

21.10 OPEN SPACE

30/07/2009
C57

21.10-1 Overview

30/07/2009
C57

Monash has extensive areas of public open space, of which over 90% are owned and managed by Council. Parks Victoria manages five regional parks in the municipality, including Bushy Park, Shepherds Bush, Scotchman's Creek Linear Park, Corhanwarrabul Wetlands and Jells Park (which forms part of the Dandenong Valley Metropolitan Park).

Monash has 244 hectares of passive open space. This includes the Dandenong Valley Parklands centred on the 127 hectare Jells Park, which is one of Melbourne's major open space assets. Jells Park provides passive recreation opportunities for over one million visitors annually and plays an important role in nature and biodiversity conservation.

The Dandenong Valley Parklands are of regional conservation significance, with the riparian corridor of the Dandenong Creek providing important remnants of local native vegetation communities and associated fauna. These areas provide habitat for a wide range of bird species including internationally significant Ramsar and Lamba species. The Parklands are also of strategic significance as a key node in the integrated network of walking/bicycle trails in the south east metropolitan area.

There are a number of areas within the City of Monash that have a considerable amount of remnant vegetation of varying quality. These tend to be associated with wetlands and riparian zones, such as Dandenong Creek. Damper Creek also provides a highly significant fauna corridor and landscape link within the municipality and has been the subject of significant restoration work by Council.

Generally the large public areas of open space follow major creeks, such as Gardiners, Scotchman's and Dandenong Creeks. These areas are interspersed with reserves, such as Valley, Damper and Scammell Reserves, along with other passive and active open space areas. These are generally linked to neighbouring parks and provide a substantial network of open space throughout the municipality.

Open space in the newer eastern areas generally tends to have a higher degree of connectivity. There are smaller parks in the east of the municipality, whilst there are more parklands to the north rather than the south. This is partly explained by the significant amount of industrial land and its earlier stage of development.

Numerous privately operated open space facilities, such as the Metropolitan, Huntingdale and Riversdale Golf Clubs, Jells Park, and recreation facilities associated with Monash University, contribute to the variety of open space and recreation venues in Monash. The Waverley Netball Centre is a key elite netball venue.

The City of Monash provides over 130 playgrounds suitable for children of all ages, some with disabled access. In addition there are 30 reserves and parks that are available for dogs to roam off leash.

Significant linear trails, such as the Waverley Rail Trail, Station Trail, Scotchman's Creek, Gardiners Creek, Dandenong Creek and Melbourne Water pipe track, are used for cycling and pedestrian activity for both leisure and commuter purposes.

