

HOBSONS BAY

PLAY SPACE STRATEGY REVIEW 22

VOLUME 1. STRATEGY

AUGUST 22



About this document

This document is the draft Volume 1. Play Strategy (Review) prepared by Jeavons Landscape Architects and @leisure Planners.

Volume 2. is the Precinct Play Assessments.

A summary of the strategy was also prepared.

An Inventory of play spaces including refinement of naming, numbering, and new and proposed spaces was also prepared.

Acknowledgements

Jeavons Landscape Architects and @leisure would like to acknowledge the support and assistance provided by:

- Hannah Pyper (Project manager) Senior Designer, Active Communities and Assets
- Fiona McKinnon (Coordinator Open Space and City Design, Active Communities and Assets)
- The Steering Committee and other Council staff who have contributed to this project.

The Yalukit Willam clan of the Bunurong People lived in the area now known as Hobsons Bay. Council acknowledges all language groups of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of these municipal lands. We recognise the first people's relationship to this land and offer our respect to their elders past and present.

Council acknowledges the legal responsibility to comply with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 and the Equal Opportunity Act 2010. The Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 is designed to protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens.

The Charter gives legal protection to 20 fundamental human rights under four key values that include freedom, respect, equality, and dignity.

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1 | INTRODUCTION

1.1. This review

This Play Strategy Review-2022 reviews and updates the 2013 Play Space Strategy to ensure priorities and development standards align with the recommendations in the Open Space Strategy and the 10-year Park Upgrade Program.

The purpose of this strategy is to:

- Guide decisions regarding the provision, design and play opportunities possible across Hobsons Bay.
- Assess the existing benchmarks for play spaces by Open Space Hierarchy
- Re-examine the existing service standards for play spaces
- Consider a variety of facilities that cater for all ages and abilities, and amenities that cater for short and long duration visits.
- Investigate the following locations for potential play space development including:
 - HD Graham Reserve, Altona Meadows (master plan)
 - Truganina Explosives Park, Altona (master plan)
 - Sandstone Avenue Reserve, Seabrook (noted gap and barriers to other play space)

The objectives of this 2022 Review are to:

- Establish new hierarchy/ classification
- Establish new service standards
- Review work undertaken since 2013
- Review the cost estimates for play space of different hierarchies
- Update the maps.

Play spaces included in this strategy

The City of Hobsons Bay has some 90 play spaces, including those proposed.

In this strategy play spaces are those in public parks, classified as being provided for the purpose of play, and with some appropriate infrastructure provided for that purpose. This definition is not limited to play equipment alone, but the open space and landscape features associated with and purpose-built play infrastructure.

This review only encompasses public facilities owned or managed by Council and does not include those provided in centres such as children's centres or schools.

Play spaces:

- May include facilities for skating, bike riding, water play and ball play, as well as natural areas (see following service standards in chapter 3.)
- Should include opportunities for cognitive, creative, social, dramatic play and physical development and provide opportunities for older people to be active and socialise with children.
- May be co-located with fitness equipment, but fitness equipment is not defined as play equipment.

1.2 Hobsons Bay

Suburbs and planning precincts

Hobsons Bay is home to the suburbs of Altona, Altona Meadows, Altona North, Brooklyn, Laverton, Newport North and Newport South, Seabrook, Seaholme, South Kingsville, Spotswood, Williamstown, and Williamstown North.

Each of these suburbs has its own unique character, from the historic seaport of Williamstown, with its range of heritage buildings, to the more recently developed residential areas of Altona Meadows and Seabrook.¹

For planning purposes Council divides the municipality into eight precincts. The eight precincts are:

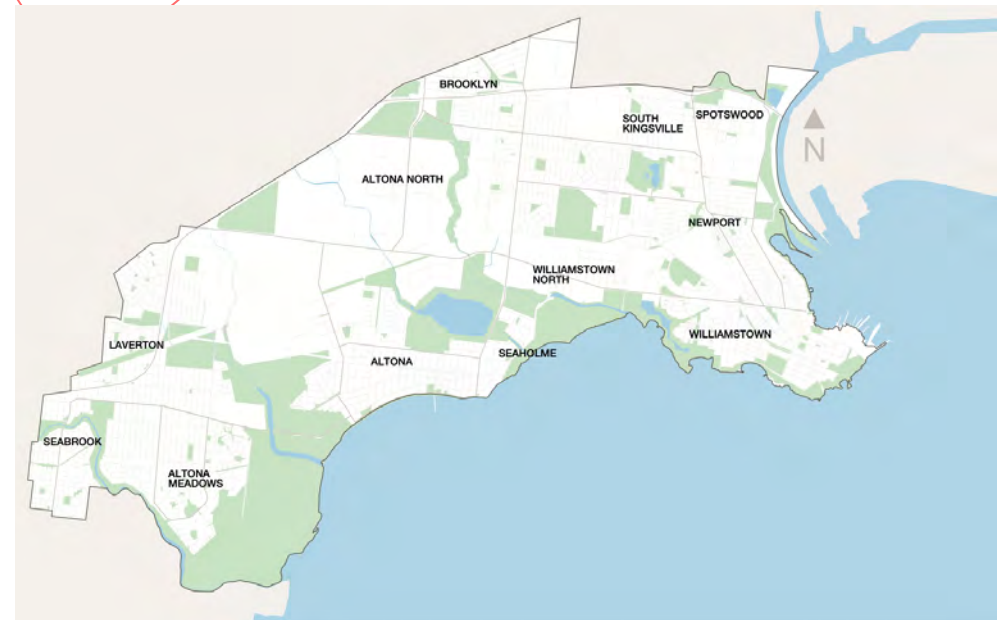
- Altona Meadows
- Altona North -Brooklyn
- Altona- Seaholme
- Newport (includes north and south)
- Laverton
- Seabrook
- Spotswood – South Kingsville
- Williamstown (included north and south)

Public open space in Hobsons Bay

Hobsons Bay's rich natural environment is one of its greatest assets. The municipality includes over 20 kilometres of beaches and foreshore areas and is home to significant coastal wetlands, five creek systems, remnant native grasslands, and important flora and fauna habitats. The natural environment provides a diversity of land based and water-based play opportunities.

Public open space contributes significantly to the quality of life in Hobsons Bay with parkland occupying 24 per cent of the municipality's land area. The 23 kilometres of coastline are linked by a cycling and walking trail so residents and visitors can take advantage of the foreshore location.

However, Hobsons Bay has only 7.5% tree canopy cover overall, partly due to the large area of swamp and foredune but also landuse history. In the planning and design process, parks for play could create more treed areas.



¹ Hobsons Bay City Council website; Know your Council

Hobsons Bay has a large area of currently undeveloped land due to large industrial areas and buffers.

The following image shows the areas of residential land in Hobsons Bay in 2019.

The distribution of, and walkability to public open space is analysed in relation these areas.

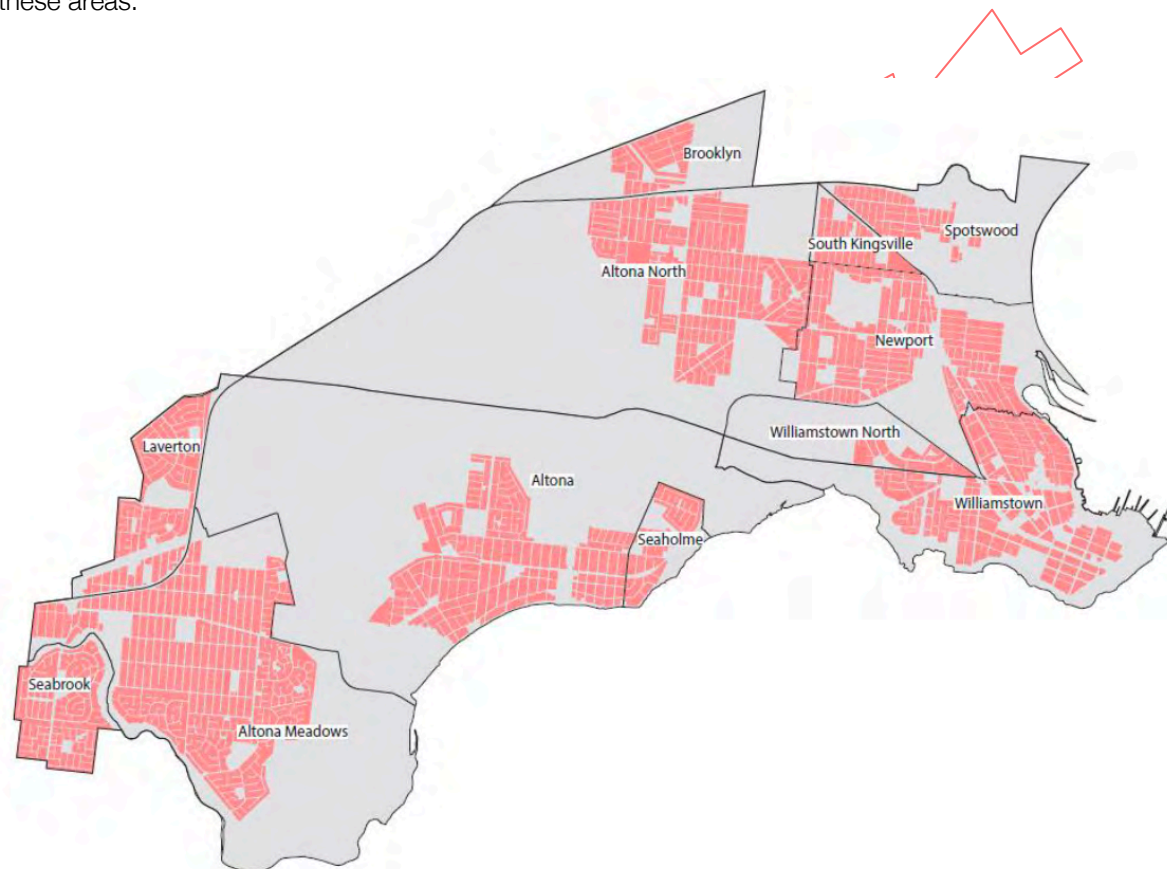


Figure 1. Location of Residential zones in Hobsons Bay Source Housing Strategy 2019

2 | POLICY AND PLANNING CONTEXT

Federal Policy

Article 31 of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (which Australia is a signatory to), identifies the fundamental right of children to play and recreation and participate fully in cultural life.

The Australian Human Rights Commission Children's Rights Report 2019 highlights that "Families are the cornerstone of Australian life and communities, and their wellbeing is essential for the continued prosperity of Australian society and culture and of the Australian economy". The commissioner identifies that "It is the responsibility of all Australian governments and decision makers to ensure that families are provided all opportunities to prosper."

Council's Open Space and Play Strategies

The 2013 Play Space Strategy

HBCC developed a Play Space Strategy in 2013. This strategy included a vision statement, core values with associated principles: accessibility, quality, diversity, equity, safety, and sustainability.

A two-tiered catchment hierarchy of 1. local and 2. destination play spaces was adopted.

The 2013 Play Strategy included all play spaces owned and managed by Council, and an assessment of their condition.

The plan proposed five new play spaces, in Seabrook, Altona Meadows, Altona, and Altona North (x2), in the following locations. These were to be delivered from 2021:

- Hosken Reserve
- Blenheim Road
- Precinct 15: 4 play spaces
- Precinct 16: 1 play space
- Precinct 17: 1 play space
- McCormack Park splash park
- Truganina Park/and H D Graham Reserve.

A set of service standards were provided. These are shown in Appendix 2. Several features that were not recommended in the last strategy for Local parks such as fencing, lights, drinking fountains, and shade structures that were deemed "should not have" are likely to be required in selective Local spaces.

The Strategy also provides a guide to the cost of development of play spaces based on their hierarchy. This Strategy reviews the 2013 Strategy.

Council's Universal Design Policy Statement 2017

The following key Universal Design principles will be considered when designing for improved or new public play spaces, as per Council's Universal design Policy 2017. This strategy aligns with this policy statement.

Table 1. Universal Design principles within public play spaces

Principle	Description of improvements
Equity and inclusion	Play environments designed to be fair as well as socially and physically inclusive, allowing everyone to participate equitably and as independently as possible
Smart	Play environments designed to be understandable, intuitive, and developmentally appropriate, providing opportunities for everyone to discover and demonstrate that they are smart, capable, able to take risks and be successful.
Independent	Play environments that communicate information in multiple sensory modes support the development of the whole child and the independent participation of everyone in play
Safe	All play spaces will be designed to be compliant with Australian safety standards and address physical, social, and emotional needs. Safe environments allow children of all abilities to develop their skills through fun and challenging play opportunities and to take developmentally appropriate risks
Active	Play environments designed to offer various degrees of challenge and alternatives to extraneous, sustained physical effort allow everyone to participate more actively in stimulating physical and social play
Comfortable	Play environments designed for the comfortable use and movement of individuals with diverse abilities, allowing everyone to participate in play more independently and equally

Public Toilet Strategy 2022

The Hobsons Bay City Council Public Toilet Strategy guides decisions regarding the provision, location, design, and management of public toilets in Hobsons Bay. The Strategy establishes a framework and suite of design standards for the provision of accessible and sustainable public toilet facilities in the appropriate places to encourage community health, recreation, and participation, while supporting economic development.

The ten-year implementation plan is currently under review. Due in the second half of 2022, the plan will apply to new public toilets and renewal of existing infrastructure.

2018 Open Space Strategy

The Open Space Strategy was adopted in 2018. The document proposed a hierarchy/classification for open space, and identified gaps in distribution, and as well as service standards for different types of space.

This strategy updates policies, standards and actions related to one type of public open space: play spaces. This document also updates aspects related to skate, bike and water play areas.

3| WHAT HAS CHANGED SINCE THE PREVIOUS STRATEGY?

3.1 Key changes in physical and social context and prevailing issues

Increasing housing density

- Increasing density of dwellings and the number of children living in medium and high-density dwellings. This trend needs a response to ensure that children in all forms of housing have access to play opportunities that are typically available to families with private gardens.
- In conjunction with the redevelopment of brownfield sites for residential and mix use, there is a trend for super lots to be developed by separate developers, each with a small park so they are close to residences, and for these to be developed with play items.

Parks for play

- A “new concept for planning for play” creating better play value from the whole park, than focus on play equipment areas. This concept takes advantage of different play settings a park has to offer and integrating any play infrastructure into the park design rather than treating the play space as separate to the whole park.
- There is an increased importance of the whole park for play, to enhance child development potential, and encompassing social, physical, and environmental opportunities.

Connection with nature

- The acknowledgment of the increased importance of connection with nature and vegetation from a diversity, shade, sustainability and play perspective
- The increasing importance of shade- as the earth heats up, design needs to provide cool outdoor places, especially as residents are encouraged to use parks in summer. As vegetation plays a critical role in cooling, and mitigating the heat island effect, the planting of trees and increasing the % of tree canopy cover is a priority.

All parks need to serve or people of all ages and abilities

- An understanding that all parks and places can (and should) be made inclusive of the needs of people with a disability not just “destination spaces,” or special separate spaces for people with a disability.
- People of all ages should be encouraged to play, and parks for play need to cater for the whole family. However, adults typically have greater choices and opportunities to facilitate and travel to recreation spaces, and the need for play in children is critically important. The reason to provide play spaces and facilities is therefore primarily focused around providing opportunities for child development.

20-minute neighbourhoods and park dependence

- Urban planning seeks to provide essential community services with 20-minute neighbourhoods, to reduce the reliance on the motor car. In some established areas there are some major barriers to walkability to parks. Due to distance, lack of walkability, and barriers within the urban environment, some communities may be totally dependent on an individual space to meet all of their everyday play needs. These spaces require more attention.

Physical and social activity and the natural environment are essential for wellbeing

The increasing importance of physical activity, social connection and environmental appreciation to physical and mental health and wellbeing of residents. Therefore, it is essential that all play parks and spaces have features that can address each of these elements.

The following image identifies key changes in physical and social context and prevailing issues.

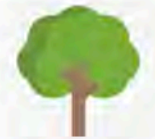
Principles: Accessibility, quality, diversity, equity, safety and sustainability
Values outlined in the 2013 Play Space Strategy are still current.



- **Dependence and 20 min neighbourhoods**
Distance or lack of walkability mean some communities may be totally dependent on just one space to meet everyday play needs.



- **Increasing housing densities**
and development on sites with no natural environment features – green and communal spaces



- **Access to nature**
and the increased importance of trees and vegetation for diversity, shade, sustainability and play



- **Parks for play**
the whole park for play, rather than play equipment separate to the whole park.



- **Gaps** There are still gaps in access to play spaces across the City due to transport barriers and lack of open space in pockets



- **Wheels**
Increased demand for bike facilities, wheeled toys and mobility devices. A strategy for provision and maintenance of skate and bike facilities is proposed.



- **The whole family should play** but child development is the focus.



- **Service and provision standards**
are required to drive equity, ensure parks are fit-for-purpose as well as for asset management and budgeting



- **Inclusion**
All play spaces can be made inclusive of people with a disability not just regional, or "destination spaces," or special separate spaces. This strategy applies Council's Universal Design Policy 2017



- **Wellbeing:** Physical activity, social connection and environmental lenses are needed in design for play.

3

3.2 Demographic influences

The Hobsons Bay's estimated resident population in The Hobsons Bay City population forecast for 2022 is 101,749 and is forecast to grow to 126177 by 2041.

Since the Play Strategy in 2013 there has been an increase in population of 11,171 from 89,188. A further 25,818 additional residents are projected to live in Hobsons Bay in 2041.²

The following maps highlight some differences in the demographic profile, by planning precinct, for factors that impact the demand and benefits of play provision. These key influences include:

- Population size, density, and housing form
- Percentage of persons; children aged 0-14 years
 - Children aged 0-4 years
 - Children aged 5-11 years
 - Children aged 12-14 years
- Need for assistance, and
- SEIFA index of disadvantage.

Population size, density, and housing form

Population size

A significant increase in the Hobsons Bay population, including children, is forecast to 2041.

The largest increase in the number of children in the short term is expected in Altona North, Altona, and Seaholme to 2025.

A major implication of the increasing population is the carrying capacity of parks and play spaces. Many existing play spaces are small, and

spaces will be increasingly small as residential developments are mostly infill developments and higher density.

Changing age structure and profile by precinct

Overall, for each of the three age groups under 14 years an increase in population of 1400 or more is projected to 2041. Most of this will be from new development areas- in higher density housing.

The number of children is expected to decline slightly in Seabrook, Newport, and Altona Meadows for the same period.

The planning precincts with the greatest proportion of growth forecast to 2041 are for the 0-4 year and 5-9 year age groups in Altona North (78%-80%) Spotswood/ South Kingsville (45% - 41%) and Laverton (35%- 50%).

Planning precincts with the greatest growth projected in older children: 10 years to 14 years are Altona North and Brooklyn (95% and 92%) followed by Spotswood and South Kingsville.

The numbers of children in Williamstown will decline in each in each one of those age groups by 2041 (by 3-5%).

In Newport the number of children will also decline for those aged between 5 and 14 years (2.2-1.5%).

Altona Meadows is forecast to have a slight decline in the proportion of children in all of those age groups (.3-1.5%).

The child population in Seabrook is also projected to decline in the 5-9 year and 10-14 year, age cohorts (3.9-4.4%)

See the following table.

² Forecast Id 2022

Table 2. Estimated population of children aged nought to fourteen in 2021, and projected growth to 2041, by planning precinct

Planning precinct	0-4 years			5-9 years			10- 14 years		
	Est Pop. 2021	Est Pop. 2041	Change %	Est Pop. 2021	Est Pop. 2041	Change %	Est Pop. 2021	Est Pop. 2041	Change %
Laverton	464	625	34.7	302	452	49.7	242	370	52.9
Seabrook	386	390	1	409	393	-3.9	367	341	-4.4
Altona Meadows	1305	1286	-1.5	1173	1161	-1	1075	1078	-0.3
Altona/Seaholme	977	1040	5.8	910	1012	10.1	796	965	21.2
Altona North	1094	1949	78.2	1004	1805	79.8	782	1532	95.9
Brooklyn	198	229	15.7	126	180	42.9	76	146	92.1
Spotswood /South Kingsville	385	695	44.6	356	603	41	264	463	75.4
Newport	1102	1132	2.7	1054	1031	-2.2	891	878	-1.5
Williamstown North	255	279	6.3	264	314	18.9	296	347	17.2
Williamstown	806	761	-5.6	895	864	-3.2	885	852	-3.7

Source: Forecast i.d City of Hobsons Bay

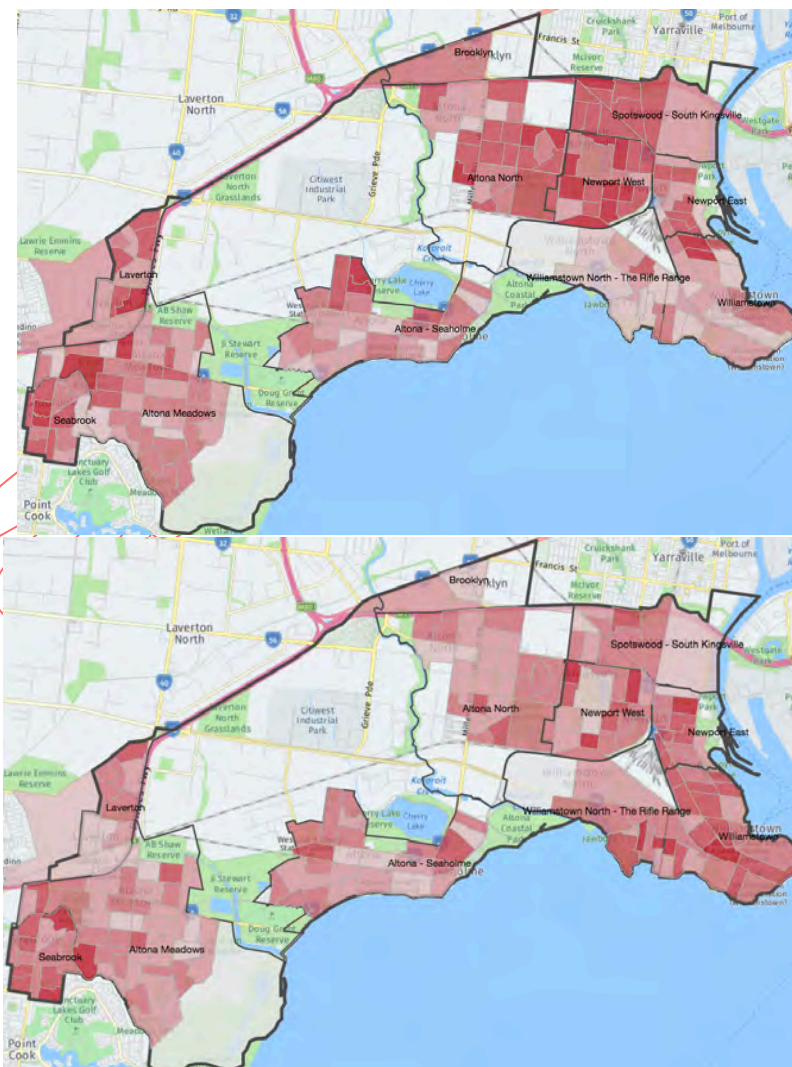
The following maps illustrate the percent of children of different age groups, across Hobsons Bay.

Age structure by precinct

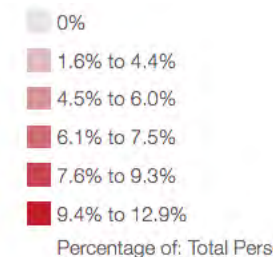
Implications of age structure

While demographic profile including age structure, should be a key consideration in play provision, there is a need for a relatively equitable distribution of play opportunities across the City to future-proof provision and accommodate ongoing changes in demographic profile and changes in care giving.

