melbourne) and Vic Urban.

<sup>14</sup> City of Port Phillip

## ACTIONS

- Pursue a new crossing of Queens Road into Albert Park for pedestrians and cyclists (ongoing)
- Development of master plan for St Kilda Road in conjunction with city of Melbourne, this should consider opportunities to improve the nature strips.
- Consider local streetscape improvements to ameliorate the impact of development, to enhance environmental amenity, and to encourage trail activities and the use of the streetscape for social activities (including foundation sport and dining).
- Work with the City of Melbourne to pursue boulevard plantings in St Kilda Rd (2009/10 tree planting)
- Protect views to Albert Park and Fawkner Park from developments in order to enhance a sense of connectedness to open space. (ongoing)
- Consider redesign / hardening the areas around the BBQ / picnic facilities in the South African war Memorial Reserve in St Kilda Road and provide a formed path to facilities to stop wear.
- Enhance the space on Park Eastern Reserve (south) for Social Family Recreation and make this space and the Eastern Road north space more accessible to users of wheel chairs.
- Review options with Parks Victoria for the public to have access to Albert Ground in any new lease discussions.

## 4.6 St Kilda

### Population

In 2006, the resident population of the neighbourhood was 19,197 for St Kilda and St Kilda West. The number of people living in the locality increased by 737 between 2001 and 2006. Nearly a quarter of Port Phillip's residents live in St Kilda / St Kilda West. Of note: 65% of residents are aged between 25 and 54.



In the 2006 Census 6.1% of the St Kilda population were children aged between 0-14 years, and 16.8% were persons aged 55 years and over. The median age of persons in St Kilda was 34 years, compared with 37 years for persons in Australia

### Overview of supply

This neighbourhood has several important spaces, such as the St Kilda Botanical Gardens, Peanut Farm Reserve and the St Kilda Adventure Playground, as well as the foreshore, and spaces along the esplanade. However, linkages between these open spaces – as well as to them - is relatively poor. Smaller streetscape open spaces offer lunchtime opportunities and enhanced residential amenity. Jim Duggan Reserve provides for social family recreation for a local catchment.

There are a number of small pockets of open space at the corners of streets and at roundabouts that display artwork, landscape elements, seats etc. These contribute significant play value and landscape amenity and enhance civic pride.

### Planning Directions<sup>15</sup>

The established residential areas are to retain their unique heritage and urban character and generally low-rise built form. Properties along the foreshore are to retain their residential role. Limited new development will occur in this area provided it is of comparable bulk and height to the dominant built form.

The distinctive and unique cultural heritage, built form character and environmental setting of the St Kilda Foreshore Area is to be retained and enhanced, in order to reinforce the locality's threefold role: seaside residential, leisure and entertainment, and marine recreation.

The important history of the Acland Street and Fitzroy Street retail centres (as part of the earliest seaside resort in Melbourne) reflected in its heritage places and urban character is to be conserved and enhanced. They will continue to be regionally important Activity Centres.

The appearance and amenity of mixed-use areas are to be upgraded, and retained with residential character than commercial and light industrial uses.

Council's St Kilda's Edge: Soul and Sand urban design framework will guide Council's revitalisation of the St Kilda foreshore.

<sup>15</sup> Port Phillip Municipal Strategic Statement, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2004

### **Issues still current from 1998 Plan**

The following issues highlighted in the previous Open Space Strategy are still considered current for the locality. Specific recommendations regarding the ongoing maintenance, management and redevelopment of the Esplanade Slopes are being addressed through Council's St Kilda Edge project.

- Continue to develop and maintain the St Kilda Botanical Gardens in accordance with the Future Directions and Conservation Plan. Also, investigate the improved sensitively designed signage in the surrounding area.
- Ensure in future redevelopment of adjoining sites to O'Donnell Gardens, that the integrity, layout and character of the gardens are retained.

### **Issues and challenges**

Off-road trail access in this area is difficult as are connections with the Albert Park reserves and the City.

