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**OPEN SPACE**

**Overview**

Our network of public open space is a valuable community asset. Maroondah City Council is committed to ensuring effective and efficient management of our public open space to ensure it reflects the broad range of needs, expectations and values of the community. The open space network in Maroondah is vital for the physical, mental, social and environmental well being of our municipality and requires careful management and protection as a limited resource. Open space networks provide appropriate levels of access to essential services and facilities. The provision of bicycle and walking paths, which link open space reserves with activity centres and commercial facilities/services, have assisted with decreasing reliance on private motor car travel, increasing physical activity and wellbeing.

Open space provides breathing space, visual relief, community focal points and contributes to the provision of a quality urban environment.

The City of Maroondah has an extensive network of well located open space, comprising small local parks, precinct parks that often include community facilities, sportsgrounds, bushland reserves and linear corridors, mainly along waterways with recreational trails. There are over 400 parcels of open space covering an area of approximately 600 hectares.

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**Objectives, strategies and implementation**

**Objective 1**

- To provide equitable access and distribution of open space that caters for a diverse range of formal and informal leisure uses for the entire community.

**Strategies**

- Implement an open space/shared path network that links essential services and facilities and reduces the reliance of the community on motor vehicle based travel.
- Provide for community involvement in the planning and management of Maroondah's open space network.
- Ensure that development of housing occurs in a manner that enables easy access to public open spaces by methods other than private motor vehicles.
- Ensure that activity centres provide areas of high quality open space that complements the role of the activity centre and caters for increased population densities.
- Provide a hierarchy of parks and play equipment areas reflecting a degree of complexity, play value and challenge as well as a degree of accessibility.
- Provide opportunities for adolescents to be active as well as just socialise in safe, observable open spaces in each precinct.

**Objective 2**

- To ensure the preservation and enhancement of open space resources in the municipality that caters for changing demands.

**Strategies**

- Implement the Open Space Strategy and a planning framework to ensure the preservation and enhancement of open space resources in the municipality.

**Objective 3**

- To enhance the visual, environmental and recreational amenity of the municipality through the provision of an extensive, high quality open space network that is sustainable and accessible.

### Strategies

- Recognise the importance of preserving and enhancing existing creeks and waterways as linear open space and ensure that there are significant open space buffers along these creek lines.
- Ensure that new developments incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design principles to minimise impacts on waterways and water quality.
- Minimise the impact of pest plants and animals on the environmental value of the open space network.

### Objective 4

- To create linked shared trails, walking paths and bicycle lanes that encourage cycling and walking.

### Strategies

- Undertake a significant extension of the existing linear path network to ensure that it links with major commercial centres, community facilities and the linear path network of adjoining municipalities.
- Promote a range of municipal parks, trails and significant bushland reserves as potential tourist attractions.

### Implementation

These strategies will be implemented by:

#### Local policy and exercise of discretion

- Ensuring that any developments that increase the density and intensity of land use in Maroondah contribute to the funding of the open space network via an appropriate amount of open space or monetary contribution under the Subdivisions Act 1988 for each relevant subdivision.
- Acquiring land for open space purposes, as part of a land subdivision or strategic land purchase by Council, using the criteria that the land should be greater than 0.4 hectare or, if it is less, it should be any of the following:
  - A link with other areas of open space.
  - Situated along a waterway.
  - Environmentally significant.
  - Have potential to be developed as a community facility.
- Ensuring that development adjacent to open space respects the function and sensitivities of that open space and where appropriate provides for linkages and interaction with the open space.
- Ensuring all residential accommodation for a retirement village, hostel, residential village, nursing home, boarding house or other communal style living is in accordance with the Residential Accommodation Clause 22.10.
- Ensuring all signage on Council Reserves is in accordance with the Signage on council reserves Clause 22.11.

#### Zones and overlays

- Applying the Public Park and Recreation Zone to all municipal reserves which have been formally developed for either informal or formal recreational pursuits.
- Applying the Public Conservation and Resource Zone to undeveloped municipal reserves which contain significant levels of indigenous vegetation.

## MAROONDAH PLANNING SCHEME

- Applying the Special Building Overlay to land affected by overland flows in storm events that exceed the capacity of underground drainage systems.

### **Future strategic work**

- Developing a Planning Policy in respect of Public Open Space Contributions.
- Implementing the recommendations of the Maroondah Open Space Strategy.
- Applying the recommendations of the Maroondah Waterway Strategy to identify and protect waterways as an important component of the linear open space network.
- Review and update the Maroondah Open Space Strategy 2005.

### **Other actions**

### **Reference documents**

Sites of Biological Significance Study, G.S. Lorimer, J.C. Reid, L.P. Smith and H. Moss, 1997

Open Space Strategy, Maroondah City Council, 2005

Integrated Transport Strategy, Maroondah City Council, 2006

Maroondah Sustainability Strategy, Maroondah City Council, 2009