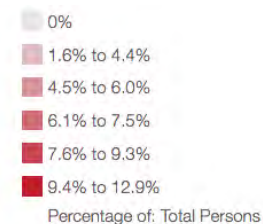
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Hobsons Bay
Population of
Children Aged
0-4 years



Hobsons Bay
Population of
Children Aged
5-11 years



Population density

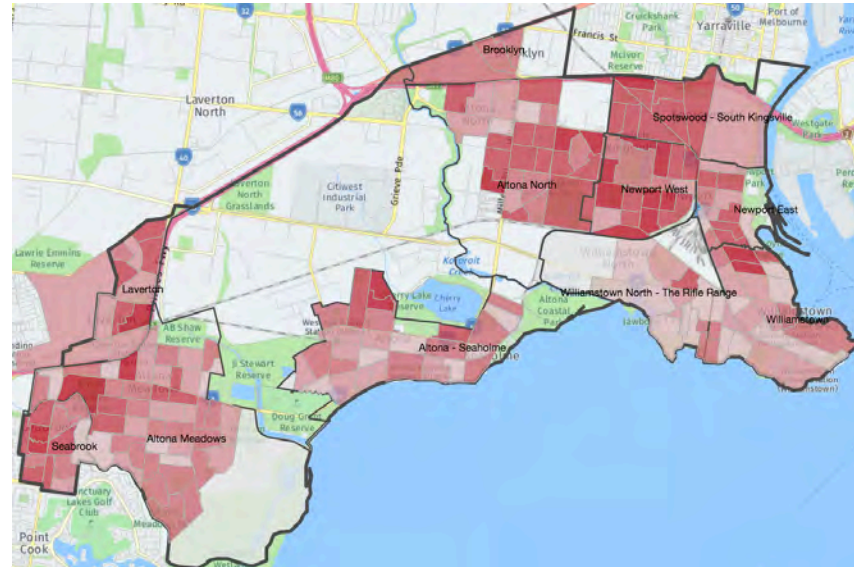
Areas where areas of higher density coincide with limited open space include:

- Newport (west)
- Altona North (north)
- Laverton
- Altona Meadows (north), and
- Altona (north).

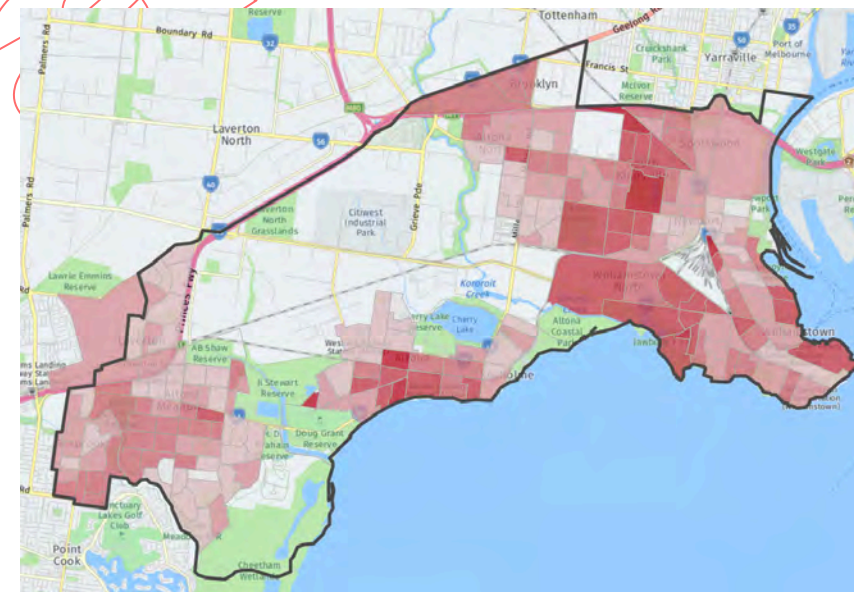
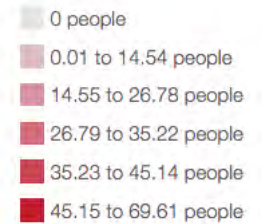
Some areas of high density are adjacent to parks. For example, the area adjacent to Cherry Lake Reserve (on the northeast and southwest). Increasing the carrying capacity and diversity of opportunities is warranted in that reserve to address population growth and regional users.

The new developments in Altona North will also need additional consideration due to their density and the lack of available open spaces or green character within those brownfield sites.

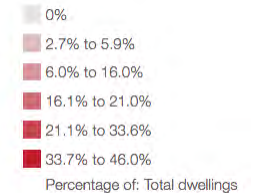
High density housing introduces some additional challenges for families in terms of lack of access to space for play outdoors, to nature, elevation above ground, and factors that may impact on child development.



Hobsons Bay; map of Medium Housing Density

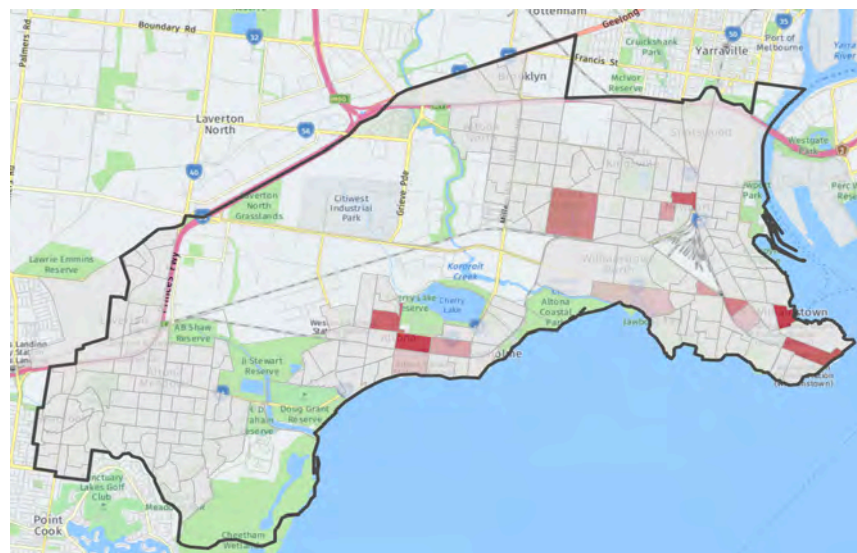


Hobsons Bay; map of Medium Housing Density

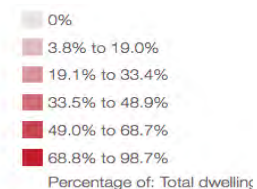


Higher density areas

Planning parks for play in higher density areas require further consideration, including size, solar access, suitable deep soil areas for trees, and provision of communal open space in multi-level apartment development to ensure play opportunities and contact with nature are accessible.



Hobsons Bay; map of High Housing Density



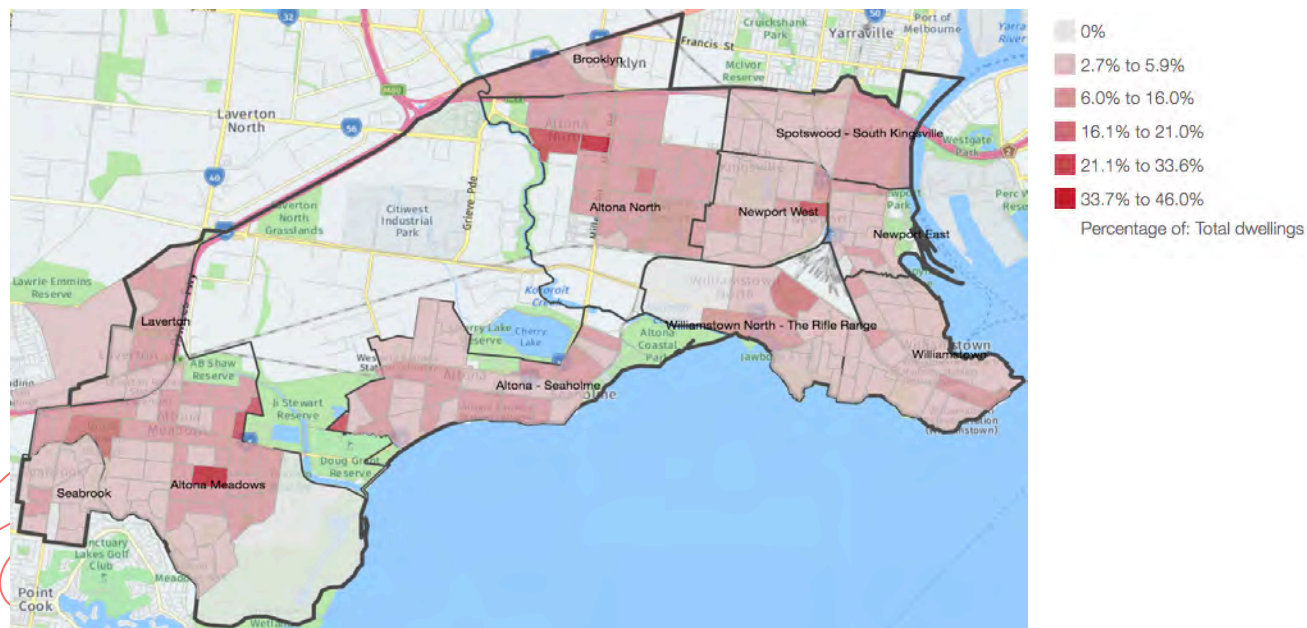
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Need for assistance due to disability

People with a disability make up approximately 18.5 per cent of the Hobsons Bay population³. Some 5,812 residents (or 6.4%) need help with their day-to-day lives due to disability⁴. Inclusion of people with a disability is a key priority for the Council, as noted in Councils directional plans such as the Council Plan 2021-25 (with an integrated Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan).

Priority population groups included in A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2019-23, include children and people with disability.

The Australian Early Development Census 2021 indicated that the percentage of children in Hobsons Bay with “special needs status” has increased from 5.4 per cent in 2015 to 7.0 per cent in 2021. Children needing further assessment and support has also increased from 7.7 per cent in 2015 to 11.9 per cent in 2021.⁵



Hobsons Bay map; population In Need of Assistance Due to Disability

³ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). (2018). Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Victoria

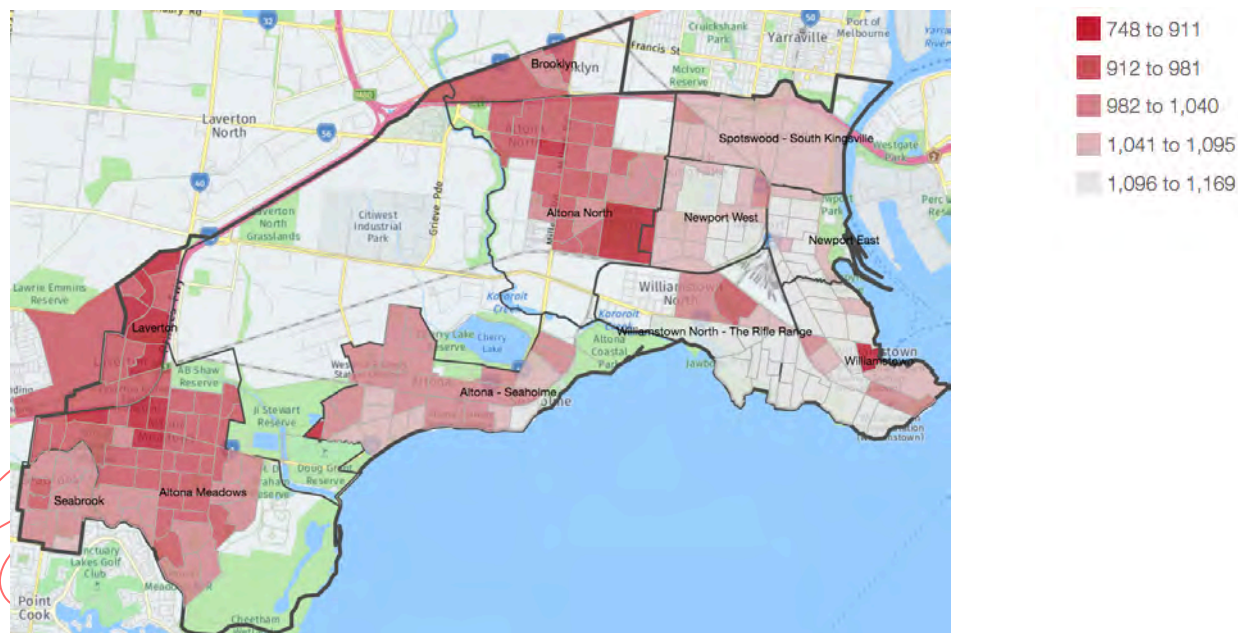
⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). (2022). Census of Population and Housing 2021

⁵ Australian Early Development Census Community Profile 2021 Hobsons Bay, Commonwealth of Australia

SEIFA Index of Advantage and Disadvantage

The index of disadvantage considers factors such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, and unskilled occupations. The mean SEIFA index is 1000. Scores less than this suggest the area is more disadvantaged in comparison with other areas with a higher score.

The most disadvantaged communities in Hobsons Bay area in the southeast of Altona North. Altona North, Laverton, and Altona Meadows. These populations are more vulnerable to poor health and wellbeing outcomes and would benefit more from play opportunities nearby.



Hobsons Bay Population; SEIFA Index of Advantage and Disadvantage.

Children who are developmentally vulnerable

- In Hobsons Bay the percent of children who are developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC), has declined from 20 per cent in 2009 to 15.6 per cent in 2021. However, there was an increase in vulnerability of young children in the domain of language and cognitive skills (school-based). See table in Appendix 1. Australian Early Development Census domain results for Hobsons Bay.⁶
- It is imperative that in these areas experiencing social disadvantage, where populations have the least resources to access play opportunities, high-quality, affordable play opportunities are provided close by to where families live.



⁶ Australian Early Development Census Community Profile 2021 Hobsons Bay, Commonwealth of Australia

3.3 Areas of residential substantial change

The following image shows proposed areas of substantial change in residential zones.

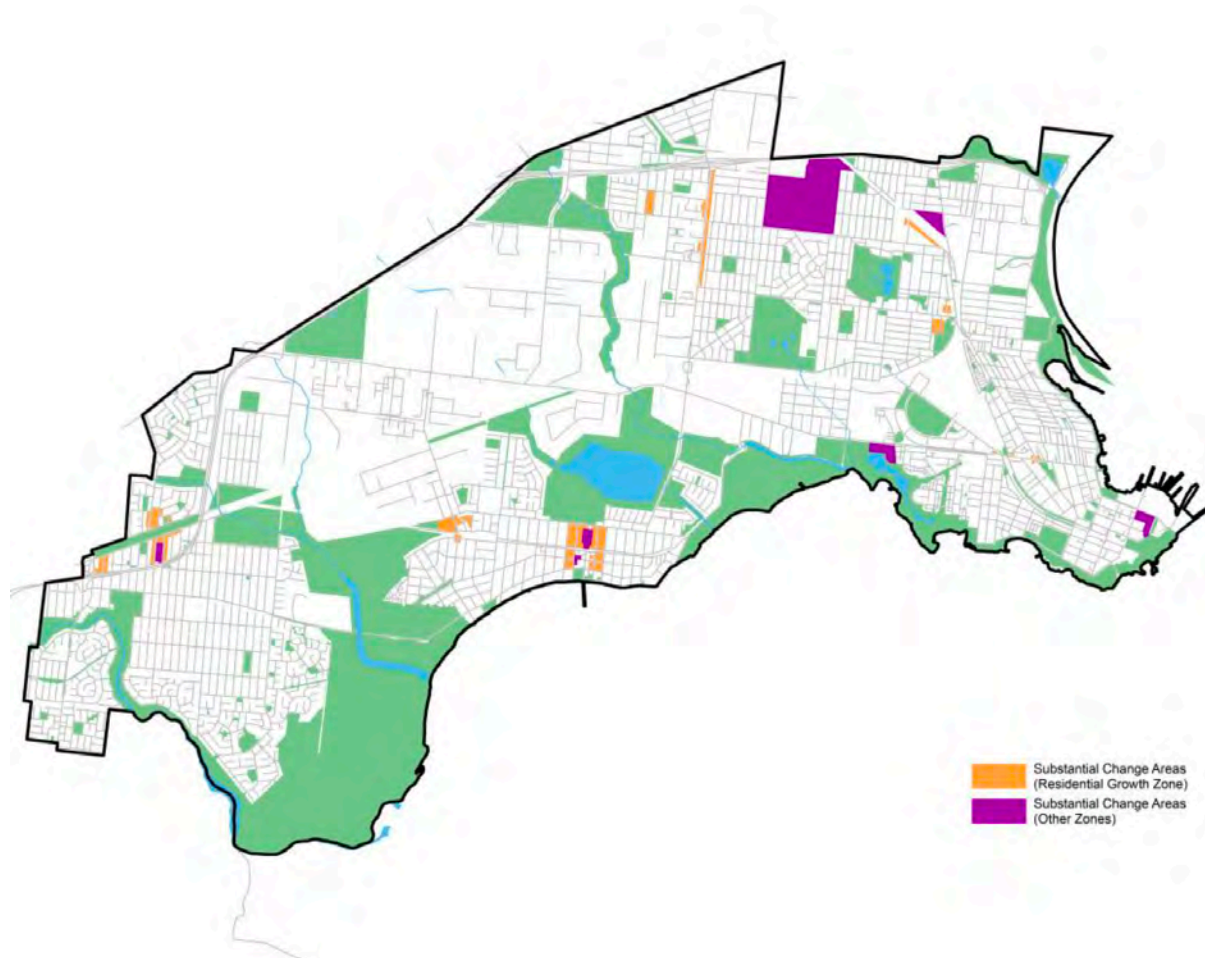


Figure 2. Proposed areas of substantial change: 2019 Housing Strategy – residential growth zone

Strategic redevelopment areas

Council's Housing Strategy 2017 identifies 11 major strategic development areas (SRA) which will increase the number of dwellings in Hobson's Bay and therefore the demand for play opportunities.

The following map shows these 11 strategic redevelopment areas.

Some of those areas are quite small and others such as Precinct 15 will deliver a significant residential population (est. 9000 people) and four play spaces.

Only three of the other SRAs development areas show open spaces; Precinct 9, (Williamstown North) proposes .07 ha of open space but no play space. Precinct 16 and 17 both have .01 ha of open space each. It is not clear whether these will include a play space.

These strategic redevelopment development areas are likely to generate some 16,000 residents.

Appendix 6. Sets out the amount of open space proposed per SRA.

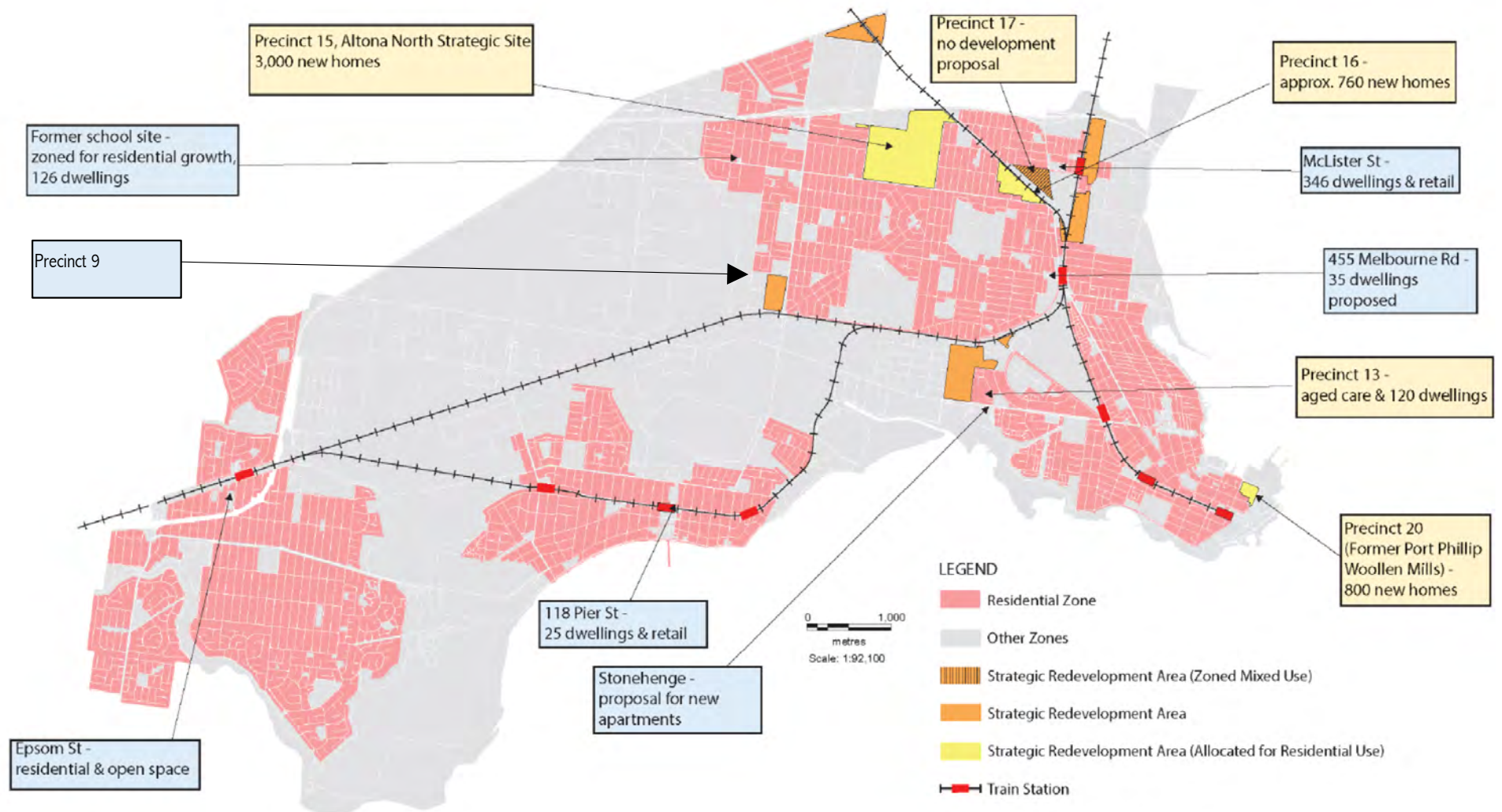


Figure 3 Strategic Redevelopment Sites Hobsons Bay Housing Strategy 2017

4| FUTURE PLAY PLANNING AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

4.1 The classification of play spaces

Open space functions type classifications

Function type classifications used in the 2018 Open Space Plan include:

- Sport
- Parks
- Play spaces
- Trails, links, and buffers, and
- Conservation sites.

Play is one open space function type classification in the 2018 Open Space Plan. However, play spaces may occur on sites which have another primary function such as sports parks. Most sports parks also typically have a play space.

This Strategy addresses parks in Hobsons Bay whose primary function is for Play, as well as those parks with other primary functions such as sport, but that also include play spaces (owned or managed by Council).

By defining the primary purpose or function of public open space, it is possible to determine which human benefits can be met in the long term, how it should be managed to protect these and to monitor changes in time and across the municipality.

Once the function of an open space is determined, the size that will be required can be determined, what the park needs to include, where and how many such spaces are needed, and how they need to be maintained.

This strategy reaffirms the standards required for parks or spaces whose primary purpose is “Play”.

Catchment hierarchy classification

The catchment hierarchy is used to guide investment decisions, by specifying the standard of development appropriate for each level in the hierarchy.

These hierarchies can be applied to both play space facilities and the parks in which they sit and allow consistency.

The following table provides a definition for each catchment hierarchy classification.

The preferred catchment hierarchy for play spaces, in Hobsons Bay as defined in the table below is:

- Regional
- District, and
- Local.