Key challenges in this neighbourhood include to:

- Protect the remaining stock of large dwellings and single dwelling lots in order to maximise private open space and minimise potential obstruction to views of the Bay
- Retain the residential nature of existing properties fronting the St Kilda foreshore
- Provide off-road trails for pedestrian, cycle and wheel chair access through the neighbourhood and to key open space destinations.
- Retain St Kilda Botanic Gardens as a botanic collection and for relaxation and contemplation rather than trying to be all things to all people.
- Enhance the pedestrian access along the foreshore in the vicinity of the St Kilda Marina.

### **Issues raised by the community**

The following key neighbourhood issues were raised through the community consultation process.

- Household survey respondents identified St Kilda Botanical Gardens and St Kilda Beach and foreshore areas as the most used open spaces in the locality.
- Council needs to establish a balance between the provision of events and maintaining quiet, relaxation areas.
- Conflicts between users of reserves needs to be better managed.
- 'Consider the expansion of the Veg Out Garden – it's very popular.'
- Greater understanding and development of habitat values and heritage areas needs to be fostered.
- Maintenance of open spaces needs to be improved.



## ACTIONS

- Retrofit the playground at Jim Duggan Reserve for accessibility. (completed)
- Consider rezoning the Jim Duggan Reserve and Waterloo Crescent Reserve to Public Park and recreation. (completed)
- Close Blessington Street between Peanut Farm and Renfrey Gardens to enhance foundation sport and play opportunities in the neighbourhood, and minimise conflicts between users and with cars.
- Enhance the accessibility of the O'Donnell Gardens off The Esplanade for people with a disability, and consider its design to enhance use.
- Undertake landscape treatments along Marine Parade to minimise the impact of traffic and enhance the sense of space for people using the reserve.
- Minimise further building development in St Kilda Botanic Gardens and continue to enhance the botanic collections. Implement Conservation Master Plan and Future Directions Plan. Improve signage, drainage and watering systems. (Future Directions Plan 09/10)
- Complete the foreshore trail in this neighbourhood and accommodate a wide range of users. (complete)
- Ensure that the adventure playground continue to cater for children of low-income families. (Upgraded 08/09)
- Consider Skate Park facility for youth
- Upgrade one entry into Alfred Square Gardens to make it accessible to people in wheelchairs. (09/10)
- Implement St Kilda Edge Project for the St Kilda Foreshore including:
  - Foreshore promenade and Pier (complete)
  - Triangle Site redevelopment (pending planning applications and Council direction)
  - Shakespeare Grove
  - West Beach Pavilion redevelopment (underway)
  - St Kilda Harbour (underway)
  - Repairs to rock walls at Catani Gardens
  - Alfred Square upgrade. (09/10)
- Undertake a plan of the foreshore from St Kilda Beach to Moran Reserve to increase accessibility along the Marina for pedestrians and cyclists. Develop the areas south of St Kilda Beach as a node for visitors to use the trail. Provide /resite seats and other facilities to support this function.
- Upgrade playground and facilities at Catani Gardens (complete 09/10)

## 4.7 East St Kilda and Balaclava

### Population

In 2006, the resident population of the neighbourhood was 17,223. A high proportion (over 53%) of residents were aged between 25 and 54 years. The number of people living in locality increased by 789 between 2001 and 2006.



In the 2006 Census 14.2% of the St Kilda East population were children aged between 0-14 years, and 18.3% were persons aged 55 years and over. The median age of persons in St Kilda East was 33 years, compared with 37 years for persons in Australia.

In the 2006 Census 11.9% of the Balaclava population usually resident in were children aged between 0-14 years, and 16.5% were persons aged 55 years and over. The median age of persons in Balaclava was 33 years, compared with 37 years for persons in Australia.

### Overview of supply

This neighbourhood has two major open spaces: St Kilda Cemetery (not managed by Council) and Alma Park. Alma Park provides the major social family recreation in this neighbourhood as well as the only sports ground, and is therefore a major resource for nearby schools. Hewison Reserve also provides for social family recreation, but only for a local catchment. Other small spaces exist at William Street, and Te-Arai Reserve. Given high population density in this precinct and limited recreation space the neighbourhood is considered underserved in public open space.

