

## **21.11 OPEN SPACE**

19/01/2006  
VC37

### **21.11-1 Overview**

19/01/2006  
VC37

Kingston is host to a great diversity of open space areas, which perform a range of recreational, tourism, environmental, ecological and educational functions.

Significant natural open space areas include Braeside Park, the Edithvale Seaford wetlands, and the Grange Reserve, which are managed and protected for their remnant woodlands, flora and fauna habitats, indigenous vegetation, and wetland areas. Whilst the tourism and educational experiences derived from these environments do contribute to community enjoyment of open spaces within Kingston, the protection of their intrinsic natural attributes should take precedence over the competing demands of recreational users.

The ability of our open space areas to meet the changing leisure and recreational needs of our population is becoming an increasingly important issue. Future changes in Kingston's population age structure are likely to have significant implications for the provision of community infrastructure and services, including the location and type of recreation and open space facilities required by future populations.

### **21.11-2 Key issues**

19/01/2006  
VC37

- Impact of changes in population structure on the recreation and open space needs of current and future populations.
- Need for flexible, multi-functional open space areas which are able to be adapted to meet changing user needs.
- Greater consideration of transport and physical access issues required to ensure accessibility to open space areas for ageing population.
- Need to balance the competing demands of recreation users with management of environmentally sensitive areas.
- Opportunities for the creation of a major north-south spine of regional open space through Sandbelt Open Space Strategy.

### **21.11-3 Objectives, strategies and implementation**

19/01/2006  
VC37

#### **Objective 1**

To provide fair and equitable access to a range of high quality open space areas located within Kingston's urban and non urban environments which aim to optimise community enjoyment of open space.

#### **Strategies**

Strategies to achieve this objective include:

- Promote the development of open space linkages including bicycle/pedestrian trails to connect residential, commercial and industrial areas to existing open space, recreational facilities and local and regional trail networks.
- Encourage the location of active open space facilities along public transport routes and in conjunction with schools, community centres and other activity centres to provide a focus for social interaction.

- Ensure that new development adjacent to existing public open space is responsive to the natural landscape features of the open space area.
- Ensure that the design and siting of open space maximises community safety and accessibility and provides opportunities for surveillance.
- Ensure that proposed open space areas (including open space contributions) are of appropriate size, shape, slope, drainage and vegetation to suit their proposed end use, and are not significantly affected by flooding or other natural environmental processes.
- Prevent any net reduction in public open space except where adequate compensatory provision is made elsewhere.

## **Objective 2**

To promote a diverse range of social and recreational opportunities which provide for the changing leisure needs of the municipality's current and future populations.

### **Strategies**

Strategies to achieve this objective include:

- Ensure that the location and development of existing and proposed open space:
  - Is appropriate to the current and projected recreational needs of the residential catchment it is intended to serve.
  - Fulfils an identified user need.
  - Is able to cater for a variety of lifecycle needs.
  - Enhances the existing mix of regional, district, local and neighbourhood level recreational facilities.
- Encourage the development of 'multi-use' open space facilities to maximise flexibility in facility use and to assist in reducing development and operational costs of facilities.
- Maximise opportunities for co-location of appropriate community and cultural facilities with open space.
- Ensure that priority is given to open space acquisitions and location of new recreational facilities in areas of under-provision.
- Support the significant regional tourism/recreational role of golf courses in Kingston.

## **Objective 3**

To protect significant natural landscapes and open space areas with an identified environmental significance from degradation as a result of community recreational demands.

### **Strategies**

Strategies to achieve this objective include:

- Enhance the environmental value of open space areas by promoting the creation of flora and fauna habitats, open space links, planting of indigenous vegetation and improvements to water quality.
- Ensure that the use and development of environmentally significant open space areas is consistent with environmental management objectives and gives precedence to the protection of natural attributes over other forms of land use.

- Require high standards of open space design which respond to the natural, social, cultural and historic identity of areas.
- Ensure that future use and development of all open space areas seeks to:
  - Achieve high quality urban design outcomes compatible with the scale of the surrounding landscape.
  - Minimise the impact on natural eco-systems.
  - Maximise community enjoyment of the open space.

#### **Objective 4**

To promote the creation of a major regional north-south spine of open space within a predominantly non urban context.

#### **Strategies**

Strategies to achieve this objective include:

- Support regional initiatives to implement the Sandbelt Open Space Strategy through the acquisition of land by Parks Victoria.
- Support opportunities for the progressive remediation and redevelopment of disused landfill sites and other disturbed land in the non urban area for open space. Priority will be given to rehabilitation of those sites which form part of the designated core parkland areas on the Sandbelt Open Space Development Plan.
- Encourage the accommodation of compatible large scale recreational activities which are not generally catered for in local open space within and adjacent to the core parkland areas (ie: equestrian activities, outdoor adventure pursuits, etc).
- Preserve open space landscapes and vistas between urban and non urban areas.

#### **Implementation**

These strategies will be implemented by:

#### **Policy and exercise of discretion**

- Using local policy to realise opportunities for the conversion of redundant extraction and landfill sites for open space and the development of complementary open space networks within the non urban *area (Sandbelt Open Space Project Policy, Clause 22.03)*.
- Using local policy to promote development in the non urban area which is compatible with the Sandbelt Open Space *concept (Sandbelt Open Space Project Policy, Clause 22.03)*.
- Levying development contributions to finance improvements and additions to physical infrastructure, including drainage and public open space, where new development is likely to impact on the capacity of existing infrastructure.

#### **Zones and overlays**

- Applying the Public Park and Recreation Zone to all major public open space areas.
- Applying the Public Conservation and Resource Zone to significant areas of remnant vegetation at the Grange Heathland Reserve, Rowan Woodland, Bradshaw Park, Caruana Woodland, Mordialloc Creek Reserve.

- Applying the Public Acquisition Overlay to land identified as core parkland within the Sandbelt Open Space Development Plan.
- Applying the Special Use Zone (schedule 1) to all golf courses to facilitate their appropriate use and development where either:
  - An appropriate combination of the other available zones, overlays and local policies could not give effect to the desired objectives or requirements; or
  - The site adjoins more than one zone and the strategic intent of the site, if it was to be redeveloped, is not known and it is therefore not possible to determine which zone is appropriate.

#### **Future strategic work**

- Finalisation of the Kingston Open Space Strategy.
- Preparation of Development Contributions Plans to provide for improvements to the existing public open space network and/or provision of new open space facilities where there is an identified local need.
- Preparation of a landscape masterplan for the Beauty Spot, Carrum, to enhance its significance as a gateway location and foreshore open space.

#### **Other actions**

Developing masterplans for all major open space reserves.

City of Kingston Open Space Framework Plan