Table 3. The catchment hierarchy for play spaces

Catchment hierarchy	Definition	Notes
Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Servicing a wider area than the municipality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sphere of influence of a regional space is likely to be larger than the neighbouring suburbs, due the significance of the space or scale, and quality of features or facilities. You would expect people to travel by car from other locations, including outside the municipality. Hence facilities are likely to be needed to support a longer length of stay.
District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Servicing a wider area than the suburb in which it is located; possible the precinct. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You would expect people to travel by car from other local suburbs to use this space.
Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Servicing the immediate residential area within walking distance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You would expect people to walk to the park from their home and would stay a relatively short time.

Landscape setting types

This Strategy Review proposed to include a new classification, landscape setting type.

The landscape setting type is a measure of diversity within open space. It is based on the assumptions that:

- The qualities and characteristics of the setting are one of the crucial influences on/determinants of user experiences
- A diverse range of settings is needed to meet users' diverse needs and expectations across any municipality.

This measure considers the qualities of a site primarily related to the natural environment and vegetation types and the associated experiences these afford users. It may be considered as a spectrum that could, at its most extreme, range from wilderness to paved, highly urbanised settings.

A landscape setting type classification was not provided in the Open Space Plan 2018. A landscape setting type classification is commonly used in planning and is helpful when applied to play spaces to meet the principle of diversity, to:

- Differentiate sites based on experiences related to vegetation – i.e., forest, open grassed area, ornamental garden, treed parkland, paved area etc.,
- Increase choice, for activities, weather, and different experiences. -
- Help determine maintenance requirements.

A consideration of the landscape setting type of play spaces is desirable in this plan.

Why have landscape classification of parks for play?

Based on this connection between user experiences and the qualities of the environment, a landscape setting type classification:

- Provides a high-level assessment tool for planners to differentiate between types of spaces and to assess the adequacy of the range of setting choices available across any locality
- Helps planners to understand and evaluate the diversity of experiences available
- Assists with matching requirements for specific activities, user preferences and biophysical conditions.
- Guides priorities for new open space settings to protect this diversity
- Provides a clear guide for land management (of vegetation, in particular)
- is helpful for marketing, enabling potential users to choose between sites for different reasons and explore new places.

For example, suppose all the existing play spaces within a planning area have the same landscape setting classification (i.e., open grassed areas). In that case, Council could change the landscape setting type of one or more of these setting types to more a densely treed area or to an ornamental garden, for example, to enhance diversity.

Defining the landscape setting type of parks can help residents choose between spaces based on their needs and interests at the time, or experiences. For example:

- A sunny (or open grassed area) or shady area (treed parkland)
- An area that supports nature play, ability to view birds and animals or enables engagement with loose materials (bushland)

Ensure other environmental principles such as biodiversity, habitat etc can simultaneously be met.

- Places that support specific activities, such as (hard paved area) for wheeled toys, ball games, bikes or suited to mobility devices.
- A place to dig, plant things or observe, touch, smell edible or ornamental plants (cultivated garden).

The landscape setting types to be used in this strategy are shown in the table below.

Table 4. Landscape setting types

Landscape Setting Type

- Bushland /forest
- Cultivated / food /ornamental garden
- Open grassed area
- Treed parkland
- Plaza/paved area
- Water based / or beach

Currently the majority of spaces in Hobson's Bay are open grassy areas. There are several parks for play that have a proportion of the site which is tree parkland. There are opportunities for Council to heavily plant one or two spaces to provide diversity in potentially to develop one of the smaller sites as a cultivated garden, or further develop arboretum area of Newport Lakes Reserve, and to develop a water focused area.

A definition of landscape setting types is included in Appendix 5.

5| POLICY PRINCIPLES AND STANDARDS

5.1 Overview: core principles and requirements

The core principles underpinning this strategy are:

- Diversity of opportunity and settings
- Whole of parks for play
- Equity of distribution
- Access and inclusion
- Environmental integrity and amenity
- Play value

A summary of the essence of each follow.

Diversity of opportunity and setting types

Parks for play need to offer a spectrum of opportunities for outdoor play, social interaction, and recreation.

Parks for play should provide a balance of elements including paths, vegetation and landscape features, social infrastructure, physical challenges, and community art.

Diverse landscape settings should range from open grassy and sunny spaces to 'wilder', more natural/forested areas, from garden and ornamental settings to more urban areas.

This principle needs to be considered:

- At the macro level, i.e., the choice of settings and opportunities from park to park, across the municipality, as well as
- At the micro level. For example, even in a generally open site relying mainly on play equipment to provide the main activities, pockets of vegetation will provide additional, close-up interest.

Whole of parks for play

Play encompasses a diverse range of activities, and these are by no means all related to play equipment.

When planning for play, the entire park needs to be considered for the opportunities it could present to users. These include trees, planting and natural areas, path systems, hard surfaces, open areas of lawn, loose materials, and terrain. These need to be planned to include people with a disability and all age groups and how everyone can enjoy these elements.

Equity of provision and distribution

Play opportunities will be equitably distributed as far as possible across all residential areas, ideally within walking distance (approximately 400m) from all residences. Areas without such access will be identified for improvements.

Play opportunities should be available to families close to where they live regardless of the settlement type: ie., mixed use, low, medium, or high-density housing.

All spaces should provide some opportunities for preschool, school aged children and older adults, whilst each may focus on one age group more than another.

Service standards are provided to ensure the quality of spaces is equitable across all spaces.

Access and inclusion

All play spaces need to provide opportunities for people of all ages and abilities. Access to social areas is the highest priority. The higher the level in the catchment hierarchy, the more accessible and inclusive the space needs to be.

However, all parks need to be barrier free, and have identifiable access into and around the park, to the social and landscape amenities, and to a basic choice of play opportunities.

Paths are considered to be a fundamental element in all parks for play, for vision and physical access, exercise, and play.

Environmental integrity and amenity

In all spaces, the design should include trees and other landscape elements.

Play spaces can enhance and encourage children's contact with nature and can provide loose materials that can be used in play. Plant materials significantly enhance the visual and environmental amenity of parks.

Different types of trees may need to be provided for shade, wind breaks or screening, and play opportunities.

Play value

Every park for play must be designed to accommodate and foster a range of types of play, such as

- Physical activity, movement, and challenge
- Imaginative/pretend/role play, and
- Sensory/creative/imaginative play

Play opportunities including play equipment should be designed and selected to:

- Facilitate a range of specific activities or development opportunities and maximise the play value to all users
- Accommodate group play and social interaction, as well as quiet nooks for respite and contemplation
- Maximise the opportunities for children with disabilities to access and use play spaces, and to play alongside others.
- Be connected by paths to social areas, courts, other equipment, and the street

Parks and play spaces should also where possible include paths suitable for wheeled toys, walking or cycling.

5.3 Overview of the policy and service standards

Policies and Service Standards are provided for parks whose primary function is Play and play spaces that are located in other parks owned or managed by Council.

These policy and service standards set out the core requirements and intent for each characteristic and then any differences according to the catchment hierarchy

This section provides Standards for Provision and Service for each level in the hierarchy, summarised in separate tables, for each the following issues.

The features covered in these standards are described below in separate tables.

A. PLAY ELEMENTS

Overall provision /distribution of play spaces

- How large each type of park should be
- How play spaces should be distributed in relation to the distance people need to travel from home
- Where play spaces should be located within their local catchment to ensure equitable access
- Where play spaces should be located in relation to the local street network, for both prominence and surveillance
- How play spaces should be located in the context of different densities of housing

Physical access requirements of play spaces

- Access to the park itself from further afield
- Access into the park, and
- Physical access to facilities, park features and activities
- Paths and trails for specific purposes

Social and support facilities in play spaces

- A basic range of the facilities that are expected for each level in the hierarchy, and a few descriptive words for each.

Inclusive features of play spaces

- These are different from the physical access requirements described above. Although many of these are listed in the social support facilities and other groups, they are described here in more detail order to emphasise their importance.

Environmental/natural elements in play spaces

- These are natural elements that support the purpose of play, while also enhancing environmental education, visual amenity and character, environmental diversity, and habitat.

Physical activities in play spaces

- A guide to ensure that each level in the hierarchy consciously provides a choice of physical activity types.

Key play elements- a summary

This table describes target age groups and broad categories/different types of play, to ensure that play spaces provide diverse opportunities.

Explanation of codes

√	Required in all parks of this classification
O	Not required
Desirable/ at selected sites	Desirable if the site is suitable and budget permits; dependent on characteristics of the particular catchment-but not essential

5.3 Policy and service standards

5.3.1 Provision and distribution of parks for play

PROVISION AND DISTRIBUTION OF PARKS FOR PLAY					
	Size and space for range of activities	Distribution / Housing density	Location within catchment / Co-location	Location in street network, for prominence and surveillance	Other site selection /provision issues
Core requirements	Parks should be an adequate size to include deep soil for trees and solar access for users and vegetation, in addition to providing any equipment and for a range of activities suited to people of all ages and abilities. One large public space is preferred over multiple smaller spaces closer to home.	Provide parks for play should serve all residential areas and be accessible without having to cross a major road, water way or railway. Prioritise provision in areas with a low SEIFA index, high proportion of children, people with a disability and high-density areas with limited open space options.	Parks or play should be centrally located within the catchment defined by roads and other barriers to access.	Parks for play should be prominent and at least two (ideally three) sides of the park bounded by streets rather than private property.	If there is only one park for play in a catchment, it must offer a wide choice of opportunities for social, physical, and environmental activities and to suit multiple users See dependence principle
Local	Minimum size for new parks for play: 1ha. Unencumbered land. See range of activities principle	Provide parks for play within 400m distance from all residences regardless of density, and without having to cross a major road, water way or railway. Where housing is medium or higher density, these estates must also include outdoor ground floor and their own communal spaces for play and social interaction, and particular consideration given to design and quality due to dependence. The park must be served by a street path system. Parks for play must be designed having considered high dependence due to barriers to access and with consideration of opportunities and settings available in other parks in proximity.	May be co-located with/ abutting encumbered land, a sports park, or adjacent to a waterway corridor. Locate on local streets or collector/arterial roads for prominence	Good views into the site Overlooked by house fronts Separated across a road or a “paper road” or “postie lane”.	Where a catchment has more than one play area, ensure diversity in landscape setting type, range of activities, and target user groups can vary between sites.
District	As per local Minimum park size for new parks for play: 1ha. Unencumbered land; larger where required	At least one per precinct/planning district or 800m walking distance from residences	Co-located near community facilities/ shops etc Co-located with sporting or other recreation facilities, foreshore etc.	As per local Located on collector/ arterial roads, and on public transport and connected by off-road trail routes.	If multiple parks for play in one planning district, sites should have different landscape setting types Select one site per catchment that is suitable /economical to be fully fenced, to help meet inclusion criteria See inclusion principle. Some car parking and picnic facilities commensurate with longer duration stay. May include full hard courts and some bike or skate facility, or interactive water play infrastructure May include gym equipment where there is a perimeter exercise path.
Regional	Minimum park size for new parks for play: 1ha. Unencumbered land; larger where required	At least one per municipality No minimum distance threshold	May be co-located with a major bushland, beach, sporting, or other park with unique, iconic landscape setting Can be located on collector/arterial roads, and public transport and off-road trail routes	Sites with high visibility preferred for example corner blocks Clear signage if through residential streets. Not with narrow entries or “battle axe” blocks. May be located in conjunction with other attractions.	Will need car parking and facilities commensurate with longer duration stay. Higher level of access and inclusion expected, in social facilities, play experiences, access to nature etc. May include interactive water play structure, and or bike or skate facility. See policy principles for each. May include gym equipment where there is a perimeter exercise path.

5.3.2 Physical access requirements in parks for play

2. SERVICE STANDARDS – PHYSICAL ACCESS REQUIREMENTS IN PARKS FOR PLAY								
	Car parking	Bicycle parking/ rails	Site served by a path or shared trail	Accessible and identifiable entry	Accessible internal network	Accessible path to key features	Park perimeter path- for exercise	Accessible gates/entries
Core requirements	Provide car parking immediately adjacent to parks for play for district and regional spaces.	Bicycle parking/ rails in at the entry to the park	Connect parks for play to a shared trail network Locate parks for play where streets have an accessible path network.	Provide an accessible path of travel into the park to a play space from a footpath and road Provide easily identifiable points of access into the park and to a play space	Provide an accessible path that links shade, seats, tables, BBQ water and social facilities. Provide a clear path definition to the path edge.	Paths should provide access to a choice of play activities, nature/environmental, with wayfinding elements. Any accessible play equipment i.e., underdeck cubbies is to be served by a path.	A perimeter path (offering an independent circuit) preferably of consolidated gravel should provide for jogging and walking around larger parks.	Fences, bollards, or chicanes if provided, should be suitable for people to access with mobility devices. Provide appropriate latch height and design if gated and breaks in long walls, such as along the foreshore.
Catchment	Provide an accessible car space immediately adjacent, on an accessible path of travel for district and regional spaces.							
Local	O	O	√	√	Where these elements are provided	√	Every park over 1ha	Where fenced or walled
District	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Regional	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

Note: A continuous accessible path of travel is generally a path suitable for wheelchair use and shall not include a step, stairway, turnstile, revolving door, escalator, moving walk or other impediment. Pathways have spaces of 1800mm wide which allow two wheelchairs to pass at the same time. Smooth, slip resistant surfaces and flat surfaces.

5.3.3 Social/Support facilities in parks for play

3. SERVICE STANDARDS – SOCIAL/SUPPORT FACILITIES IN PARKS FOR PLAY									
Core requirements	Park name signs	Central social area with tables and seats	Drinking water	Security lighting	Built shade/shelter	BBQ	Toilet	Focal age groups served	Dog off-leash area
	Provide a name sign on all parks for play	Position a social area centrally, to enable people of all ages and abilities to take part in social activities and to view/supervise play on play equipment, hard courts and skate and nature. Provide multiple accessible tables and seats in sun and shade. Use design with space for mobility devices and clear spaces around. Provide a selection of seats at right angles or facing, with backs and arms.	Provide an accessible drinking tap easily reached from a mobility device and on a path.	Provide security lighting at each major park entry and social hub.	Provide built shade in central /social hubs.	Where a BBQ is provided site with an associated picnic table and seating, accessible for people of all ages and abilities, allowing or adequate maneuvering space (unimpeded by shelter supports).	Toilets are to be of an accessible gender-neutral design.	Provide infrastructure suited to all ages, allowing for a focus on one key age group.	Provide for access to dog exercise and socialization areas.
Local	√	√	Desirable	O	Desirable	O	O	√ Focus on children /teens	O
District	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√ All ages	Selected sites only
Regional	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√ All ages	Selected sites only

5.3.4 Inclusive elements for parks for play

4. SERVICE STANDARDS – INCLUSIVE ELEMENTS FOR PARKS FOR PLAY							
	Fencing	Path system and access points	Central social hub with tables, shelter, and seats	Swinging /rotating/ bouncing and/or rocking item	Quiet/ Respite area	Access to nature	Social/ co-operative play
Core requirements	Selectively fence some parks for play sites across the City	Provide an accessible path of travel around the space as paths are central to provide access to play stimuli for users with wheelchairs etc. and for orientation, connecting social, physical, and environmental elements. Provide access to any elevated area. Provide access to off-the shelf items designed to be accessible; picnic tables, drinking fountains, under desk spaces, shop counters, sand tables and interactive panels such as noughts and crosses.	Provide a central accessible social area. Shelters tables and seating should be provided at the heart of the space and have adequate space around for manoeuvring. Seats and tables should be served by a path. Seat slabs should extend to provide space for a person with a mobility aid to sit next to other users, or enable a person to transfer from a device, Design and siting should allow front on use /positioning for counters/ interactive items and in position next to companions. Provide rails and supports for resting and support. Some seats should have arms and backs.	Provide a selection of accessible swinging or rotating items such as a basket/ hammock or seat swing / one with back support. Include a rotating item such as a spinner/ accessible carousel. These items require a path access.	Provide spaces suitable for quiet activities away from boisterous play. These should provide some degree of seclusion/separation from busy active zones where people of all ages and abilities may observe without conflicts due to noise or activity.	Species selection and positioning should enable all users to interact with vegetation and loose materials including elements accessible from wheelchairs or mobility devices.	Provide opportunities for social interaction for people of different ages and abilities by positioning like infrastructure; connected or positioned side by side, (e.g., different swings) and that may encourage group play activities. Provide role play/pretend play features for children of all abilities. Provide interactive items so they can be reached front on from a chair or mobility device.
Catchment							
Local	Only where necessary for safety	✓	✓	Desirable	Desirable	Desirable	Desirable
District	Fence one site per locality/catchment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Regional	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

5.3.5 Natural and environmental features in parks for play

5. SERVICE STANDARDS – NATURAL and ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES IN PARKS FOR PLAY									
	Canopy trees for shade and cooling	Specimen trees	Irrigated/managed turf	Hardy flowering plants	Sensory planting/ tall grasses or shrubs	Screen planting along boundaries	Rocks and logs	Loose, natural materials for play	Zero depth water play Natural/ephemeral wet area
Core requirements	Provide canopy trees for shade and cooling. Position carefully to project shade onto social/activity areas, and define circuit paths	Provide specimen trees for landscape character, visual appeal, and play, for spatial interest and complexity. Provide individually and in groups.	Provide an open area for games and group picnics	Provide hardy flowering plants for visual amenity, sensory qualities, habitat, play materials	Provide sensory planting for spatial delineation, supply of sensory qualities, habitat and define small spaces.	Select boundary planting for habitat, screening, and wind breaks.	Provide rocks and logs and other natural elements for play, perching, habitat, and character.	Provide loose, natural materials for play, e.g., sand, digging patch, loose-leaf litter, twigs, pods and building materials etc, edible plants	See separate tables following.
Catchment	Position trees that drop leaves/ fruit / limbs so as not to overhang hard courts, skate facilities or paths to minimise risk of falls and cleaning costs.	Provide to emphasise park entries. Select for bark, fruit, leaf, and habits that provide play material or encourage play.					Allow exposure to non-manufactured items, which may change over time, for decision making and open-ended play.		
Local	✓	✓	Desirable – open area may be hard surface if lawn not sustainable	Desirable	Desirable	✓	✓	Desirable	O
District	✓	✓	Desirable on selected sites	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Desirable on selected sites
Regional	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

5.3.6 Facilities to encourage physical activity in parks for play

6. SERVICE STANDARDS – FACILITIES TO ENCOURAGE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN PARKS FOR PLAY								
Core requirements	Park perimeter path circuit	Choice of movement types on play equipment	Opportunities to climb	Outdoor exercise equipment on a path circuit	Hard courts/ rebound walls	Skate/BMX	Practice nets/ goals	Open Grassed Area for running/ball games etc.
Catchment	Provide a shared perimeter circuit suitable for jogging and walking, around parks greater than 1 ha., separate from any footpath and desirably no or minimal crossing of vehicle access ways.	Provide opportunities for spinning, swinging, rocking, sliding, bouncing, balancing, hanging, jumping, wheeling, traversing, running, chasing, stepping. Ensure some inclusive and social/group options.	Ensure different heights and degrees of challenge are available for different age groups.	Where exercise equipment is to be provided in parks for play, only provide these in conjunction with a perimeter exercise circuit	Selectively provide hard courts and space for wheel toys, games, and practice. Connect any court areas to a path system if provided. Provide buffers around courts to minimise conflict, damage from balls, risk of balls travelling on to roads. Provide in view of seating and shelter for companions.	See separate requirement and policy principles.	Where large parks can provide areas for kick to kick, consider selective provision of nets and goals where conflicts with other users or neighbours can be managed.	Provide an unobstructed open area desirably 40m in length away from other activity spaces and houses so as not to discourage kick to kick, or a game of cricket, or football etc,
Local	Desirable	Ensure variety between sites in the same catchment	√	O	O	O	O	√
District	√	√	√	Selected sites with perimeter path	Full sized basketball with multi goals. Desirable on selected sites	Selected sites	Selected sites	√
Regional	√	√	√	O	Full sized basketball with multi goals Desirable on selected sites	Desirable on selected sites	Selected sites	√

5.3.7 Key play features-a summary

7. SERVICE STANDARDS – KEY PLAY FEATURES – A SUMMARY										
Core requirements	A flat, open area, suitable for social games	Social, physical, and environmental elements designed specifically to facilitate play for target age groups			Opportunities for diverse types of movement and physical activity	Opportunities for climbing	Nature play; natural elements and loose materials for creative/sensory play	Interactive items engaging fine motor skills	Features to encourage social/co-operative/pretend play	Different intensities of social /group activity, ranging from busy and active, to quiet/solitary restful/respite
	Provide for activities such as running, cricket and kick to kick, touch, football, kites etc.	Provide for children from pre-school to early secondary school ages, of all abilities	Provide purpose-built options for teenagers, adults, and older adults of all abilities	Opportunities for adult and child interaction	Select items or design for a range of specific activities including. Swinging/ spinning /rocking/ sliding/ bouncing and wheeling etc	On purpose-built play equipment, trees, logs, rocks etc.	Provide trees, shrubs and ground covers selected for a range of amenity, climate, habitat and play related benefits.	Provide interactive Play panels/games/ pulleys, water pumps and taps etc that can be accessed from a wheelchair.	Provide cubbies, shop counters, steering wheels etc. and items that encourage social interaction, intergenerational play and can be used by more than one person sitting or standing.	Include small spaces as well as large/ busy/open areas. Provide areas buffered from noisy and boisterous play but with viewing onto activity.
Catchment										
Local	√	√	Desirable	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
District	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Regional	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

B. WATER PLAY ELEMENTS IN PARKS FOR PLAY

5.3.8 Water play; definitions and lead strategy

This Strategy, makes the distinction between three common types of water play facilities:

1. Zero depth, free -non-supervised, interactive water play elements in play spaces
2. Free waterplay in natural water bodies, lakes, rivers and creeks and Port Phillip Bay
3. Stand-alone zero-depth water parks or supervised "splash parks" with zero-depth areas (with or without pools or interactive water play elements) associated with aquatic centres.

This Strategy, includes only the first type of water play facilities; zero depth, free -non-supervised, interactive water play

The lead document for type two (Free water play in natural water bodies) is the Coastal and Marine Management Strategy.

The third type (Stand-alone zero-depth or supervised "splash parks") is considered under the Aquatic Facilities Strategy.



5.3.9 Types of water play facilities, core requirements and hierarchy

8. WATER PLAY FACILITIES						
Type of Water play	Core requirements and service standards	Lead strategy	Facility and Reserve Name	Hierarchy	Existing facilities	Future
1. Zero depth, free, non-supervised, interactive water play elements in play spaces	<p>In regional or district parks, Where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Space allows Consistent with the park theme and associated design Natural waterways/ coast is not accessible close by Cost effective to service – access to water, power, clean and manage etc Can be maintained to a consistent level of service Not a windy/exposed site Not likely to be choked by loose material, leaf litter or sand 	Play Strategy	Edwards Reserve, South Kingsville	Local level facility	Hand water pump?	No Plans
			Brooklyn Reserve, Brooklyn	District level facility	Hand water pump?	No Plans - Recently upgraded
			A B Shaw Reserve, Altona North	District level facility	A water play 'creek' and a hand-operated water pump	No Plans - Recently upgraded
			Curlw Community Park, Laverton	Local level facility	Ephemeral creek bed Sand table with water tap	No Plans - Recently upgraded
			Cherry Lake, Altona	Local / Or District level facility	Open channel Access to lake edge, but viewable only – no contact.	Include water play element in redesign of the play space
			Newport Lakes Reserve, Newport	District level facility	Access to lake edge Better Places Program	Include nature and water elements in play space redevelopment
			McCormack Park, Jennings Street, Laverton	District level facility	Better Places Program	Guided by the Aquatic Facilities Strategy
2. Free water play in natural water bodies Lakes, Rivers and Creeks and the Bay	<p>The City is blessed with five rivers and two safe swimming beaches which support play.</p> <p>The lead strategy for interaction with this type of water is the Coastal and Marine Management Strategy</p>	Coastal and Marine Management Strategy				
3. Stand-alone zero-depth or supervised "splash parks"	<p>These facilities require specialised management by trained personnel, regular maintenance, and routine water quality monitoring.</p> <p>They will only be provided in select circumstances or in conjunction with an aquatic facility.</p>	Aquatic Facilities Strategy	McCormack Park, Jennings Street, Laverton	District level facility	Better Places Program	Guided by the Aquatic Facilities Strategy

C. BIKE FACILITIES IN PARKS FOR PLAY

5.3.10 Bike facilities suitable for urban parks and children

Pump Tracks



A circuit of rollers, banks, berms, and jumps

Designed to be ridden by riders pumping, not pedalling

Can also be used by adaptive mountain bikers and younger riders who pedal and gain basic bike handling skills

Pump tracks can be constructed from dirt, asphalt, or concrete.