### Planning directions<sup>16</sup>

The established residential areas are to retain their mixed architectural character and diverse housing stock while heritage places or areas are to be conserved and enhanced. Any new residential development will respect the important setback and garden characteristics of the area. New development, including alterations to existing buildings, will be encouraged only where it can be achieved without adversely affecting the character of the area, or the amenity of adjoining properties.

### Issues still current from 1998 Plan

The following issues highlighted in the previous Open Space Strategy are still considered current for the locality.

- Implement the recommendations for Alma Park from the City's Conservation Study.
- Recognise and retain the intent of the artist playground at Alma Park.
- Continue the nature links revegetation program.

### Issues and challenges

The current residential planning strategy in East St Kilda appears to be working well for this area. However, new park development in this neighbourhood has failed to take into account the needs of people using wheel chairs. For example, Hewison Street Reserve and the seating in Alma Park should be retrofitted to be accessible.

Upgrading works are occurring at the St Kilda Cemetery (not managed by Council). This reserve offers considerable opportunities for recreation, including walking, interpreting cultural heritage (particularly Australian political history) that should be promoted.

The areas between Hotham and Orrong Roads, and between Inkerman Street, St Kilda Road

and the railway line are not adequately served in terms of local open space.

<sup>16</sup> Port Phillip Municipal Strategic Statement, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2004

### **Issues raised by the community**

The following key neighbourhood issues were raised through the community consultation process.

- Household survey respondents identified Alma Park as the most used park or reserve in the locality.
- There is community concern about large scale, high-density residential developments.
- There is a need for more open spaces in the area, particularly sporting facilities and off-road trails.

### **ACTIONS**

- Pursue opportunities for additional open space in this neighbourhood. (ongoing)
- Consider adding some hard court space for young people in Hewison Reserve.
- Review options to provide open space benefits in the areas currently under-served.
- Seek options to provide a circuit trail through this area to connect with local schools and Alma Park, and to provide a safe trail route to the foreshore.
- Create a new senior playground at Alma Park. Create new pathways at Olive Grove and Elm Walk. Restore heritage pavilion. Consider ball-playing spaces in the park. (completed)
- Should there be future development of properties on the western boundary of Alma Park, seek to ensure that they address the park
- Explore the possibility of providing a hard court space in this neighbourhood.
- Consider rezoning the William Street and Te- Arai Reserves to PPRZ. (completed)
- Protect the open space in association with Balaclava Railway Station and consider purchasing the building immediately to the east for open space purposes should the density of this area increase.
- Protect and replant the green median in Bothwell Street.
- Promote St Kilda Cemetery as an open space and guided walks and other interpretive activities on site.
- Review the function of Alma Place as high value public open space.
- Upgrade vegetation around railway stations at Balaclava and Ripponlea

### Changes Made to document following Review July 2009

Page	Change
Page 2	Comments added to introduction
Page 4	Comments added re additional principle
Page 5	New principle (9) added
Page 5	Minor change to principle one
Page 7	Snapshot of projects completed inserted
Page 11	Reference to 2009 council Plan
Page 12	Demographics updated
Page 13	Community Plan information inserted
Page 14	Council Plan 2009 -2013 inserted
Page 17	New map inserted
Page 26	Update on implementation of priorities
Page 33	Reference to dog of leash policy currently under review
Page 40	Demographics updated
Page 41	Removed reference to horse being issue at Perce White Reserve
Page 43	Status of actions inserted
Page 44	Demographics updated
Page 45	Status of actions inserted
Page 46	Additional action added
Page 47	Demographics updated
Page 49	Demographics updated
Page 26	Reference to Skate Park in Albert Park deleted
Page 52	Demographics updated
Page 54	Additional action inserted
Page 55	Demographics updated
Page 57	Status of actions inserted
Page 58	Minor change to reference of St Kilda Triangle redevelopment
Page 59	Status of actions inserted