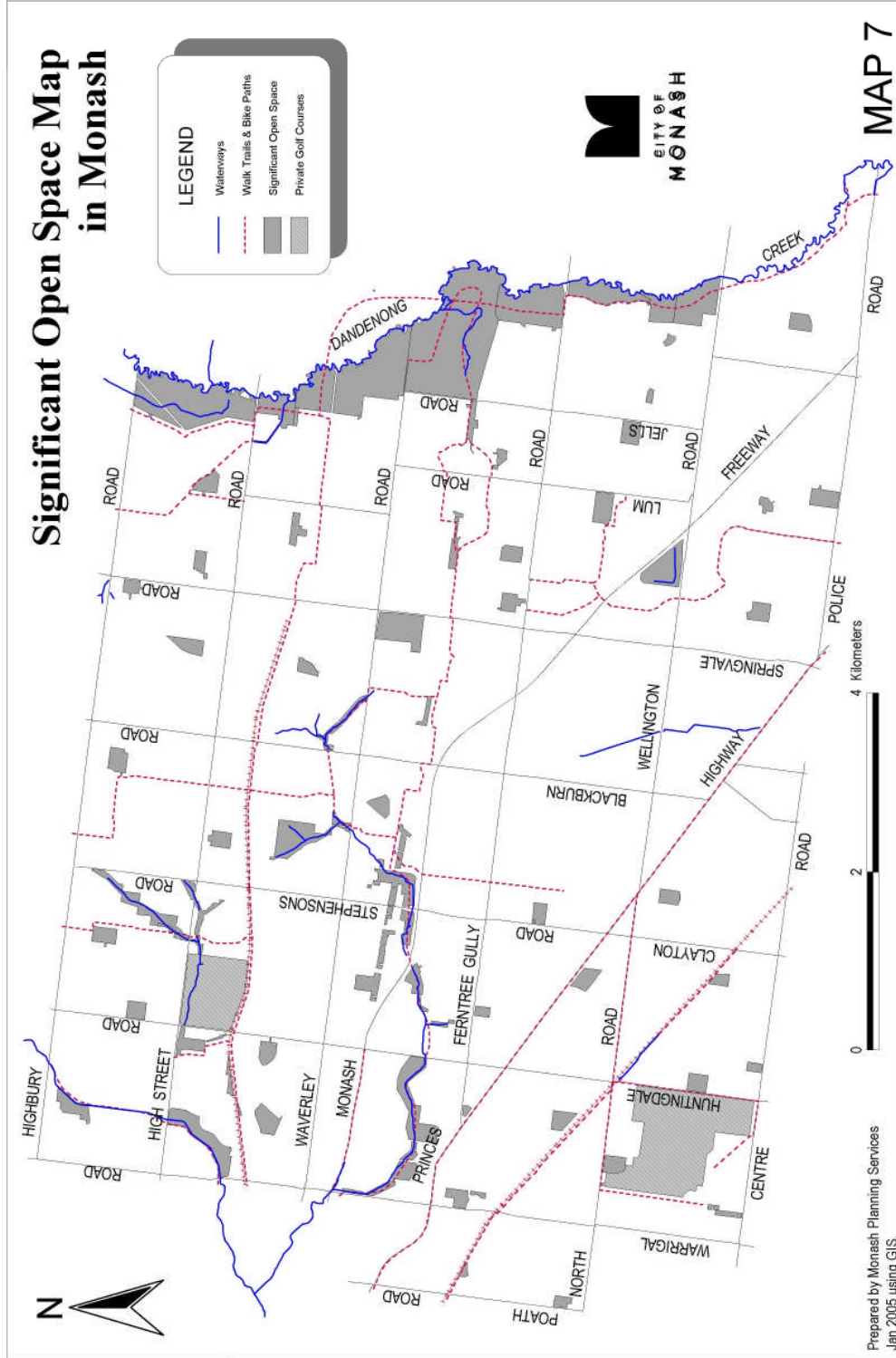
Map 6 shows significant open space areas in Monash.

21.10-2 Key issues

30/07/2009
C57

- Open space should be located within safe, comfortable walking distances of residential areas and activity centres, connected to the broader walking and cycling network, provide for active and passive recreation of varying forms, be landscaped and aesthetically pleasing and provide basic convenience facilities such as drinking fountains, toilets and bicycle racks.

Map 6: Open Space in Monash



- There is a range of diverse and integrated open space resources located throughout Monash which provide recreational and sporting experiences and activities that enrich the quality of life and provide lifestyle options for residents.
- Use of open space and recreation areas by residents results in healthier, happier and more vibrant communities.
- Open space areas should provide for nature conservation, active and passive recreation, as well as infrastructure requirements.
- The environmental quality of natural open space areas, especially those located along waterways is fragile and in need of management and protection.

21.10-3

30/07/2009
C57

Objectives, strategies and implementation

Objectives

- To encourage the provision of a diverse and integrated network of public open space to meet the sporting, recreational, health and environmental needs and preferences of the community and enhance the image of Monash as a quality environment to live, work in and visit.
- To protect, preserve and enhance the conservation, recreation, heritage and other open space values of all open space, parkland areas and creek lines, particularly areas with natural and remnant indigenous flora or fauna of significance.
- To provide safe, appealing and accessible public open space that is within easy walking distance of the majority of residents.
- To provide opportunities for the community to pursue the development and enhancement of its recreational and sporting endeavours through the provision of a variety of quality services and facilities.
- To recognise, promote and enhance the metropolitan role of the Dandenong Valley open space network in conjunction with Parks Victoria.
- To maximise opportunities to add to the open space network in all new development and redevelopment in the municipality.
- To recognise the impact of urban consolidation on open space resources.
- To minimise the impact of pest plants and animals on the environmental values of open space areas.
- To enhance all open spaces and parklands as significant community assets for both present and future generations of Victorians.