Where multiple pump tracks are provided across the City, ensure they are not the only bike facility and that they are of different surfaces

Skills Areas



A collection of features in a hub that offer skills and learning opportunities that can be applied to trails, dirt jumps, pump tracks and general MTB/BMX cycling

Features range from simple ladder bridges, timber berms, beams and rolling humps to drop offs, jumps and turns around obstacles

Features that offer graded challenges and options for learning and fun.

5.3.11 Style of bike facilities suitable for urban parks, and children

Dirt jumps



Assist a rider in doing manoeuvres in the air
Associated with tricks and challenges- not speed
Consist of launch and landing ramp that may be one jump (tabletops) or separate jumps (gap jumps)
Jumps need constant refinement to keep in shape
Typically provided as a run of at least 3-4 jumps

Learn to ride circuits



These are typically flat sealed paths in a small circuit.
The circuit may contain miniature traffic signs and signals
These circuits may include some changes in level or different surfaces, for example, cobbles or slatted timber areas
Suitable for pedal-less bikes, scooters, and preschool children with little or no experience on a bike.

5.3.12 Bike facilities in play spaces policy and service standards

Key requirements-Bike facilities	Resourcing and maintenance	Type of facilities	Distribution	Other strategies
<p>Bike facilities will provide graded challenges</p> <p>Bike facilities will include a variety of surfaces (dirt and sealed)</p> <p>Bike facilities will be suitable for a broad range of age groups and abilities, including children, and offer a variety of features and experiences.</p> <p>Locate sealed areas for bikes and ball games away from loose materials or dirt facilities.</p> <p>Tracks in unsupervised bike areas should not cross, as these are high conflict areas in a public setting.</p> <p>Where planning upgrades to a district or regional park, these may include bike facilities when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They meet a local demand They fill a gap in equitable distribution They are consistent with the nature of the park development The space is available without conflicts with other users, such as older adults, dogs etc., An off-road trail connects the site Public transport serves the site. 	<p>Council has limited opportunities to provide large bike facilities due to being an established urban area with limited new development or large parklands to be developed.</p> <p>Council does not have the number of facilities or resources to support bike riders to construct facilities.</p> <p>Dirt bike facilities need to be checked regularly, i.e., after storms, to ensure no holes are dug, lips of jumps remain intact, and homemade ramps or other items are not present</p> <p>Consider requiring bike maintenance staff to hold MTB track building accreditation, but they may also need urban and public facility training.</p> <p>Regularly sweep sealed pump track facilities</p> <p>Inspect bike facilities regularly (preferably once a week)</p> <p>Cleansing staff may conduct high-level inspections of bike facilities and fitness equipment</p> <p>Complete a more formal internal inspection by trained /accredited staff (e.g., with IMTBA) once a month and by an external auditor every six months</p> <p>Include concrete pump tracks in this inspection regime using suitably qualified personnel</p> <p>Seek an ongoing relationship with a company to do inspections, maintenance, and minor repair work.</p>	<p>Council will consider providing small scale skate and bike facilities of a recreational nature in association with play facilities</p>	<p>Council will consider developing one main (regional) recreational bike park facility and three "premier" (district) skate facilities. All other bike facilities will be local level facilities, where play spaces can accommodate them safely</p> <p>Bike facilities will be relatively equitable distributed across the City</p> <p>Bikes facilities such as pump tracks, dirt jumps and skill parks, where required, will be considered in conjunction with play spaces classified as district or regional. District play spaces may also include "learn to ride" circuits</p>	<p>Council's Sports Strategy considers other cycle sports facilities such as BMX racing tracks and mountain bike facilities such as 4X and XC</p> <p>Learn to ride tracks may be provided in enclosed supervised settings such as children's centres. However, these are outside the scope of this strategy.</p>

5.3.13. Skate and bike facilities—existing and future

Skate Facility and Reserve Name	Address	Hierarchy	Existing	Future	Materials/Notes re bike use
Newport Skate Park	Newport Park, Douglas Parade, Newport	District level facility	One of 3 premier skate facilities - use for Flatland and Freestyle BMX	This facility has a planned upgrade. Introduce regular maintenance program	(Flatland/ Freestyle BMX) No separate bike facilities
Donald Mclean Reserve pump track and learn to ride track	The Avenue, Spotswood	Local level facility	Previous ½ pipe has been removed. Construction in progress for a new play facility	Planned as an asphalt pump track, as per Improvement Plan 2020 Included in the Better Places Program	Asphalt assumes bike use rather than skate focus, although indicated as a possible replacement for the previous skate facility here.
Altona Meadows Skate Park, HD Graham Reserve, Dirt jumps	Queen Street, Altona Meadows	Currently Local level facility. Reclassify as district.	One of 3 premier facilities	Maintain the skate facility as premier facility. Develop the associated bike facility as a premier bike facility that will encourage more people to come to this Reserve Offer multiple disciplines; with jumps, pump, and skills park.	Suggest only bike facilities-not a play space at HD Graham Reserve, + Freestyle and Flat land bike use at the skate park,
Laverton Skate Park	McCormack Park, Jennings Street, Laverton	District level facility	One of 3 premier skate facilities - used for Flatland and Freestyle BMX.	Introduce regular maintenance program	No specific bike facilities
Cherry Lake Junior Skate Park	Cherry Lake, Millers Road, Altona	Local	Local skate facility	Provide small local level skate or BMX facilities if and when play space is upgraded. Not at the same level as play space if district or above.	It does not mean Council has to provide a regional development in a regional park. No separate bike facilities here.
Curlew Community Park	Laverton	Local level facility	Relatively new concrete pump track	Retain at local level	Concrete pump track can be used for skate and bike activities
Paisley Park- Proposed	Paisley Park Altona North		No	Better Places Program. Local level bike facility is proposed	Bike facility (Dirt) east of the bowls club.

5.3.14. Skate facilities in play spaces; policy and service standards

Key requirements-Skate facilities	Resourcing and maintenance	Type of facilities	Distribution
<p>Skate facilities will provide graded challenges</p> <p>Skate facilities will be suitable for a broad range of age groups and abilities, including children, and offer a variety of features and experiences.</p> <p>Locate sealed areas for skating, bikes, and ball games away from loose materials or dirt facilities.</p> <p>Where planning upgrades to a district or regional park, these may include skate and bike facilities when:</p> <p>They meet a local demand</p> <p>They fill a gap in equitable distribution</p> <p>They are consistent with the nature of the park development</p> <p>The space is available without conflicts with other users, such as older adults, dogs etc.,</p> <p>An off-road trail connects the site</p> <p>Public transport serves the site.</p>	<p>Council has limited opportunities to provide large skate parks</p> <p>Regularly sweep skate parks</p> <p>Inspect facilities regularly (preferably once a week)</p> <p>Cleansing staff may conduct high-level inspections of bike and skate facilities and fitness equipment</p> <p>Complete a more formal internal inspection by trained /accredited staff once a month and by an external auditor every six months</p> <p>Seek an ongoing relationship with a company to do inspections, maintenance, and minor repair work on skate facilities.</p>	<p>Council will consider providing small scale skate and bike facilities of a recreational nature in association with play facilities</p>	<p>Council will consider retaining three "premier" (district) skate facilities.</p> <p>Any other skate facilities will be local level facilities, where play spaces can accommodate them safely</p> <p>Skate facilities will be relatively equitable distributed across the City</p> <p>Skate facilities where required, will be considered in conjunction with play spaces classified as district or regional.</p>

6 | REVIEW OF PLAY SPACES IN HOBSONS BAY

6.1 Distribution of parks for play

The City of Hobsons Bay has some 90 of play spaces including those proposed. The map below shows these sites.

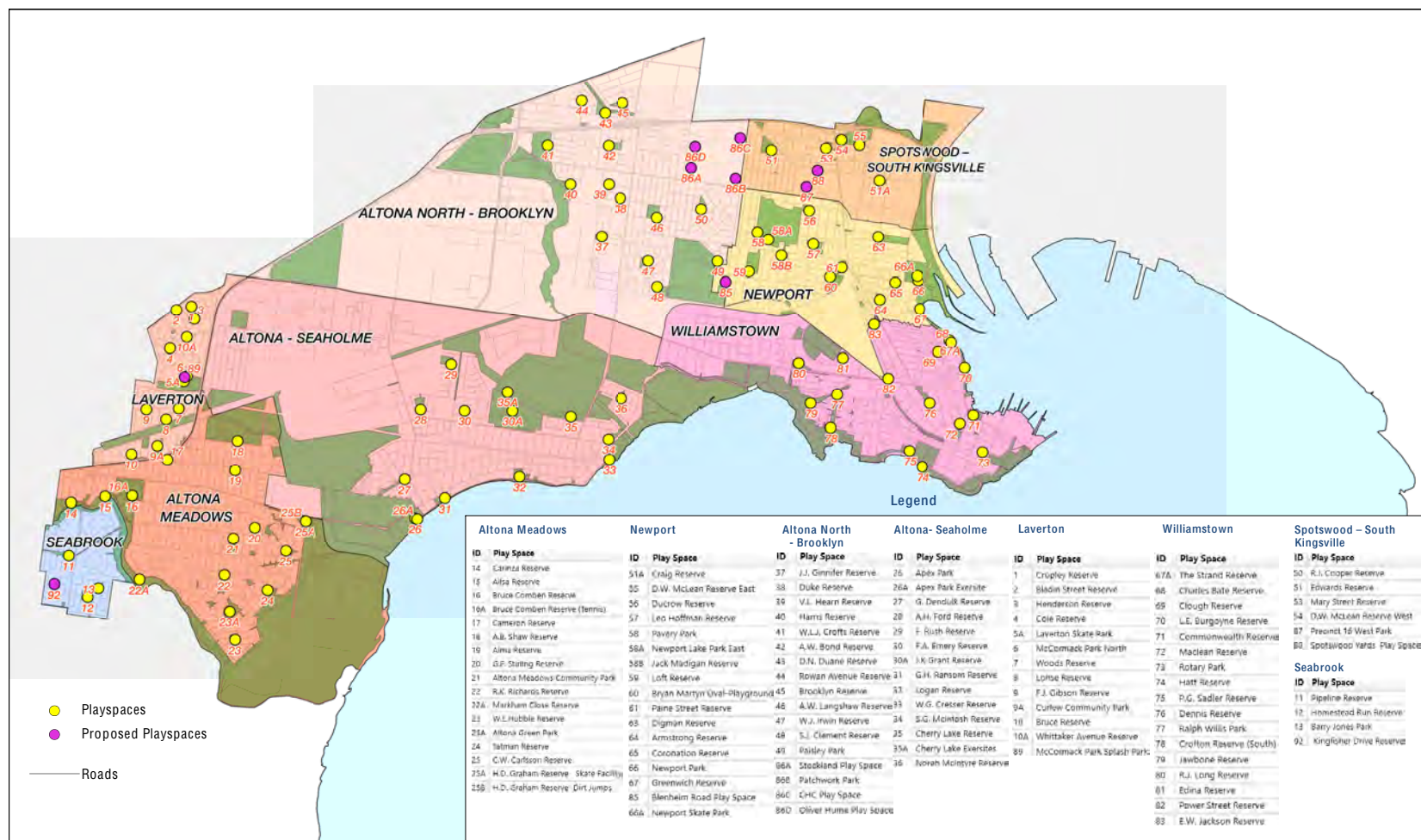


Figure 4 Location of existing and proposed play spaces

Appendix 7. lists each play space address and a number, that correspond to previous audits and the 2013 Play Strategy.

Most of the large sites of public open space are located along the foreshore and these are used by residents from across the western suburbs of Melbourne. Many have a conservation focus and are not suitable for play equipment. The carrying capacity of these foreshore spaces in summer is an issue and these spaces are often peripheral to the residential areas that have limited or very small parcels of local open space in walkable distance of all dwellings.

Gaps in distribution of parks for play

There is a large area in Altona Meadows without parks for play and little opportunities to address this without acquisition of land, because there is limited open space in that central area of that precinct. There is also a large area of Altona-Seaholme without parks for play. Where residential development opportunities arise in that location, a park of reasonable size should be acquired for play.

The north-eastern section of the Seabrook precinct, between the Skeleton Creek and Seabrook Boulevard is poorly laid out for walkability and does not have access to any parks for play. The Skelton Creek provides open space.

Pockets of Altona North are not well served by open space or parks for play and the very small pockets of open space acquired in Precinct 15 will do little to provide for necessary opportunities immediately to the east of that precinct. There are also pockets in Spotswood Kingsville with limited open space and yet there are substantial residential developments approved for this precinct. Opportunities through subdivision should be explored to accommodate a generous park that is designed to include people of all ages and abilities and provides for of a treed environment to complement open grassed areas.

Altona Meadows and Seabrook score poorly on walkability measures and are more reliant on cars (Community Plan 2020).

A detailed analysis of the gaps in distribution for each of the eight precincts is provided in Volume 2. Precinct Play Assessments.

Gaps and the strategic redevelopment areas

There are some gaps that coincide with strategic redevelopment areas, where the increased densities of development will limit opportunities for provide play spaces.

These gaps are shown overlaid with the strategic redevelopment areas, in the following image.

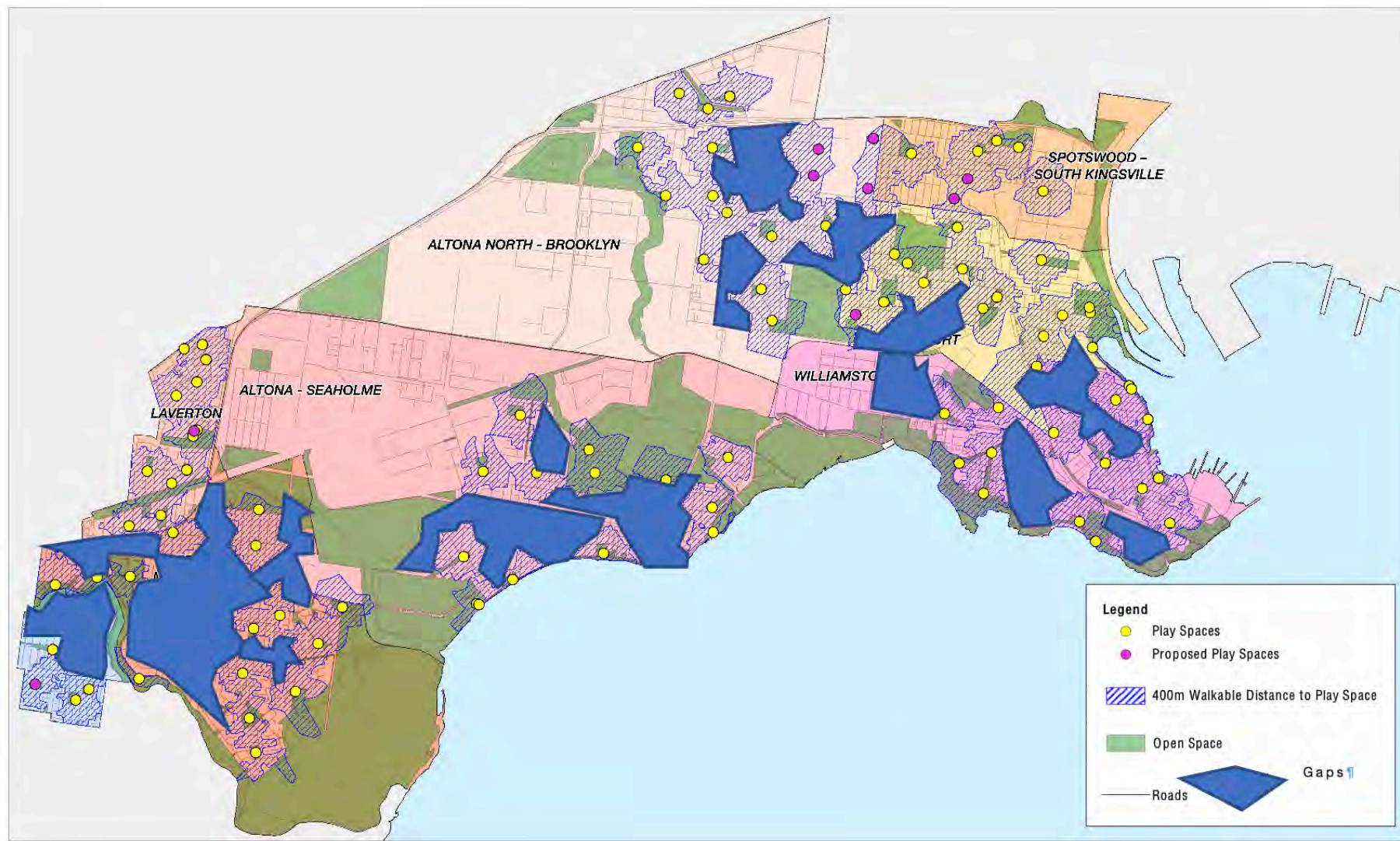


Figure 5. Residential areas outside 400m walking distance to a park for play

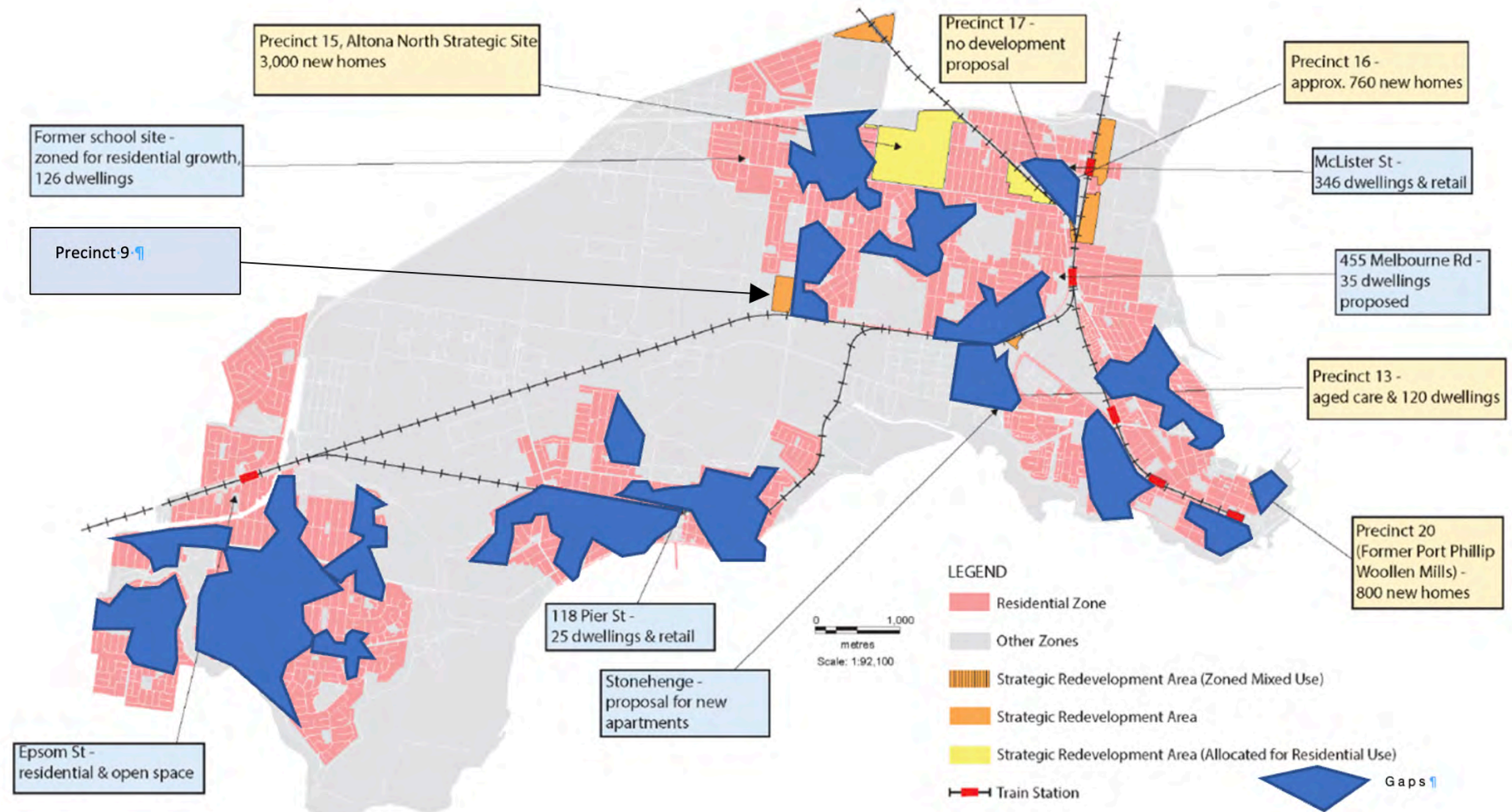


Figure 6 Indicative gaps in the distribution of parks for play, overlaid with the strategic redevelopment areas

The distribution of skate and bike facilities in parks for play

There are only two bike facilities currently in the City and several potential additional new ones that maybe provided in conjunction with district or regional parks for play.

There are five skate facilities in Hobsons Bay. The image to the right shows the distribution of facilities currently.

There is a skate or BMX facility within about 2.5 kilometres of most residents as the crow flies. See following map.

Note: this is not a walkable or rideable distance. The map shows indicative distribution only.



Figure 7. Skate and bike facilities: current distribution – 2.5km radii as the crow flies

Note the green coloured circles show bike facilities and orange are skate facilities.

The distribution of parks for play based on classification

The distribution of parks for play, based on catchment hierarchy and landscape setting type classification are shown on the next two pages.

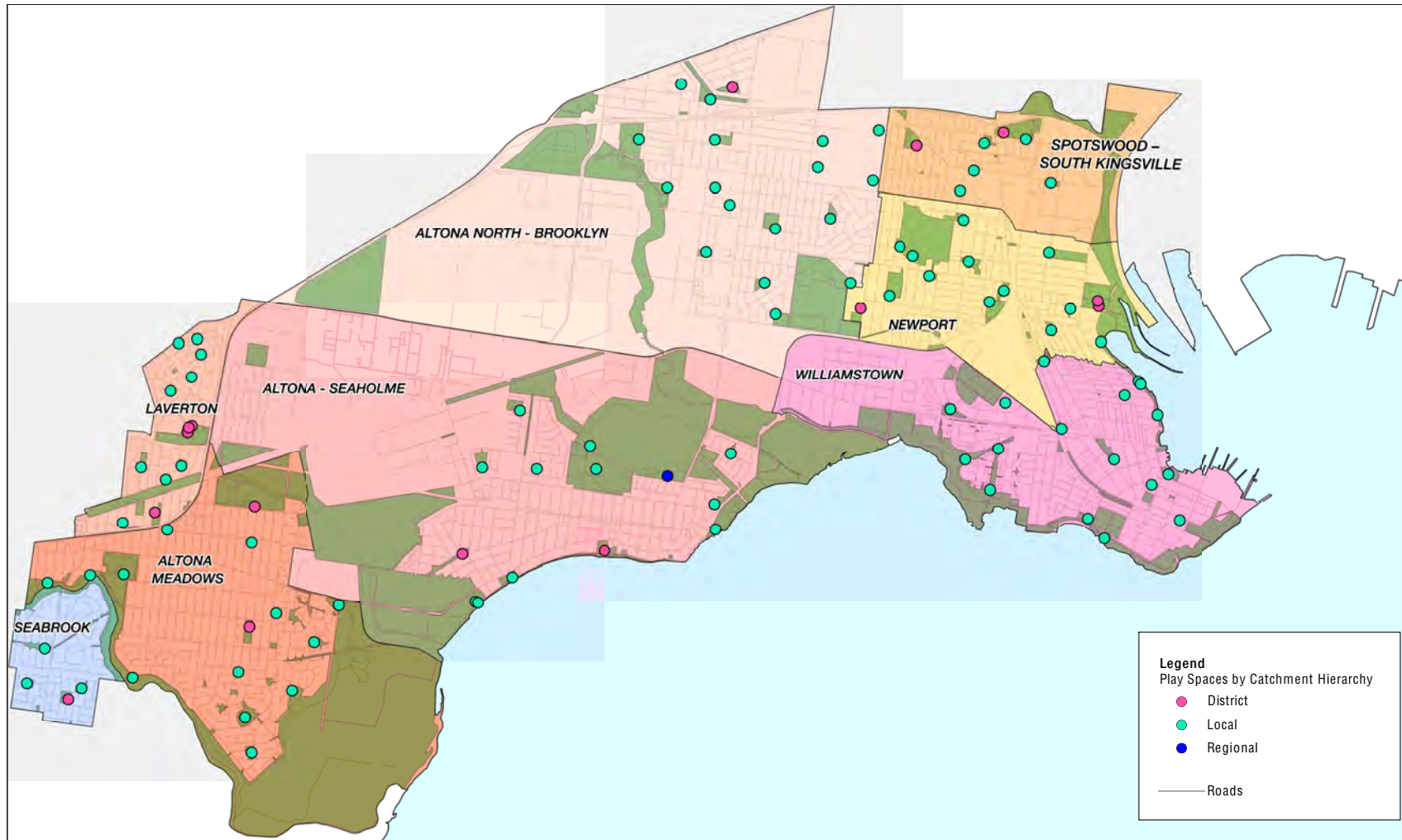


Figure 8. Distribution of parks based on catchment classification

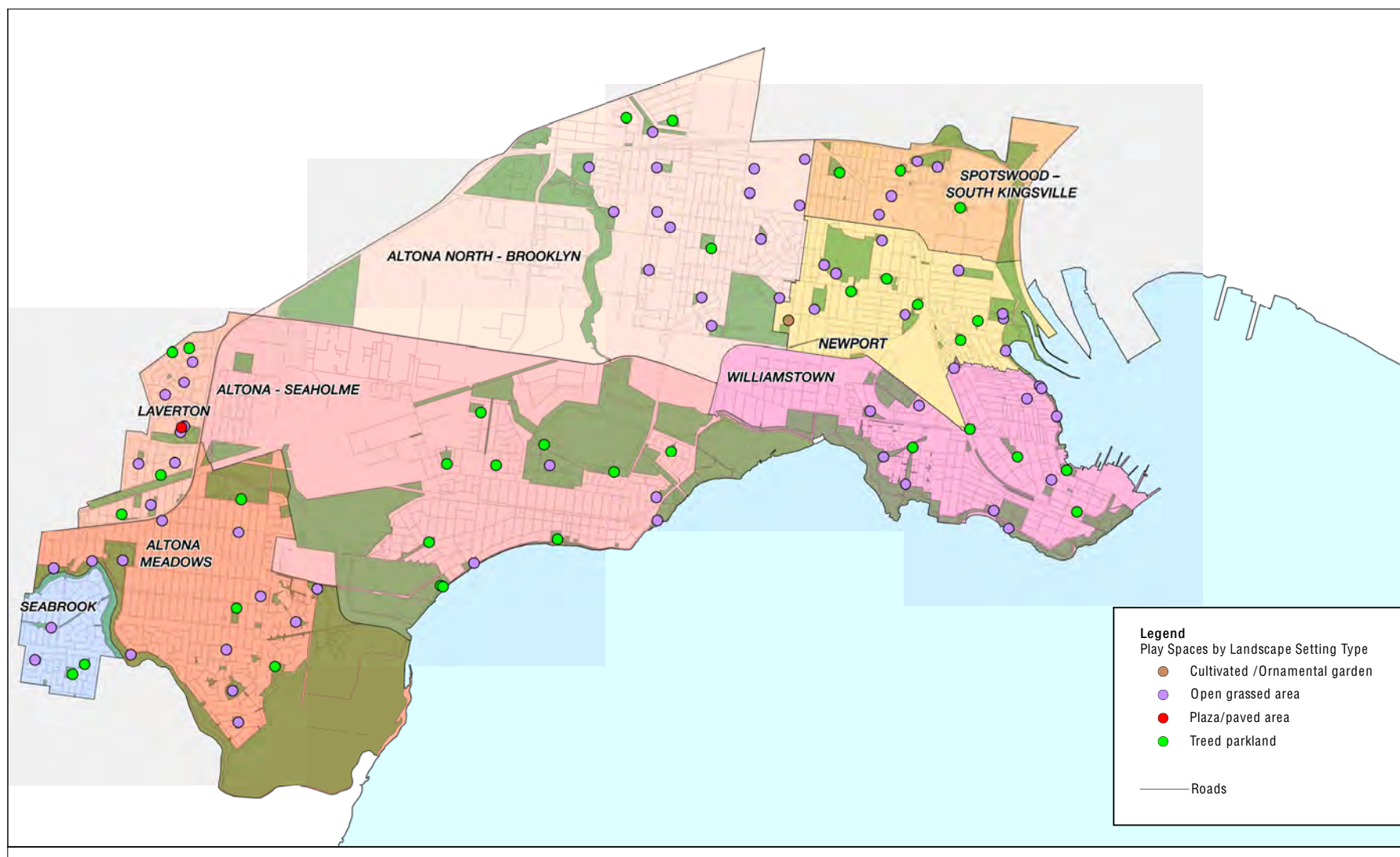


Figure 9. Distribution of parks based on landscape classification

6.2 Addressing the gaps in distribution

Poor provision of open space/play space in new high-density developments puts pressure on existing spaces- and increased funding is required to cope with new levels of demand.

Precinct 15 will deliver several very small parks, limiting diversity and play value and leave a gap in the west area of Altona North. One larger park for play would have delivered a park for people for all ages and abilities, as well as physical, social, and environmental features.

Some residential areas with gaps are less likely to be addressed by redevelopments in the medium term such as Altona Meadows.

Opportunities that should be considered to address gaps include:

- Where strategic redevelopment areas coincide with gaps in the distribution of parks for play, require communal open space in high density developments, and acquire new parks that accord with the provision and service standards to create high play value sites
- Investigate joint development opportunities with schools, for out of school hours access (e.g., Altona Primary as prominent position and in a gap area)
- Consider opportunities to divest several small play equipment areas, to diversify the landscape setting types and reintroduce pockets of bush, for example, and focus increasing quality in more strategically important sites
- Further develop some large parks for play, away from the foreshore, (to take the pressure off the foreshore parks) and make these hinterland parks more easily accessible by bike.
- Identify opportunities to either expand small open spaces, when development opportunities arise, or acquire new sites in strategic gaps at the time of sale or subdivision.

7 | ASSESSMENT OF PLAY SPACES BY PRECINCT

Volume 2. Precinct Play Assessments provides a detailed assessment of each space and issues across the precinct. A snapshot from each is provided in this document.

Precincts

A summary of findings of the review of existing play spaces is provided in the following pages, by precinct. The eight precincts are:

1. Altona Meadows
2. Altona North -Brooklyn
3. Altona- Seaholme
4. Laverton
5. Newport (north and south)
6. Seabrook
7. Spotswood – South Kingsville
8. Williamstown (included north and south).

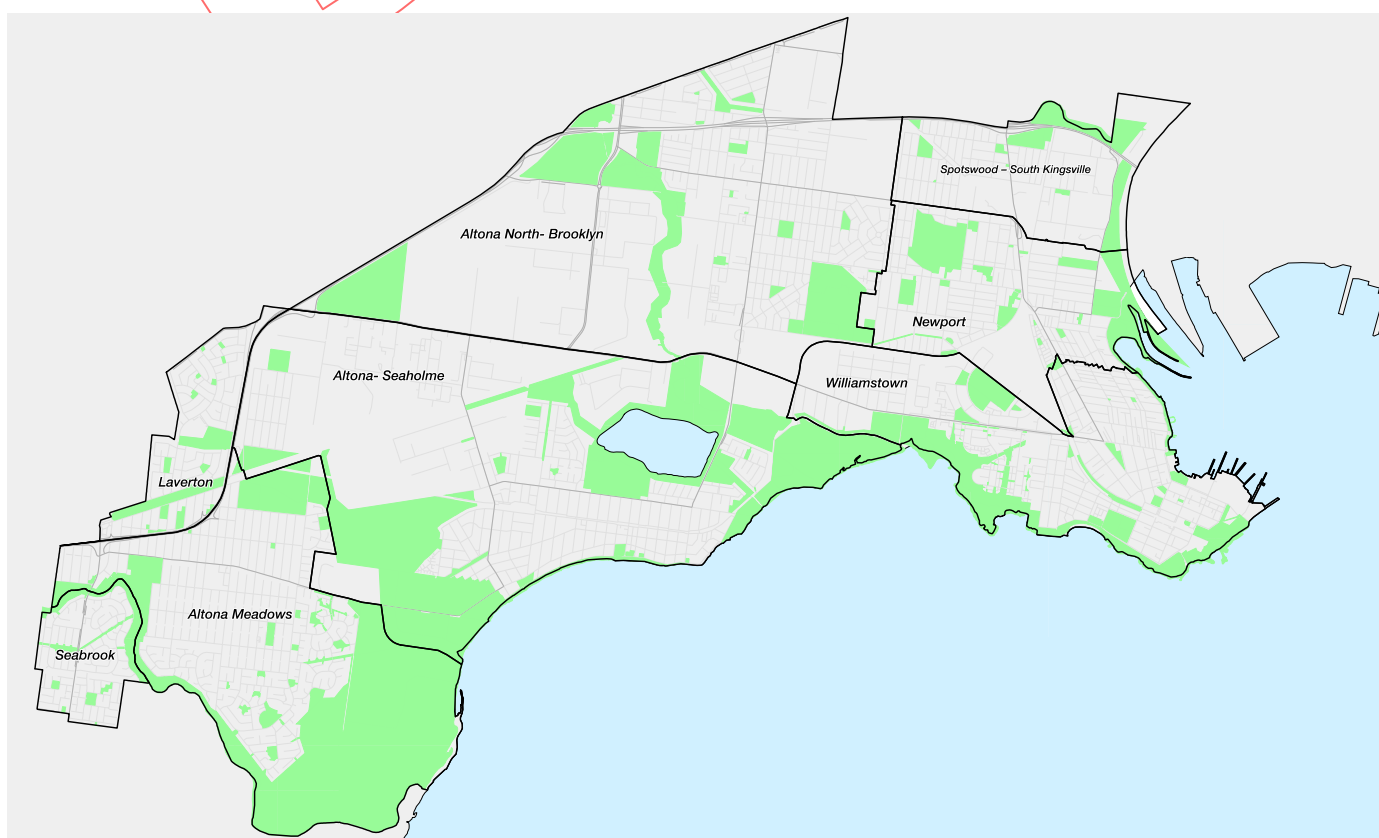


Figure 10 Planning precincts in Hobsons Bay

7.1 Altona Meadows Precinct

Precinct overview

Demographic influences

- There are quite high levels of disadvantage across the precinct, with the northern area noted as having a high proportion of disadvantage and a central block with a high population in need of assistance due to disability. This central block is also home to Benetas St George's Residential Aged Care.
- This socio-demographic situation is exacerbated by the lack of open space and the lack of access to play spaces, creating high levels of dependence upon some reasonably poor-quality spaces.
- There is a high proportion of children aged between 0-11 years clustered towards the western and northern edges of the precinct.

New development areas

There are no large development sites or areas of substantial change in this precinct.

Provision and distribution

There are 15 parks in total; 2 district level play spaces and the rest are local.

There is a large area between Central Ave and the Skeleton Creek, and west of Merton Rd, that has no open space and no play spaces. This is an urgent matter given the demographics here.

Sub-precincts

The play spaces in this precinct need to be considered in groups due to their distribution and their local catchments; planning for any individual site needs to consider the others locally within these groups.

A B Shaw Reserve, Alma Reserve and Cameron Reserve serve the whole area north of Central Ave/Queen St. Because Central/Queen St is considered a barrier, Cameron St reserve and Alma Res are more important than they may appear. Alma is a high priority.

Bruce Comben, Markham, Altona Meadows, and Richards Reserves serve a very large central area, the centre of which has no walkable access to play spaces or parks.

Bruce Comben is a high priority for improvement and is currently being upgraded. This park is also to be the site of the proposed new aquatic centre, subject to the availability of funding.

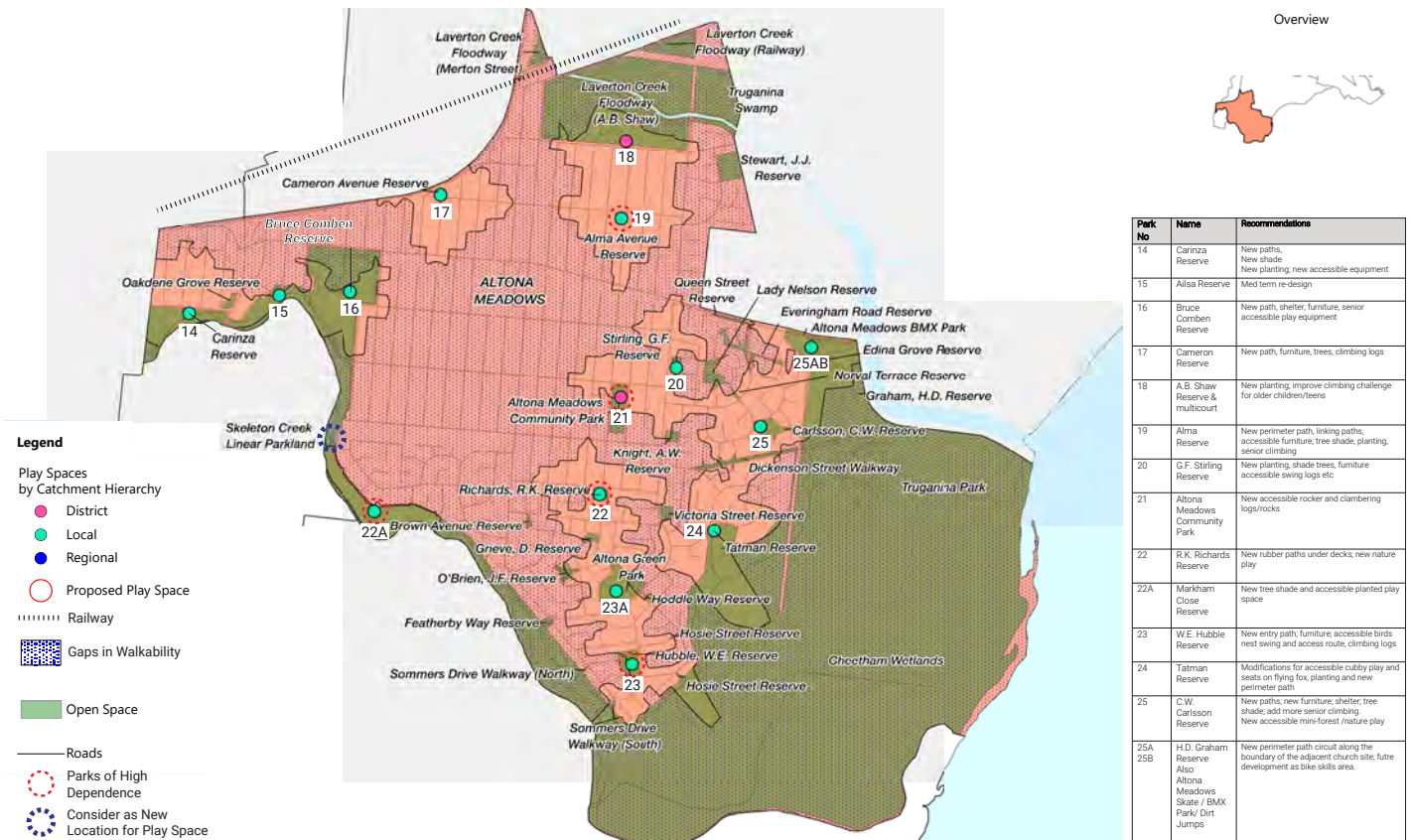
Stirling, HD Graham, Carlsson, Tatman and Hubble Reserves serve the east and southeast of the precinct.

HG Graham has a district level skate and BMX facility but is remote from most residences west of Polly Woodside Crescent. It is therefore not recommended to locate a play space here. Instead, it is recommended that this reserve be further developed as a regional level bike park.

CW Carlsson and WE Hubble, and Markham Close are high priorities due to inaccessibility of other options.

Walkability

The map below shows the area outside 400m walkable distance from parks for play, as well as parks of high dependence, and locations where a new play space should be considered.



Recommendations

- ▶ Consider the development of any play spaces in this precinct in groups due to their distribution and their local catchments
- ▶ Investigate whether a new play space could be created on Skeleton Creek where it meets Spicer Blvd., if no site that is more central to the area (Central Ave and the Skeleton Creek, and west of Merton Rd) can be found
- ▶ Provide more climbing and agility activities especially for older children
- ▶ Provide more accessible social facilities (tables, seats, and shade) and increase opportunities for accessibility in and around play spaces
- ▶ Increase canopy trees, other vegetation, and natural materials
- ▶ Increase shade both built and natural
- ▶ Where possible create terrain through rocks, retaining and mounding to help relieve the lack of spatial interest as other parks are almost universally flat.
- ▶ Consider developing a regional bike park at HD Graham Reserve, (but not a play space).
- ▶ Reclassify the skate facility as District (from Local). Introduce a regular inspection and maintenance program.

Budget / priorities; Altona Meadows

Park No.	Name	Proposed hierarchy	Indicative cost	Priority
14	Carinza Reserve	Local	\$100k	Medium
15	Ailsa Reserve	Local	\$400k	Medium
16	Bruce Comben Reserve	District	\$900k (\$3m for whole space)	High
17	Cameron Reserve	Local	\$60k	Medium
18	A.B. Shaw Reserve	District	\$50k	Low
19	Alma Reserve	Local	\$100k Short term	High
20	G.F. Stirling Reserve	Local	\$30k	Low
21	Altona Meadows Community Park	District	\$50k	High
22	R.K. Richards Reserve	Local	\$20k	Low
22A	Markham Close Reserve	Local	\$60k	High
23	W.E. Hubble Reserve	Local	\$100k	High
24	Tatman Reserve	Local	\$25K	Medium
25	C.W. Carlsson Reserve	Local	\$100K	High
25A 25B	H.D. Graham Reserve Altona Meadows Skate / BMX Park/ Dirt Jumps	District Reclassify skate facility as District (from local)	\$60k Excl/ bike facilities.	Low

7.2 Altona North-Brooklyn Precinct

Precinct overview

Demographic influences

There are prominent levels of disadvantage across the precinct, with the southern area noted as having a high proportion of disadvantage including one small pocket towards to the north with a high population in need of assistance due to disability. The small pocket towards the north includes 2 aged care facilities.

High proportions of children aged 0-4 years across the precinct, with a low population of children aged 5-11 years across the precinct.

There is a large, densely populated area north of Blackshaws Rd and east of Millers Rd with no parks at all.

New development areas

Precinct 15 off Blackshaws Road has four small play spaces being constructed by different developers, in addition to a sporting open space.

Altona North (Vic Urban former school site) is a large development site, but it does not plan to provide a park (only a walk-through open space).

Provision and distribution

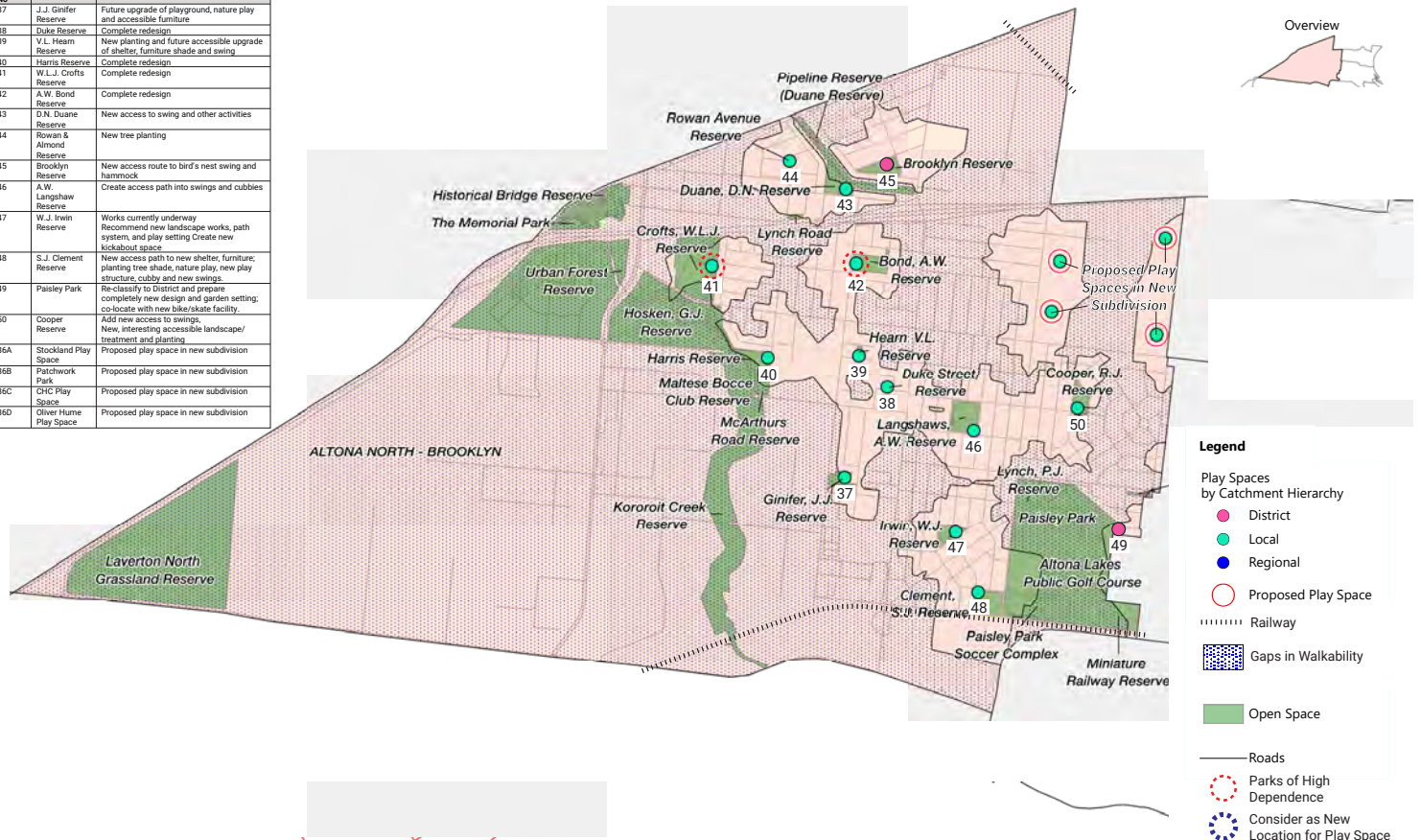
There are 15 parks in total; 13 local, 2 existing parks classified District (Brooklyn and Paisley Park, plus one new park/play space due to be constructed (in 2022) in Blenheim Rd, classified as District due to colocation with the Islamic Centre.