Strategies

- Enhance and improve the safety, usefulness and appearance of existing open space areas and associated facilities such as drinking fountains, toilets and bicycle racks through scheduling of capital works.
- Protect significant vegetation through appropriately locating new parklands and from the impacts of development.
- Protect significant vegetation from impacts of adjacent development, including introduction of weeds and/or disease, domestic or feral animals, uncontrolled access, inappropriate fire management, and changes in hydrology through appropriate planning of the development and management measures.

- Enhance open space, native vegetation, wildlife corridors and pedestrian linkages, including walking and cycle paths, along creeks, road reservations, railways, through redevelopment sites, shared road connections and high voltage transmission alignments.
- Preserve wetlands and vegetated buffer areas, particularly along Dandenong Creek, Gardiners Creek and Scotchman's Creek, in conjunction with Melbourne Water and Melbourne Parks and Waterways.
- Improve and add variety to open space areas through the addition of playgrounds, exercise and training equipment, community gardens, landscaping, pathways and other components where appropriate.
- Protect open space areas from inappropriate development on adjoining and nearby land.
- Ensure that all new development contributes towards the maintenance or development of new open space areas that are safe, accessible and vibrant or provides adequate good quality open space on-site for the users of the development.
- Encourage responsible land management and pet ownership in the community.

Implementation

These strategies will be implemented through the following actions.

Policy and exercise of discretion

- Using local policy to ensure that development causes minimal impact and loss of amenity to open space areas. (*Residential Development and Character Policy, Clause 22.01, Industry and Business Development and Character Policy, Clause 22.03, Stormwater Management Policy, Clause 22.04, Tree Conservation Policy, Clause 22.05, Outdoor Advertising Policy, Clause 22.08*)
- Complying with the State environment protection policy (Waters of Victoria) and State environment protection policy (Waters of Dandenong Valley).

Zones and overlays

- Applying the Public Park and Recreation Zone and Public Conservation and Resource Zone where appropriate.
- Applying and modifying the Vegetation Protection Overlay where appropriate.
- Applying the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay and Special Building Overlay as appropriate.

Further strategic work

- Undertaking a review of open space allocation across the municipality and developing a strategy to ensure equality of access from residential, industrial and business areas as appropriate.

Other actions

- Implementing the actions identified in the City of Monash Recreation Strategy 2002 – 2004.
- Having regard to the Dandenong Valley Parklands Future Direction Plan 1995 which aims to ensure that the open space, natural, cultural, landscape and passive recreational values of the Dandenong Valley Parklands are protected.
- Encouraging the further extension of bike paths and open space corridors in the municipality in accordance with the City of Monash Bicycle Plan (1995).

- Monitoring the recreational needs of the community (as they relate to the open space network).
- Undertaking works in open space reserves through Council's Capital Works Program.
- Continuing to implement Council's Street Tree Programs.
- Undertaking the actions identified in the City of Monash Conservation & Environment Strategy.

21.10-4 Reference documents

30/07/2009
C57

City of Monash Bicycle network plan. MSA Transport, December 1995

Healthy by Design: a Planners' Guide to Environments for Active Living. National Heart Foundation of Australia (Victorian Division) 2004,

Leading The Way: Councils Creating Healthier Communities – A Resource Guide for Councillors. VicHealth, May 2002,

Monash Municipal Public Health Plan 2004 – 2006, City of Monash, 2004.

City of Monash Recreation Strategy 2002 - 2004, City of Monash, March 1996

Dandenong Valley Parklands Future Direction Plan 1995, Melbourne Parks and Waterways, November 1995

Development/Improvements to Council Owned Facilities and Reserves by Resident Clubs, City of Monash, 29 August 2000

Monash Conservation and Environment Strategy, City of Monash, 1998.

Desktop Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, December 2002