This precinct is unusual in that several play spaces are the only one within their immediate catchment and therefore assume a higher level of responsibility to cater for all local needs than typically expected of a local park.

Walkability

The map below shows the area outside 400m walkable distance from parks for play, as well as parks of high dependence, and locations where a new play space should be considered.

Park No	Name	Recommendations
37	J.J. Ginifer Reserve	Future upgrade of playground, nature play and accessible furniture
38	Duke Reserve	Complete redesign
39	V.L. Hearn Reserve	New planting and future accessible upgrade of shelter, furniture shade and swing
40	Harris Reserve	Complete redesign
41	W.L.J. Crofts Reserve	Complete redesign
42	A.W. Bond Reserve	Complete redesign
43	D.N. Duane Reserve	New access to swing and other activities
44	Rowan & Almond Reserve	New tree planting
45	Brooklyn Reserve	New access route to bird's nest swing and hammock
46	A.W. Langshaw Reserve	Create access path into swings and cubbies
47	W.J. Irwin Reserve	Works currently underway Recommend new landscape works, path system, and play setting Create new Kickabout space
48	S.J. Clement Reserve	New access path to new shelter, furniture, planting tree shade, nature play, new play structure, cubby and new swings
49	Paisley Park	Re-classify to District and prepare completely new design and garden setting; co-locate with new bike/skate facility.
50	Cooper Reserve	Add new access to swings. New, interesting accessible landscape/ treatment and planting
86A	Stockland Play Space	Proposed play space in new subdivision
86B	Patchwork Park	Proposed play space in new subdivision
86C	CHC Play Space	Proposed play space in new subdivision
86D	Oliver Hume Play Space	Proposed play space in new subdivision



Recommendations

- ▶ Consider co-locating a new district level play space with a skate/bike offering in Paisley Park. Note: the location of existing play space needs to be assessed whether or not it is suitable.
- ▶ Ensure the construction of the four new open spaces with play equipment (Precinct 15 meets the policy and service standards outlined in this strategy)
- ▶ Replace ageing equipment dating back to 2000
- ▶ Provide more attention to inclusive accessible play given the demographic profile of the precinct
- ▶ Increase canopy trees, vegetation, and natural materials in parks for play
- ▶ Increase opportunities for accessibility in and around play space s
- ▶ Increase shade, both built and natural
- ▶ Increase the number of tables and seating opportunities in parks
- ▶ Increase circuit walking opportunities
- ▶ In the progression of new open spaces with play equipment (Precinct 15) seek to create a diversity of opportunities and landscape setting types.

Budget / priorities Altona North-Brooklyn

Park No.	Name	Proposed hierarchy	Indicative cost	Priority
37	J.J. Ginifer Reserve	Local	\$300k	Medium
38	Duke Reserve	Local	\$200k	High
39	V.L. Hearn Reserve	Local	\$200k	Low
40	Harris Reserve	Local	\$400k	High
41	W.L.J. Crofts Reserve	Local	\$400k r	High
42	A.W. Bond Reserve	Local	\$400k	High
43	D.N. Duane Reserve	Local	\$20k	Low
44	Rowan and Almond Reserve	Local	\$5k	Low
45	Brooklyn Reserve	District	\$5-10k	Low
46	A.W. Langshaw Reserve	Local	\$10k	Medium
47	W.J. Irwin Reserve	Local	\$400k	Medium
48	S.J. Clement Reserve	Local	\$75k	Low, If Paisley Park is upgraded; otherwise, high priority
49	Paisley Park	Reclassify as District Bike facility proposed	\$750k Not incl. bike /skate	Medium
50	Cooper Reserve	Local	\$75k	Medium
85	Blenheim Rd Reserve	District	Works underway	-

7.3 Altona-Seaholme Precinct

Precinct Overview

Demographic influences

- There are quite low levels of disadvantage across the precinct, with the only area noted as having a high proportion of disadvantage in the very west portion.
- There are no notable areas with a high proportion of children across the precinct.

New development areas

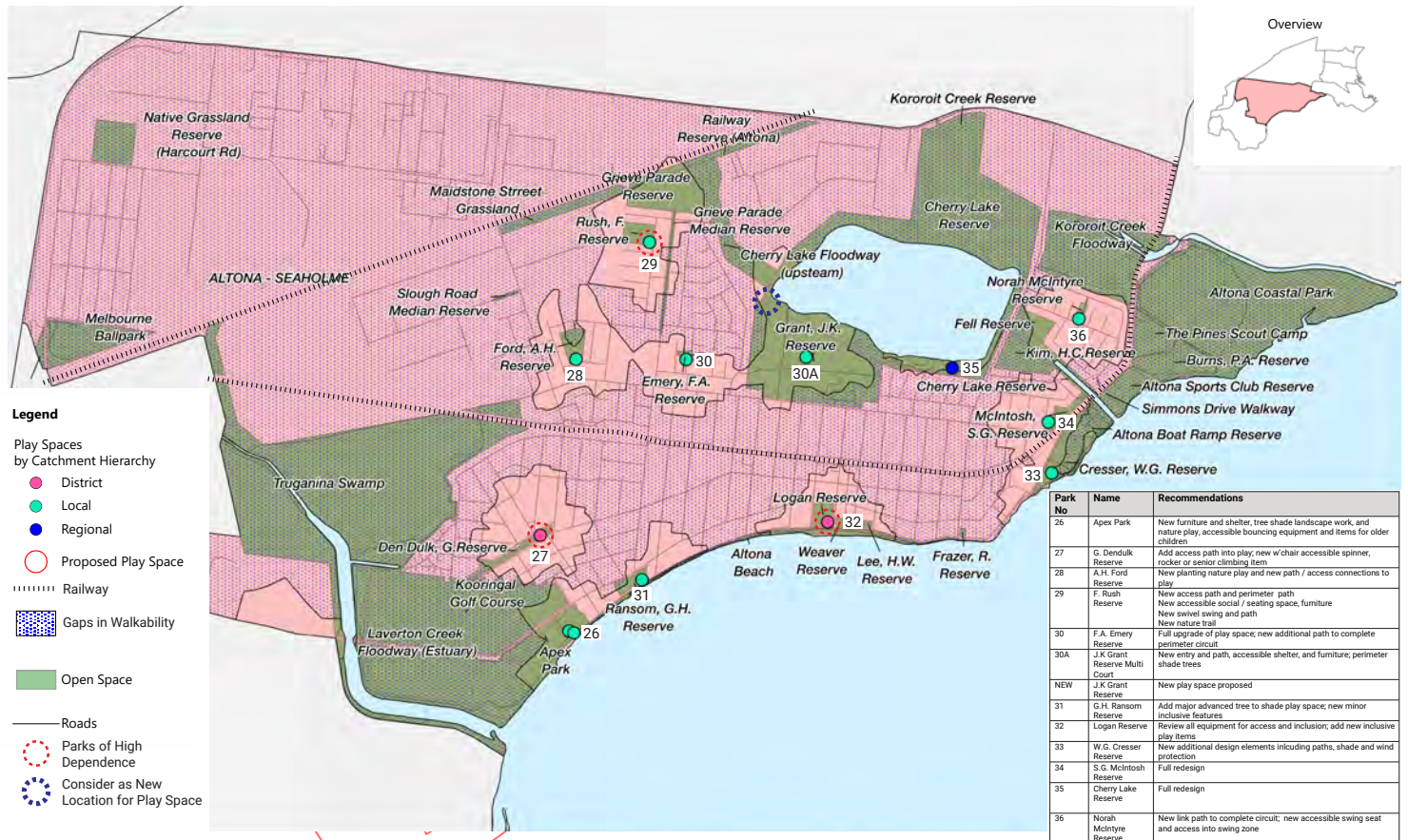
There are a number of small development sites in Altona, especially around Pier Street. However, none of these developments will deliver public open space.

Provision and distribution

- There are 12 parks in total, including 2 district level play spaces and 1 regional play space. The precinct is well serviced in terms of parks with a higher catchment hierarchy, however most are on the periphery of the residential area.
- Altona has some central areas along the local railway line, south of the railway line and east of Maidstone Street that have no access to play spaces or open space. The opportunity of creating community access to a local school site could be investigated.
- The only regional play space in the municipality is located here. It is recommended that a full re-design of Cherry Lake be funded as a medium-high priority.
- There are very few opportunities for people with disabilities to access play opportunities.
- The site of the Truganina Explosives Park was investigated for suitability for development of a play space. This is not considered suitable for play as it is remote from any residential areas and has no surveillance.

Walkability

The map below shows the area outside 400m walkable distance from parks for play, as well as parks of high dependence, and locations where a new play space should be considered.



Recommendations

- ▶ Add a new play space to JK Grant Reserve
- ▶ Redesign Cherry Lake, SG McIntosh, and FA Emery Reserves, and undertake important major works in Logan Reserve.
- ▶ Increase canopy trees, other vegetation, and natural materials in parks for play
- ▶ Increase opportunities for accessibility in and around parks for play
- ▶ Increase shade both built and natural
- ▶ Increase the number of tables and seating opportunities in parks for play
- ▶ Provide a small local level skate or bike facility if and when the play space is upgraded at Cherry Lake.

Budget / priorities Altona-Seaholme

Park No.	Name	Proposed hierarchy	Indicative cost	Priority
26	Apex Park	Local	\$75K	Medium
27	G. Dendulk Reserve	District	\$50K	High
28	A.H. Ford Reserve	Local	\$20K	Medium
29	F. Rush Reserve	Local	\$75K	High
30	F.A. Emery Reserve	Local	\$350K	Medium
NEW	J.K Grant Reserve	Local (New proposed)	\$500k	Medium
31	G.H. Ransom Reserve	Local	\$20k	Low
32	Logan Reserve	District	\$300k	High
33	W.G. Cresser Reserve	District	\$300k	Low
34	S.G. McIntosh Reserve	Local	\$400k	Medium
35	Cherry Lake Reserve	Regional	\$2-3Mil	Medium
36	Norah McIntyre Reserve	Local	\$50K	Low

Overall park redevelopment priorities: Cherry Lake Reserve

7.4 Laverton Precinct

Precinct overview

Demographic influences

- There are quite high levels of disadvantage across the precinct with the most concentrated population in the centre heading towards the north.
- There is a high proportion of children aged 0-4 years towards to the south with an average population of children ages 5-11 years towards the north of the precinct.

New development areas

There some development sites and areas of substantial change in this precinct. Curlew Park serves the main area of growth.

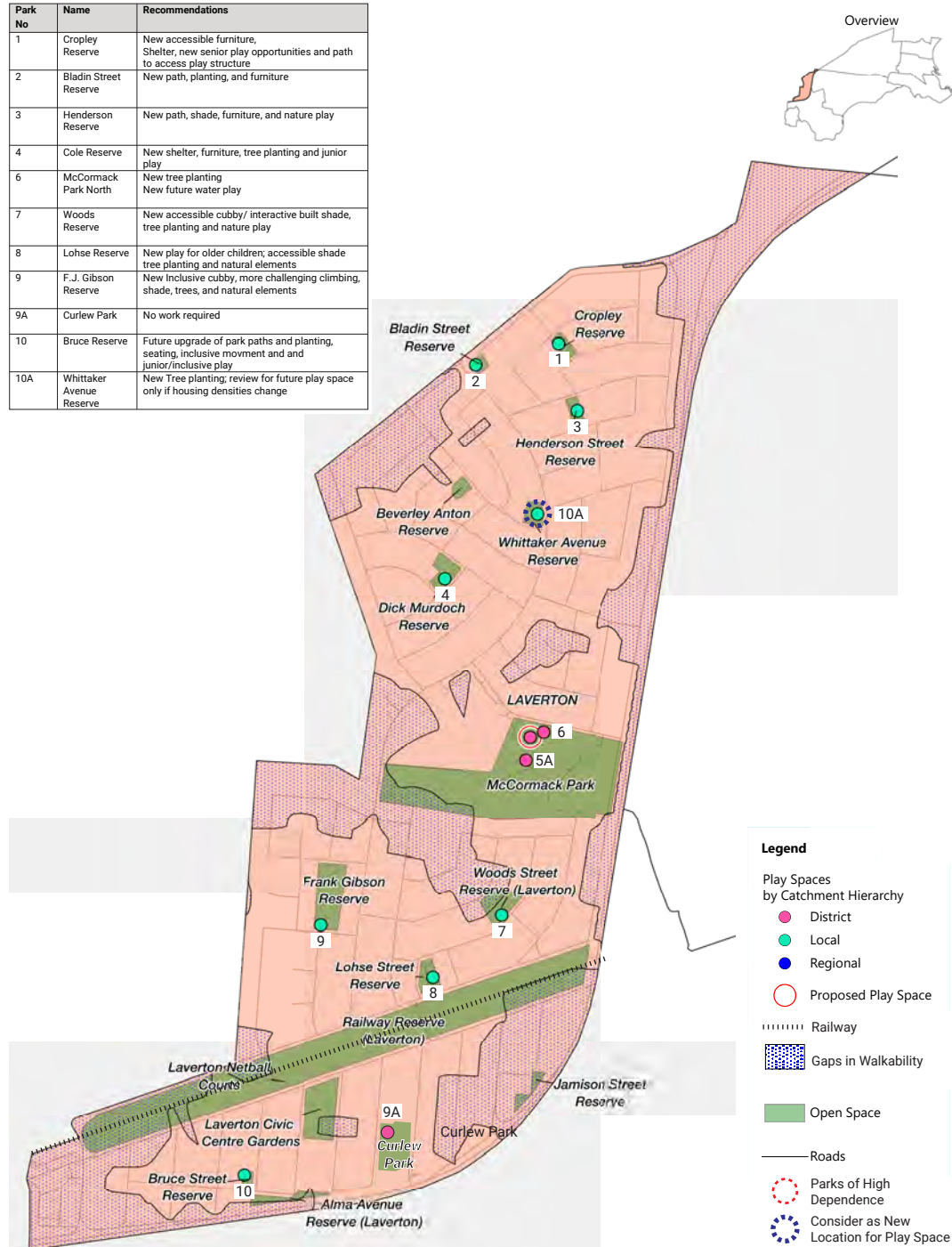
Provision and distribution

- There are 13 parks in total, 2 district level play spaces and the rest are local.
- Reserves in the north are similar with poor-quality equipment, no inclusive play, and few amenities. Equipment tends to cater for younger children.

Walkability

The map below shows the area outside 400m walkable distance from parks for play, as well as parks of high dependence, and locations where a new play space should be considered.

Park No	Name	Recommendations
1	Cropley Reserve	New accessible furniture, Shelter, new senior play opportunities and path to access play structure
2	Bladin Street Reserve	New path, planting, and furniture
3	Henderson Reserve	New path, shade, furniture, and nature play
4	Cole Reserve	New shelter, furniture, tree planting and junior play
6	McCormack Park North	New tree planting New future water play
7	Woods Reserve	New accessible cubby/ interactive built shade, tree planting and nature play
8	Lohse Reserve	New play for older children, accessible shade tree planting and natural elements
9	F.J. Gibson Reserve	New inclusive cubby, more challenging climbing, shade, trees, and natural elements
9A	Curlew Park	No work required
10	Bruce Reserve	Future upgrade of park paths and planting, seating, inclusive movement and and junior/inclusive play
10A	Whittaker Avenue Reserve	New Tree planting; review for future play space only if housing densities change



Recommendations

- ▶ Increase tree canopy, other vegetation, and natural materials
- ▶ Increase opportunities for accessibility in and around play spaces
- ▶ Increase shade both built and natural
- ▶ Increase the numbers of tables and seating opportunities
- ▶ Upgrade park and amenity
- ▶ Provide access paths and more inclusive opportunities for movement on play equipment

Recommendations (cont'd)

- ▶ Undertake tree planting (create a mini forest)
- ▶ Consider the design of play spaces in this precinct in groups due to their distribution and their local catchments. Planning for any individual site needs to consider the others locally within these groups
- ▶ Introduce a regular maintenance program at the Laverton Skate Park.

Northern section- North of Bladin Street

- ▶ Cropley, Bladin and Henderson Reserves are being developed to complement each other in both design and landscape setting characteristics. Cole Reserve needs to be considered as part of this group, in proximity to Western Autism school and the Catholic primary school. These all need to be considered together and each needs to complement the others in design and landscape setting characteristics.
- ▶ Seek to provide more diversity in equipment and address the lack of inclusive play and lack of amenities. Equipment tends to cater for younger children.
- ▶ Earmark Cole for full future refurbishment (medium priority).
- ▶ Add a wheelchair accessible senior swivel birds nest swing on accessible surface at Henderson Reserve (medium priority).
- ▶ Add other accessible nature play opportunities on the other sites.

Whittaker Ave Play Space

No play development needed at present unless housing densities change significantly.

Central Section -South of Bladin St

- ▶ Reclassify McCormack Park as District, undertake additional tree planting and provide shade.
- ▶ Undertake minor works at Woods Reserve to add inclusive play, shelter, and trees
- ▶ Consider adding more challenge and major new tree and vegetation planting in Frank Gibson Reserve
- ▶ Add activities at Lohse Reserve, considering adjacent residences as well as the shopping centre.

Southern Section- South of Railway Line

- ▶ Reclassify Curlew Park (newly developed) as District.
- ▶ Retain Bruce Reserve, although small it is needed to cater for residents furthest away from Curlew Park.

Budget / Priorities Laverton

Park No.	Name	Proposed hierarchy	Indicative cost	Priority
1	Cropley Reserve	Local	\$150k	Medium
2	Bladin Street Reserve	Local	\$25k	Medium
3	Henderson Reserve	Local	\$40k	Medium
4	Cole Reserve	Local	\$300k	High
6	McCormack Park North	District	\$40k	Low
7	Woods Reserve	Local	\$40k	Low
8	Lohse Reserve	Local	\$100k	Medium
9	F.J. Gibson Reserve	Local	\$60k	Low
9A	Curlew Park	District	\$0	N/A
10	Bruce Reserve	Local	\$200k	Low
N/A	Whittaker Avenue Reserve	Local	Works recently completed	N/A

Overall park redevelopment priorities: McCormack Park

7.5 Newport precinct

Precinct overview

Demographic influences

- There are low levels of disadvantage across the precinct, with the eastern area noted as having a moderate population in need of assistance due to disability (this location has an aged care facility).
- There are high proportions of children aged between 0-4 years in Newport West, with children aged 5-11 years across Newport West and Newport East.

New development areas

A new development at 455 Melbourne Road/Newcastle Street will net some 80 dwellings however no open space is proposed in the development. This precinct is also likely to increase in density in future.

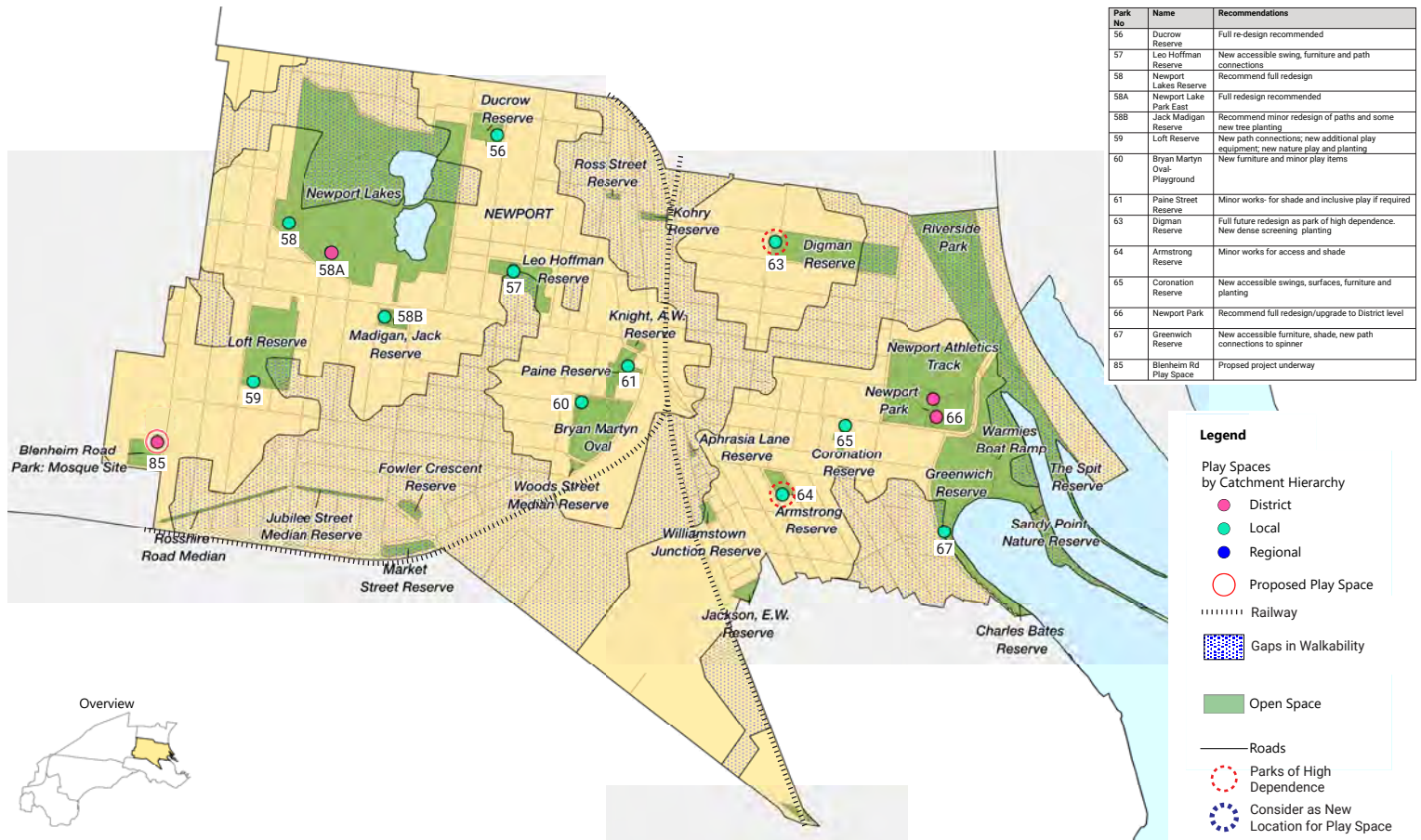
Provision and distribution

There are 18 parks in total, including 2 district level sites, (Newport Lakes Reserve and Newport Park).

This precinct has a lot of older style play equipment with poor access, as well as some newly design/refurbished sites.

Walkability

The map below shows the area outside 400m walkable distance from parks for play, as well as parks of high dependence, and locations where a new play space should be considered.



Recommendations

- ▶ Increase opportunities for accessibility in and around play spaces
- ▶ Increase shade both built and natural
- ▶ Increase the number of tables and seating opportunities
- ▶ Increase canopy trees, other vegetation, and natural materials
- ▶ Progress the redevelopment of the area associated with Newport Lakes Reserve to include some water play element, as proposed in the Better Places Program.
- ▶ An upgrade to Newport Skate Park is proposed. Introduce regular maintenance program.

Budget / Priorities Newport

Park No	Name	Proposed hierarchy	Indicative cost	Priority
56	Ducrow Reserve	Local	\$350k	Medium / Low
57	Leo Hoffman Reserve	Local	\$75k	High
58	Newport Lakes Reserve	Local	\$350k	Medium / High
58A	Newport Lakes Reserve East	District	\$750k	Medium / High
58B	Jack Madigan Reserve	Local	\$15k	Low
59	Loft Reserve	Local	Short term \$75k Longer term \$350k	High/Medium
60	Bryan Martyn Oval-Playground	Local	\$30k	Medium
61	Paine Street Reserve	Local	\$10k	High
63	Digman Reserve	Local	\$350k	Medium / Low
64	Armstrong Reserve	Local	\$15k	Low
65	Coronation Reserve	Local	\$30k	Low
66	Newport Park	District	\$750k	Medium
67	Greenwich Reserve	Local	\$50k	Low

Overall park redevelopment priorities: Newport Lakes Reserve

7.6 Seabrook Precinct

Precinct overview

Demographic influences

- There are moderate levels of disadvantage across the precinct.
- There is a high proportion of children aged between 0-4 years clustered towards the western and edge of the precinct, with children aged between 5-11 years in the northeast and southeast of the precinct.

New development areas

There are no major development areas proposed in Seabrook.

Provision and distribution

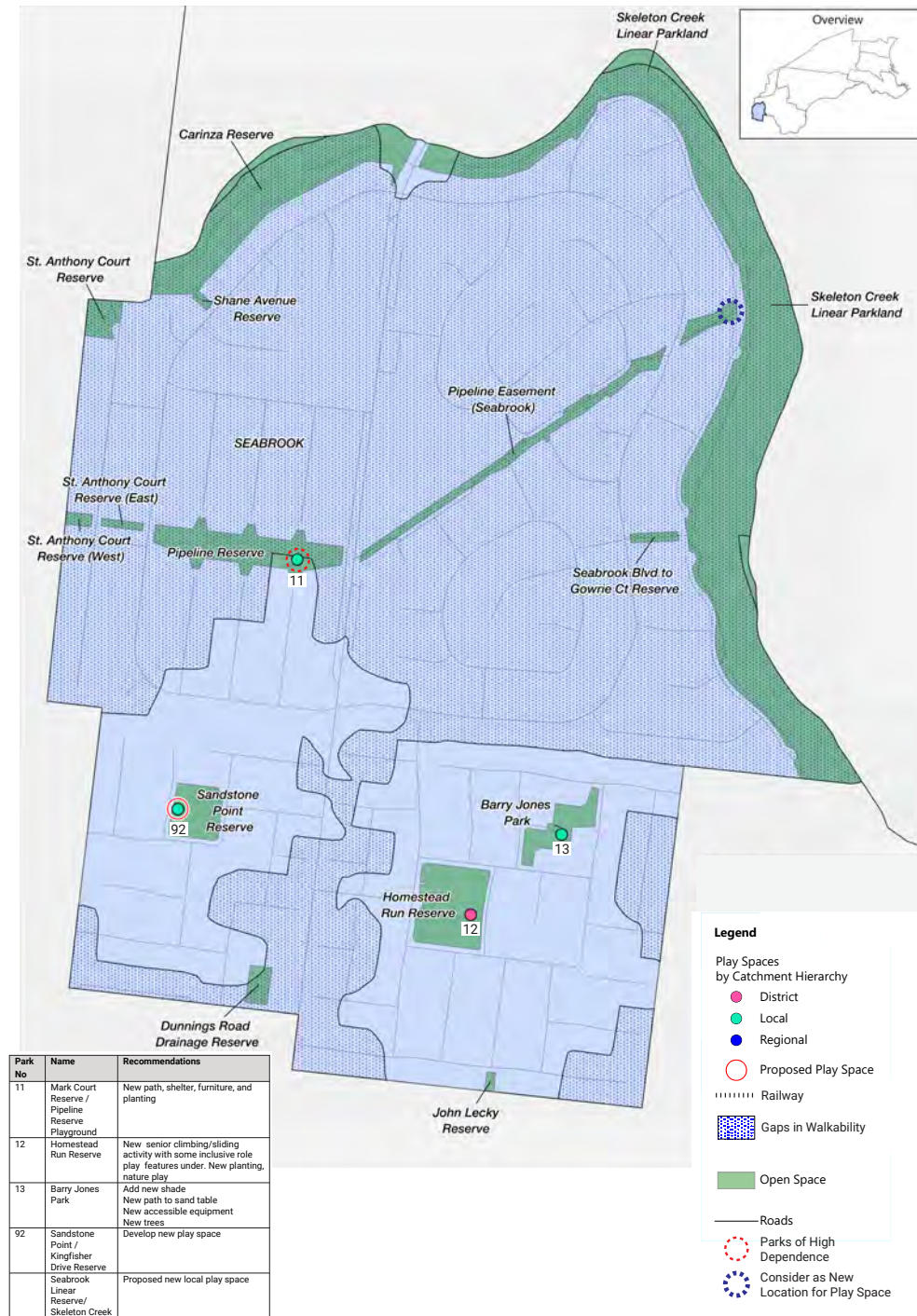
There are 5 parks in total: 1 district level play space and 4 local spaces.

Walkability

The map below shows the area outside 400m walkable distance from parks for play, as well as parks of high dependence, and locations where a new play space should be considered.

The north-eastern section of this precinct, between the Skeleton Creek and Seabrook Boulevard is poorly laid out for walkability and does not have access to any parks for play. The Skelton Creek provides open space.

Poor walkability is also due to the street configuration, the presence of point Cook Road that creates a barrier.



Recommendations

- ▶ Where possible, provide a new Local play space site serving the northeast of Seabrook.
- ▶ Consider creating a new inclusive nature-based space in the Skeleton Creek Reserve, near the intersection with the Seabrook linear reserve (medium priority).
- ▶ Develop Mark Reserve (Pipeline Reserve) as a high priority as a site of high dependence as is currently the only play space serving its area west of Pt Cook Rd. It is poorly developed for this purpose.
- ▶ Develop Sandstone Avenue (Kingfisher Drive) Reserve as a quality local play setting as soon as possible (high priority).

Budget / priorities- Seabrook

Park No.	Name	Proposed hierarchy	Indicative cost	Priority
11	Mark Court Reserve / Pipeline Reserve Play Space	Local	\$120K	High
12	Homestead Run Reserve	District	\$100k	Low
12A	Homestead Run Reserve (sports area)	District	New works already budgeted for court renewal	NA
13	Barry Jones Park	Local	\$100k	Medium
New	Sandstone Avenue/Kingfisher Drive Reserve	Proposed local	\$500k	High
New	Seabrook Linear Reserve/ Skeleton Creek	Proposed new local play space	\$350k	High

7.7 Spotswood–South Kingsville Precinct

Precinct overview

Demographic influences

- There are low levels of disadvantage across the precinct.
- There is a high proportion of children aged between 0-4 years towards the west of the precinct, and a moderate population of children aged between 5-11 years towards the west of the precinct.

New development areas

- Some major developments are proposed in this precinct including 330 dwellings in Precinct 18, (McLister Street) and over 700 in the Precinct 17 in Melbourne Road and 372 in Precinct 16. There are no plans for substantive public open space or play spaces in these three precincts with a potential population of over 3000 additional persons.
- Some major re-investments are already underway (Don McLean Res and Mary St), and Craig St is already complete.

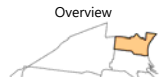
Provision and distribution

- There are 4 play spaces in total (2 District and 2 Local).
- Each of the reserves in this precinct has a high level of dependence due to the major barriers posed by railway and roads (in spite of apparent close proximity).

Walkability

The map below shows the area outside 400m walkable distance from parks for play, as well as parks of high dependence, and locations where a new play space should be considered.

Park No	Name	Recommendations
51	Edwards Reserve	New inclusive swing, improve play value of ramped play structure, redesign half-court.
51A	Craig Street Reserve	No new works required
53	Mary Reserve	Redesign under way
54	D.W. McLean Reserve West	Redesign under way
55	D.W. McLean Reserve East	Redesign under way
87	Precinct 16 West Park	Future development
88	Spotswood Yards Play Space	Future development



Recommendations

- ▶ Consider the implications of the significant population increase in relation to carrying capacity and provide opportunities for all age groups in existing parks.
- ▶ Planned asphalt pump track in Donald McLean Reserve as per 2020 Improvement Plan.

Budget / priorities; Spotswood-South Kingsville

Park No	Name	Proposed hierarchy	Indicative cost	Priority
51	Edwards Reserve	District	\$350k (Not including halfcourt)	Medium
51A	Craig Street Reserve	Local	Upgraded recently	N/A
52	Cullen Street Reserve	Local	See Mary St Below	N/A
53	Mary Reserve	Local	\$1+ mil	High
54/55	D.W. McLean Reserve West	District	Full Redesign Underway	N/A

7.8 Williamstown Precinct

Precinct overview

Demographic influences

- Overall, there are low levels of disadvantage across the precinct. A small area with high disadvantage exists in the central eastern edge of Williamstown, and Williamstown North.
- There is a high proportion of children aged between 0-4 years towards the north of the precinct, and a high proportion of children aged between 5-11 years across the precinct.

New development areas

The redevelopment of the Williamstown Woollen Mills site is proposed to net 1000 dwellings. No public open space is proposed on site. Some consideration should be given to the implications of that significant population increase on existing parks for play.

Precinct 9 – the Mary Street development, will include 200 dwellings, however this development will include a private open space.

Provision and distribution

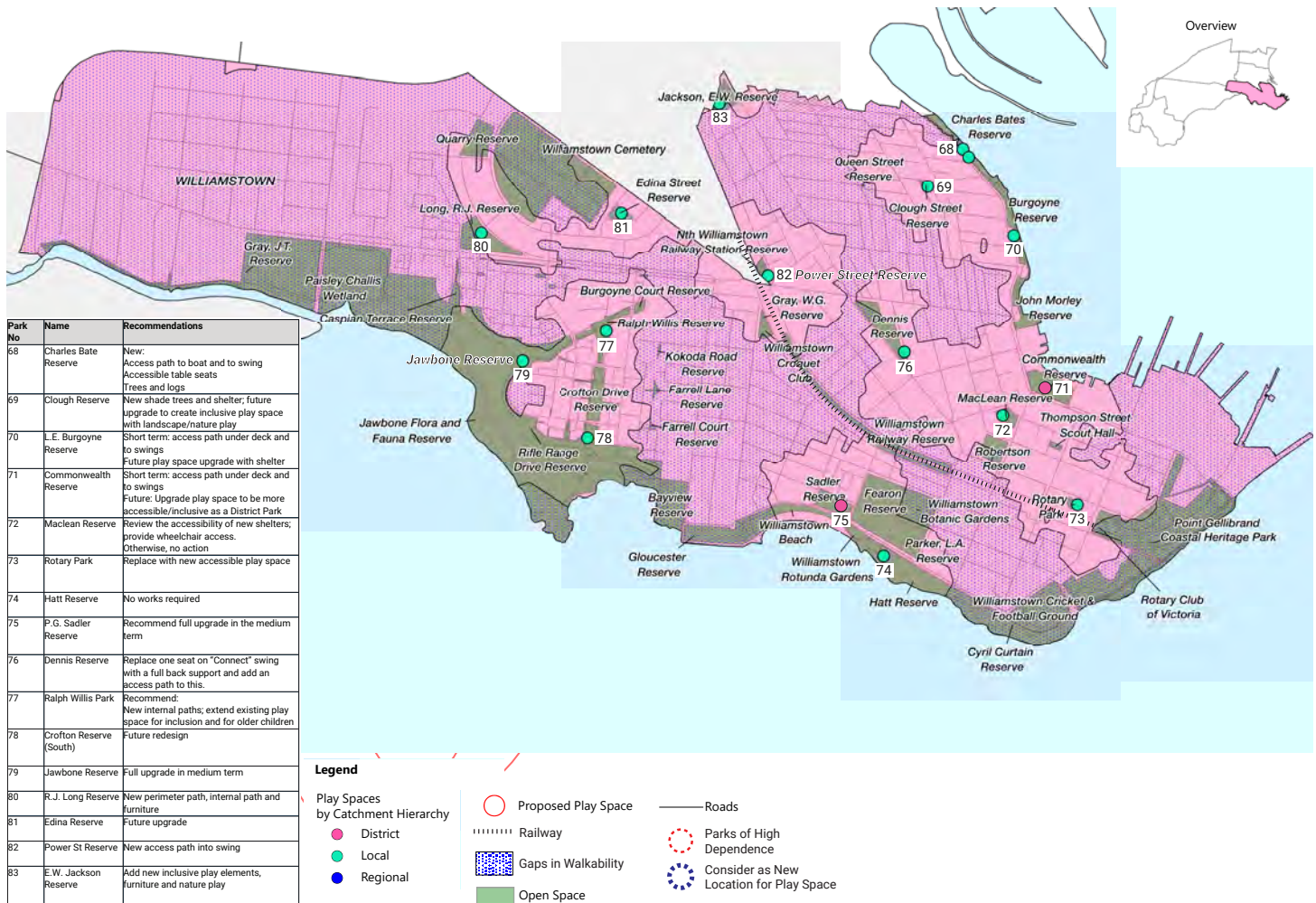
There are 18 parks in total, 2 of these to be classified as District level (Sadler and Commonwealth Reserves, due to their location on important reserves with other attractions).

Sadler Reserve is adjacent Williamstown Beach, Fearon Reserve, and the Botanic Gardens, and Commonwealth Reserve are located close to the foreshore, Nelson Place, and the pier.

Most of the open space in Williamstown is distributed around the coastline from Point Gellibrand west to the Jawbone Conservation Zone. The Botanic Gardens and Fearon Reserve are the largest other parks- most play spaces in residential areas are on quite small reserves.

Walkability

The map below shows the area outside 400m walkable distance from parks for play, as well as parks of high dependence, and locations where a new play space should be considered.



Recommendations

- ▶ Use existing spaces wisely and position play spaces to allow room for kickabout space, good tree planting, and circuit paths.
- ▶ Increase canopy trees, other vegetation, and natural materials in parks for play.
- ▶ Increase opportunities for accessibility in and around play spaces.
- ▶ Increase shade, both built and natural.
- ▶ Increase the number of tables and seating opportunities in parks for play.

Budget / priorities; Williamstown

Park No.	Name	Proposed hierarchy	Indicative cost	Priority
68	Charles Bate Reserve	Local	\$50k	Low
69	Clough Reserve	Local	\$200k	Medium
70	L.E. Burgoyne Reserve	Local	\$400k	Low/Medium
71	Commonwealth Reserve	District	\$750k to \$1 mil	Low
72	Maclean Reserve	Local	Under construction.	N/A
73	Rotary Park	Local	\$400k	Medium
74	Hatt Reserve	Local	\$50k	Medium
75	P.G. Sadler Reserve	District	\$750k	Medium
76	Dennis Reserve	Local	\$10K	High
77	Ralph Willis Park	Local	\$75k	Low
78	Crofton Reserve (South)	Local	\$300k	Low
79	Jawbone Reserve	Local	\$300k	Medium
80	R.J. Long Reserve	Local	\$75k	Low
81	Edina Reserve	Local	\$300k	Low/Medium
82	Power St Reserve	Local	\$10k	High
83	E.W. Jackson Reserve	Local	\$50k	Medium

Overall park redevelopment priority: Sadler Reserve

8| IMPLEMENTATION

8.1 How priorities are allocated

Indicative priorities have been allocated to play space works in the precinct summaries. These need to be reviewed against Council's internal priorities and adjusted accordingly them.

Higher priorities have been allocated to parks for play that need redevelopment or improvements and:

- Are in areas of high dependence – i.e., areas where there is only one play space upon which all residents depend
- Have low social economic indicators
- Where population and housing density is high
- Where the standard of play provision is generally poor and there are few other choices (i.e., no access to open space, beaches, natural areas, or creeks)
- Where small improvements are needed in new play space developments, and for a small outlay the facility can be quickly rectified so all assets are approximately the same age
- Works that improve access and inclusion to social areas and play opportunities, in catchments where there are few other inclusive opportunities
- In catchments where all existing play areas are ageing and similar to each other. In such cases, the park that is the most centrally located, or closest to a community hub (shops, school, kindergarten etc, or on a trail) has been allocated higher priority.

9| Resourcing this play strategy

Inspections and maintenance budget

The condition of most play spaces inspected appear relatively good and the presentation (signage, cleanliness, and evidence of maintenance planting) was also good.

Some types of equipment or facilities such as skate and bike areas appear not to be inspected frequently or maintained with the same degree of care and attention.

Council has a play space maintenance process as outlined in Appendix 3.

A process for inspecting and maintaining bike, water play, and skate facilities needs to be introduced. Maintenance regimes for skate, bike and water play are likely to be more regular and need to address specific issues to each of these types of facilities. In addition, these facilities may require personnel with specialist knowledge, different from traditional play equipment.

Additional maintenance tasks may also be required for areas of vegetation designed to encourage interaction with the natural environment and nature play. These additional maintenance commitments need recurring funding; dedicated, trained staff, and regular attention.

Budgets for upgrade of play spaces

Budgeted works for parks for play from 2022/3-2027/8 is an average of \$3.5mill per year, with the greatest amount allocated in 2022/3. This includes external funding and amounts to approximately \$240,000 per park over the 6 year period.

Most play parks prioritised in this Strategy are included in Council's forward budget for open space to 2027-28 (except Coles Reserve and 2 proposed new spaces). Some very minor works are recommended in parks to address specific play issues. Hence the cost may be less than the total open space works budgeted. Only a few priorities / time frames are different between this new Strategy and Council's budget (e.g., Duke and Carlsson Reserve).

Four major full park redevelopments are recommended for prominent parks: Cherry Lake Reserve, Newport Lakes Reserve, McCormack Reserve and Sadler Reserve.

A general indication of budget for the development of a play space where the open space exists is provided for parks by catchment hierarchy; local, district and regional. These estimates are significantly higher than those proposed in 2013. Capital costs have increased significantly since 2013, as have expectations in relation to planting, paths, and the provision of other support facilities.

The cost estimates following are therefore estimates only and need to be reviewed regularly.

Indicative budgets for the construction of a play space by catchment hierarchy

Catchment hierarchy	Estimate as at June 2022	Assumptions
LOCAL	\$110k to \$200k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of at least some paths and accessible surfacing to and under some play elements A selection of play elements including equipment An accessible picnic table and seating; possibly other furniture Planting including tree planting and other vegetation where possible Some basic landscape elements for play including rocks and logs May include the cost of a simple shade structure (sail).
DISTRICT	\$350 to \$450 plus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of a more extensive path system within the reserve, and more extensive accessible surfacing to and under a good range of play elements A wide selection of play elements including equipment with a higher level of access and inclusion Choice of accessible picnic table and other furniture An accessible shelter Planting including tree planting, shrubs, and other vegetation More detailed landscape elements for play including rocks and logs, terrain, and vegetation Additional shade structures over equipment
REGIONAL	\$1.5mil plus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A higher level of custom design and a very high level of access and inclusion to most elements. Extensive path system including accessible surfaces A range of options for accessible, inclusive social spaces, (built shade, shelter, and furniture) Extensive use of planting of all kinds Well integrated landscape design including terrain May need to include a fence of 1800mm high (for a child and dog proof fence or 1200 high for a delineation fence) integrated into the landscape design.

Figure 11 Indicative budgets for the construction of a play space by catchment hierarchy

Note:

- All estimates depend upon the degree of new infrastructure (e.g., drainage, fencing etc.) required, and the presence and quality of existing elements that can be retained.
- Figures exclude car parking, any major earth works or rectification of adverse soil conditions, rock walling or stabilisation of slopes etc., additional service / utility connections, and the cost of design and fees etc.,
- The construction of hardcourts and any associated sports lighting, skate or bike facilities would be dependent on scale and materials and is not included in these estimates.
- As of June 2022, it is difficult to project the capital cost of materials and labour, due to high demand and a shortage of supply of some products.

10| KEY ACTIONS

Apart from the detailed actions listed in the precinct analysis and for each reserve, some high-level actions are provided here.

- ▶ Adopt the core service standards and requirements for play spaces as provided in this plan
- ▶ Increase the annual budget for upgrades to play spaces for the next 10 years to increase the quality, accessibility, greening and carrying capacity of parks and include a greater range of the population in social, physical, and environmental play activities
- ▶ In select District or Regional parks consider including bike facilities and waterplay opportunities consistent with the policy principles contained in this strategy
- ▶ Introduce a more regular inspections and a dedicated maintenance regime for skate and bike facilities to minimise risk of accidents and injury
- ▶ Consider developing a regional bike park in conjunction with the current dirt jumps in HD Graham Reserve instead of providing a place space in this location
- ▶ In areas of high-density, require one substantiable park for play, rather than multiple smaller spaces, and include a communal open space for play.
- ▶ In the upgrading and further development of parks for play across Hobsons Bay seek to:
 - Diversify the nature of landscape settings, to offer more play experiences and enhance interest and use of parks.
 - Increase the number of canopy trees, other vegetation and natural materials that can also encourage play
 - Increase opportunities for the inclusion of people of all ages and abilities in play and enhance accessibility to equipment and in and around play spaces
 - Increase shade, both built and natural
 - Increase the number of tables and seating opportunities in parks for play.
- ▶ Investigate how the gaps in distribution of plays for play can be addressed as outlined in this strategy.

10.1 Recommendations by precinct






Precinct	Summary of Recommendations	Common issues to address							
		High level of dependence	Area of residential growth needing planning	Canopy trees, vegetation, and natural materials	All ages and abilities play and access to / around equipment/ facilities	Shade, - built and natural	No. of tables and seating opportunities	Diversify landscape settings	More path circuits
Altona North -Brooklyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider co-locating a new district level play space with a skate/bike offering in Paisley Park. Note: the location of existing play space needs to be assessed whether or not it is suitable. Ensure the construction of the four new open spaces with play equipment (Precinct 15) meets the policy and service standards outlined in this strategy As new open spaces with play equipment are designed in new subdivisions, (Precinct 15) ensure there are diverse setting types and opportunities for play Replace ageing equipment dating back to 2000 Provide more attention to inclusive accessible play given the demographic profile of the precinct 	✱		✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱
Altona-Seaholme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add a new play space to JK Grant Reserve Redesign Cherry Lake, SG McIntosh, and FA Emery Reserves, and undertake major works in Logan Reserve. Provide a small local level skate or bike facility if and when play space is upgraded at Cherry Lake. 			✱	✱	✱	✱		
Altona Meadows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider development of any park for play in this precinct as a group of parks together, not independent of the others due to their distribution and their local catchments. Investigate whether a new play space could be created on Skeleton Creek where it meets Spicer Bvd., if no site is more central to the area 	✱		✱	✱	✱	✱		

Precinct	Summary of Recommendations	Common issues to address							
		High level of dependence	Area of residential growth needing planning	Canopy trees, vegetation, and natural materials	All ages and abilities play and access to / around equipment/ facilities	Shade, - built and natural	No. of tables and seating opportunities	Diversify landscape settings	More path circuits
Altona Meadows (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide more climbing and agility activities especially for older children Where possible create terrain through rocks, retaining and mounding to help relieve the lack of spatial interest as other parks are almost universally flat. Develop a regional bike park at HD Graham Reserve, but not a play space. done Reclassify the skate facility as District (from Local). Introduce a regular inspection and maintenance program. 								
Laverton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade parks and amenity value Provide more access paths Provide more inclusive opportunities for movement on play equipment Undertake tree planting to create a mini forest- e.g., Bruce Reserve Consider the design of play spaces in this precinct in groups due to their distribution and their local catchments Seek to provide more diversity in equipment address lack of inclusive play and lack of amenities and equipment for older children Reclassify McCormack Park as District Undertake minor works at Woods Reserve to add inclusive play, shelter, and trees Introduce a regular maintenance program at the Laverton Skate Park 			✱	✱	✱	✱		

Precinct	Summary of Recommendations	Common issues to address							
		High level of dependence	Area of residential growth needing planning	Canopy trees, vegetation, and natural materials	All ages and abilities play and access to / around equipment/ facilities	Shade, - built and natural	No. of tables and seating opportunities	Diversify landscape settings	More path circuits
Laverton (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider adding more challenge and major new tree and other planting in Frank Gibson Add activities at Lohse Reserve Reclassify Curlew Park as District Retain Bruce Reserve as a park for play Earmark Cole Reserve for full future refurbishment 								
Newport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade Newport Lakes Reserve with a water play elements as per the recommendations of the Better Places Project 			✱	✱	✱	✱		
Seabrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a new Local play space serving the northeast of Seabrook Consider creating a new inclusive nature-based space in the Skeleton Creek Reserve, near the intersection with the Seabrook linear reserve (medium priority) Develop Mark Reserve as a high priority as a site of high dependence serving west of Pt Cook Rd. Develop Kingfisher Drive Reserve, as a quality Local play setting as soon as possible (high priority). 	✱							
Spotswood – South Kingsville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the implications of the significant population increase in relation to carrying capacity and provide opportunities for all age groups in existing parks. 		✱						
Williamstown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use existing spaces wisely and position play spaces to allow room for kickabout space, good tree planting, and circuit paths. 			✱	✱	✱	✱		

11 | APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Early childhood development indicators, Hobsons Bay 2009-2018

		2009		2012		2015		2018		2021		Significant change		
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	2009 vs 2021	2018 vs 2021	
	Physical health and wellbeing	On track	653	76.7	761	83.4	801	80.3	864	81.4	842	86.4	Increase	Increase
		At risk	130	15.3	78	8.6	134	13.4	107	10.1	71	7.3	Decrease	Decrease
		Vulnerable	68	8.0	73	8.0	62	6.2	90	8.5	61	6.3	No change	Decrease
	Social competence	On track	639	75.1	747	82.0	769	77.2	824	77.6	774	79.5	Increase	Increase
		At risk	138	16.2	89	9.8	133	13.4	160	15.1	131	13.4	Decrease	No change
		Vulnerable	74	8.7	75	8.2	94	9.4	78	7.3	69	7.1	Decrease	No change
	Emotional maturity	On track	645	76.2	705	77.8	816	82.8	861	81.2	778	80.0	Increase	No change
		At risk	140	16.5	140	15.5	107	10.9	136	12.8	129	13.3	Decrease	No change
		Vulnerable	62	7.3	61	6.7	63	6.4	63	5.9	66	6.8	No change	No change
	Language and cognitive skills (school-based)	On track	730	85.7	799	87.5	874	87.8	914	86.1	831	85.3	No change	No change
		At risk	78	9.2	71	7.8	72	7.2	78	7.4	83	8.5	No change	No change
		Vulnerable	44	5.2	43	4.7	50	5.0	69	6.5	60	6.2	No change	No change
	Communication skills and general knowledge	On track	636	74.6	740	81.2	783	78.6	883	83.2	817	83.9	Increase	No change
		At risk	136	16.0	108	11.9	137	13.8	107	10.1	100	10.3	Decrease	No change
		Vulnerable	80	9.4	63	6.9	76	7.6	71	6.7	57	5.9	Decrease	No change

! Significant change has been colour coded: green text represents a positive change, red text represents a negative change. At risk has not been colour coded as any changes should be interpreted in context with changes in the percentage of children who are vulnerable and on track.

Appendix 2. Review of previous provision and service standards

Service standards help define what residents can expect from Council in providing and developing different types of open spaces. These standards address what scale and type of facilities, and the features spaces include, and therefore assist Council in budgeting and planning renewals.

These standards will help define the characteristics of play spaces to ensure they are fit-for-purpose.

Features supporting social, environmental, and physical activities and access and inclusion standards are recommended for play spaces.

These standards vary according to the catchment of the play space.

The 2018 Open Space Plan identified the following service standards relevant to play spaces.

Figure 12. Service standards from the 2018 Open Space Plan

Use/ Activity/ Landscape Setting	Minimum Service Standard (Aspirational Target)	How this differs from what is proposed in this Strategy
Universal design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum standards of Universal Design principles are exceeded to ensure open spaces and assets within them are fully accessible and inclusive 	Play spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equity and inclusion Smart Independent Safe Active Comfortable 	<p>In addition, access to social physical and environmental opportunities is a requirement for people of all ages and abilities in all parks for play.</p>
Children's play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Varying types of spaces: nature, imaginative, active/challenging, adventure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play space within 500m of every residence No repetition of a type of play experience within 1.5km At least one play space designed to Universal Access Standards within each ward. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park for play within 400m where possible. Parks designed in group sot maximise diversity and changes to landscape setting types. All parks to cater to people of all ages and abilities. The higher the hierarchy the more inclusive and accessible they should be.
Walking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hard surface/delete space accessible pathways within all links, local, neighbourhood and regional park. Circuits within open space to encourage walking and exercise (minimum within all Neighbourhood and Regional park developments). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All parks for play to have a path network and larger parks over 1ha to have a perimeter path for exercise.

Use/ Activity/ Landscape Setting	Minimum Service Standard (Aspirational Target)	How this differs from what is proposed in this Strategy
Dedicated youth spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated youth spaces Can include skate, BMX, cycle sports and other challenging activities for young adults with integrated seating, Wi-Fi, gathering/ hang-out spaces and amenities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one in each ward. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bike and skate facilities do not only service "youth". Council will consider developing one main (regional) recreational bike park facility and three "premier" (district) skate facilities. All other bike facilities will be local level where district or regional parks can accommodate them, where there is demand and within the distribution guideline Bike facilities will be relatively equitable distributed across the City
Facilities that encourage exercise or self-directed activity <p>E.g., public use tennis courts, hit-up walls, multi-purpose courts, fitness equipment, giant chess boards, ping pong tables, parkour, climbing walls, mazes, etc.,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In every neighbourhood park In some regional parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not required in local parks. Provide in district or regional parks
Waterway, foreshore, lake, or water play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to water as an open space feature within 1km of every home (without the need to cross a railway line or freeway) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Strategy includes only zero depth, free - non-supervised, interactive water play. The lead document for free water play in natural water bodies, is the Coastal and Marine Management Strategy.

Commentary

Under the DDA and the Access to Premises Standard it is no longer sufficient to make one play space designed to meet universal access standards within each ward.

There is no reason why most spaces cannot be made accessible to users for play, supervision, and social interaction.

Service Standards Open Space Strategy 2018

The following outlines the service standards for open space were provided by catchment hierarchy and open space function. (Figure 26 page 75) from the Open Space Strategy 2018.

Figure 13. Service Standards by open space type Open Space Strategy 2018

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

Key:

✓ Might have ✓✓ Must have x Must not have

Commentary

Service standards are only specified for park hierarchy, plus two types of open space: links and conservation sites.

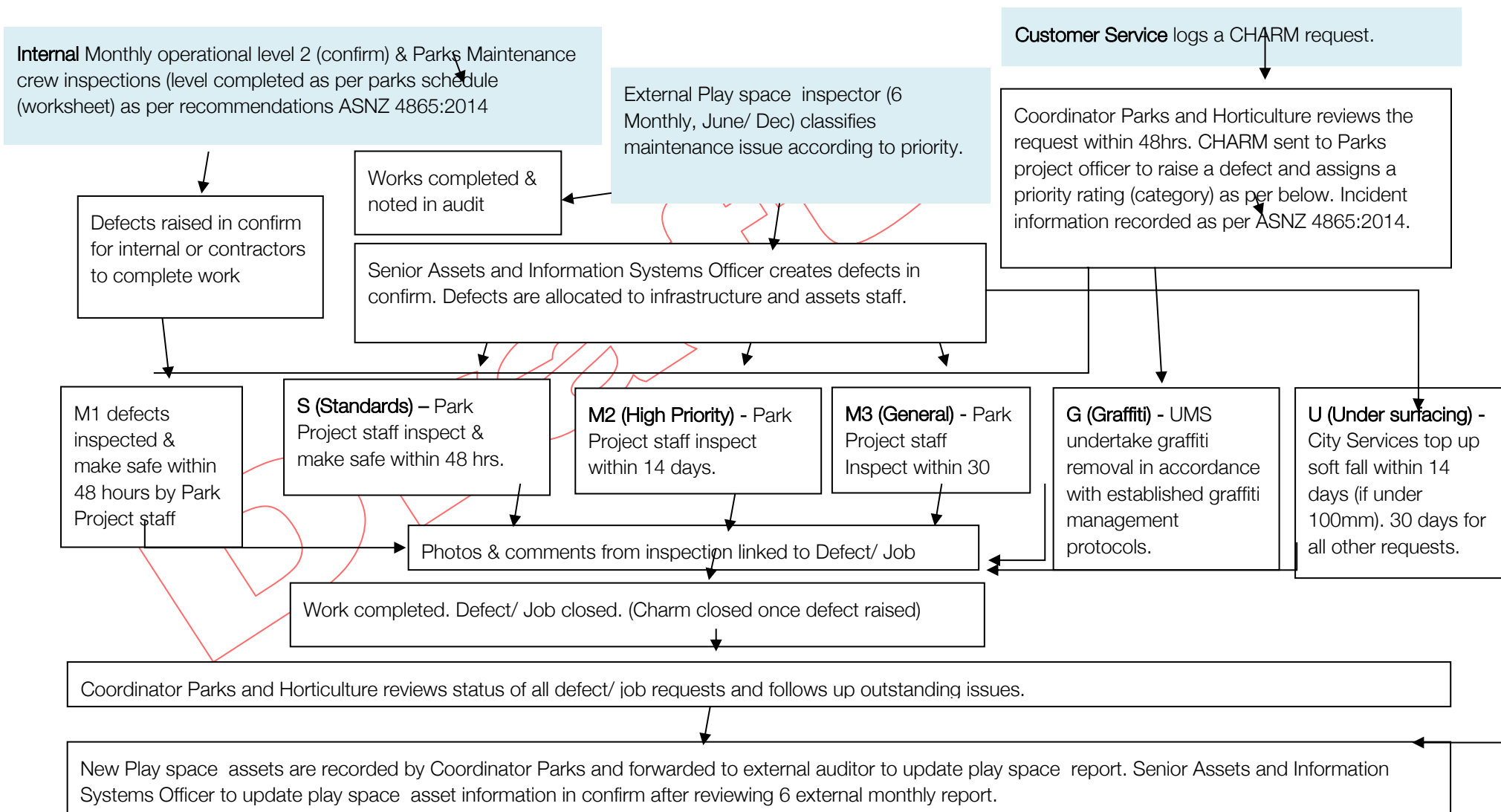
Service Standards Play Space Strategy 2013

Play Features	Destination	Local
Natural play elements	✓✓	✓
Play equipment	✓✓	✓✓
Sand or water play	✓	xx
Open areas (informal play)	✓✓	✓
Pathways - possible circuit	✓✓	✓
Other informal sporting facilities	✓	x
Planting / Landscape		
Shade planting	✓✓	✓✓
Variety of surface treatments	✓✓	✓
Concrete edging	✓✓	✓
Access		
Provision for a range of ages and abilities	✓✓	✓
Shared pedestrian/bike pathways	✓✓	✓
Pathways – linkages to play space	✓✓	✓✓
Pathways - linkages to other open space	✓✓	✓
Car parking - on road	✓✓	✓
Car parking - off road	✓	x
Signage -way finding	✓✓	✓
Facilities / Amenities		
Public toilets	✓✓	x
Lighting	✓	x
Artworks/sculptures	✓	x
Fencing	x	x
Seating	✓✓	✓✓
Picnic tables	✓✓	✓
Rubbish bin	✓✓	✓
Bike racks	✓✓	✓
Barbecues	✓	x
Shade structure/shelter	✓✓	x
Drinking fountain	✓✓	x

✓✓ = must have ✓ = might have x = should not have xx = must not have

Appendix 3. Play space equipment maintenance flow chart

PLAY SPACE EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE FLOW CHART (ASNZ 4865:2014, reviewed once per annum, last review date 24/2/22)



Appendix 4. Catchment hierarchy classifications

Catchment hierarchies help plan the nature and distribution of infrastructure. For example, a park hierarchy can assist with:

- Allocating specific types of infrastructure to each level within the hierarchy, in order to meet the target users' needs, and
- Identifying the likely cost of servicing those particular needs.

Consciously giving each park a catchment hierarchy can also ensure an equitable distribution of facilities across the municipality, serving different needs, especially in each local area. Hence, all residents can have play opportunities within a walkable distance and on which a family may depend.

A catchment hierarchy can also determine consistent maintenance requirements, across the same types of facilities across the municipality.

The catchment hierarchy from the Open Space Plan 2018 includes 5 main levels of park: regional, district, neighbourhood and local, and local/micro. See images below for the top 4.

Figure 18. The catchment hierarchy from the open space plan 2018



Commentary

To be useful, a park hierarchy needs to be easily distinguishable from each other, be based on who they serve and how far they are likely to travel to use the park and levels of investment but remain simple and easy to use.

The catchment hierarchy from the Play Space Strategy 2013

The 2013 Play Space Strategy had only two tiers in the catchment hierarchy:

- Local play space, and
- Destination play space.
- These were defined as follows:

Local play spaces

Local play spaces are described in the 2013 Play Strategy as follows:

- Small in scale with simple play opportunities targeting a specific age group (???) and their carers
- Provide basic facilities that cater for short duration and more frequent visits.
- Primarily service a 500-metre catchment.
- Local residents will primarily walk or ride to the play space.
- A diversity of local play spaces should be planned for within each precinct.
- Budget Estimate: \$50-70,000.

Destination play space

Destination play spaces are described in the 2013 Play Strategy as follows:

- Larger in scale with a diversity of play opportunities for children of all ages and abilities.
- Provide facilities and amenities that cater for a large number of long duration visits.
- Provide facilities and amenities to meet the needs of parents and carers.
- Primarily service a 2 kilometre or precinct catchment.
- Parents, carers, and older children will use local transport, their car, walk or ride to the play space.

The budget allocation for these spaces will reflect their increased scope of provision and may well be developed in a staged manner over a period of years.

- Budget Estimate \$150,000 - \$500,000.

Commentary

- This two-level hierarchy doesn't allow consistency between the play strategy and the park hierarchy in the 2018 open space plan.
- The two kilometres distance threshold is considered too short for what is described as a destination space.
- The term 'Destination' typically implies a regional catchment (i.e., beyond the Council boundaries).

Council officers report that the previous classifications have not been effective in guiding decision-making regarding play provision, and they need a more useful framework for a range of purposes across Council.

Five levels of catchment hierarchy are generally too complicated for these hierarchies to be understood and used consistently for planning purposes.





A three level of classification that simple and easily distinguishable, is preferred over a greater number of levels to guide planning, design, and investment decisions.



Catchment classification typically relates to significance and sphere of influence and therefore how far people may travel to use them.

While regional play spaces are generally likely to be larger than spaces classified as district or local, size is not the defining factor, and large spaces are not necessarily those with the highest catchment hierarchy.

Appendix 5. Parks for play classifications

Figure 19 Open space form (landscape setting types)

Landscape setting type	Definition	Image
Bushland / Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of trees typically indigenous or native vegetation with two or more storeys, including canopy trees. 	
Cultivated / food Ornamental or Formal Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A garden area designed with ornamental flowering (typically exotic) plants that generally includes garden beds and specimen trees and may contain other decorative features such as fountains, pools, or artworks. May include arboretums or native gardens (pic shown of Darley native garden managed by the community) An area cultivated for food or wine such as pasture, crop, vegetable garden or vineyard. 	
Open grassed Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open areas of exotic grass not specifically cultivated as turf for sports. May have trees around the boundaries. 	
Treed Parkland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parkland with groups of trees throughout and possibly around the boundaries, with open areas in between. 	

Landscape setting type	Definition	Image
Plaza/Paved Area/ Area/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A sealed or paved area such as a plaza, arcade or square. 	
Water based area or beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A play facility provided on a waterway foreshore or beach 	

Appendix 6. Strategic development sites and play space development

Suburb	Site address	Dwellings	Population (estimate)	Open space provision	Play space provision
Altona	108 Pier Street	15	15	None on site	No
	118 Pier Street	26	36	None on site	No
	112-114 Pier Street	44	80	None on site	No
	102-106 Pier Street	52	125	None on site	No
	35 Sargood Street	15	25	None on site	No
Altona North -Precinct 15	Mirvac 188 – 198 Blackshaws Road -Primrose Street.				1 play space– Patchwork Park
Altona North -Precinct 15	Stockland 8-38 Kyle Road – Evergreen Street		9000	4.75 Hectares (4 community local parks and play space s. I Neighbourhood park with sports field and pavilion)	1 play space
Altona North – Precinct 15					2 play spaces (in the remaining 2 local parks)
Altona North (Vic Urban former school site)	430 Blackshaws Road	129	317	Private space/public thoroughfare	No
Laverton (former school site)	Curlew Community Park	30 to 45	60	Book-ending Curlew Park	Curlew Park Play space
Newport	455 Melbourne Road/Newcastle Street	39	80	None on site	
Spotswood -Precinct 18	31 McLister Street	334	784	None on site	No
Spotswood - Precinct 17	571-589 Melbourne Road	736 +189 Hotel units	1600		No
South Kingsville - Precinct 16		372	855	0.01 hectares	Not sure

Suburb	Site address	Dwellings	Population (estimate)	Open space provision	Play space provision
Precinct 20 Williamstown -Woollen Mills	39 Nelson Place	500	1000	None on site	No
Williamston North - Precinct 9	240 -238 Kororoit Creek Road – Felecia Road Estate	64	160	0.07 hectares	No
Williamston North - Precinct 9	240 – 258 Kororoit Creek Road – Mary Street Estate	67	201	Private space on site	No
TOTALS		2,104 Dwellings	16,332 people	4.84 Hectares	5 play spaces

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Appendix 7. Play space Inventory

Park No.	Reserve/Facility Name	Address	Suburb	Planning Precinct	Landscape setting type	Proposed catchment hierarchy
1	Cropley Reserve	22 Cropley Crescent	Laverton	Laverton	Treed parkland	Local
2	Bladin Street Reserve	3 Bladin Street	Laverton	Laverton	Treed parkland	Local
3	Henderson Reserve	18 Henderson Street	Laverton	Laverton	Open grassed area	Local
4	Cole Reserve	26 Cole Street	Laverton	Laverton	Open grassed area	Local
5A	Laverton Skate Park	Jennings Street	Laverton	Laverton	Open grassed area	District
6	McCormack Park North	Jennings Street	Laverton	Laverton	Open grassed area	District
7	Woods Reserve	Woods Street	Laverton	Laverton	Open grassed area	Local
8	Lohse Reserve	Lohse Street	Laverton	Laverton	Treed parkland	Local
9	F.J. Gibson Reserve	Allen Street	Laverton	Laverton	Open grassed area	Local
9A	Curlew Community Park	5-41 Epsom Road	Laverton	Laverton	Open grassed area	District
10	Bruce Reserve	Bruce Street	Laverton	Laverton	Treed parkland	Local
10A	Whittaker Avenue Reserve	48 Bladin Street	Laverton	Laverton	Open grassed area	Local
11	Pipeline Reserve Mark Court	Mark Court	Seabrook	Seabrook	Open grassed area	Local
12	Homestead Run Reserve	William Leake Avenue	Seabrook	Seabrook	Treed parkland	District
13	Barry Jones Park	Alfred Langhorne Close	Seabrook	Seabrook	Treed parkland	Local
14	Carinza Reserve	Carinza Avenue	Altona Meadows	Altona Meadows	Open grassed area	Local
15	Ailsa Reserve	Ailsa Street South	Altona Meadows	Altona Meadows	Open grassed area	Local
16	Bruce Comben Reserve	2 Macneil Drive	Altona Meadows	Altona Meadows	Open grassed area	Local
17	Cameron Reserve	Cameron Avenue	Altona Meadows	Altona Meadows	Open grassed area	Local
18	A.B. Shaw Reserve	Hall Avenue	Altona Meadows	Altona Meadows	Treed parkland	District
19	Alma Reserve	Alma Avenue	Altona Meadows	Altona Meadows	Open grassed area	Local

Park No.	Reserve/Facility Name	Address	Suburb	Planning Precinct	Landscape setting type	Proposed catchment hierarchy
20	G.F. Stirling Reserve	Victoria Street	Altona Meadows	Altona Meadows	Open grassed area	Local
21	Altona Meadows Community Park	Trafalgar Avenue	Altona Meadows	Altona Meadows	Treed parkland	District
22	R.K. Richards Reserve	South Avenue	Altona Meadows	Altona Meadows	Open grassed area	Local
22A	Markham Close Reserve	Creek Waters Close	Altona Meadows	Altona Meadows	Open grassed area	Local
23	W.E. Hubble Reserve	Sommers Drive	Altona Meadows	Altona Meadows	Open grassed area	Local
23A	Altona Green Park	252 Victoria Street	Altona Meadows	Altona Meadows	Open grassed area	Local
24	Tatman Reserve	Tatman Drive	Altona Meadows	Altona Meadows	Treed parkland	Local
25	C.W. Carlsson Reserve	Polly Woodside Drive	Altona Meadows	Altona Meadows	Open grassed area	Local
25A	H.D. Graham Reserve Skate Facility	1 Andrew Park Drive	Altona Meadows	Altona Meadows		Local
25B	H.D. Graham Reserve Dirt Jumps	1 Andrew Park Drive	Altona Meadows	Altona Meadows	Open grassed area	Local
26	Apex Park	Queen Street	Altona	Altona / Seaholme	Treed parkland	Local
27	G. Den Dulk Reserve	Somers Parade	Altona	Altona / Seaholme	Treed parkland	District
28	A.H. Ford Reserve	14A Lindwood Avenue	Altona	Altona / Seaholme	Treed parkland	Local
29	F. Rush Reserve	Brook Drive	Altona	Altona / Seaholme	Treed parkland	Local
30	F.A. Emery Reserve	Green Court	Altona	Altona / Seaholme	Treed parkland	Local
31	G.H. Ransom Reserve	Esplanade	Altona	Altona / Seaholme	Open grassed area	Local
32	Logan Reserve	Pier Street	Altona	Altona / Seaholme	Treed parkland	District
33	W.G. Cresser Reserve	Beach Street	Altona	Altona / Seaholme	Open grassed area	Local
34	S.G. McIntosh Reserve	Parkside Crescent	Altona	Altona / Seaholme	Open grassed area	Local
35	Cherry Lake Reserve	Millers Road	Altona	Altona / Seaholme	Treed parkland	Regional
36	Norah McIntyre Reserve	Noordenne Avenue	Altona	Altona / Seaholme	Treed parkland	Local
37	J.J. Ginnifer Reserve	Chambers Road	Altona North	Altona North / Brooklyn	Open grassed area	Local
38	Duke Reserve	Duke Street	Altona North	Altona North / Brooklyn	Open grassed area	Local
39	V.L. Hearn Reserve	Neal Court	Altona North	Altona North / Brooklyn	Open grassed area	Local
40	Harris Reserve	Marsh Street	Altona North	Altona North / Brooklyn	Open grassed area	Local

Park No.	Reserve/Facility Name	Address	Suburb	Planning Precinct	Landscape setting type	Proposed catchment hierarchy
41	W.L.J. Crofts Reserve	Blackshaws Road	Altona North	Altona North / Brooklyn	Open grassed area	Local
42	A.W. Bond Reserve	Chambers Road	Altona North	Altona North / Brooklyn	Open grassed area	Local
43	D.N. Duane Reserve	44-64 Primula Avenue	Altona North	Altona North / Brooklyn	Open grassed area	Local
44	Rowan Avenue Reserve	7 Rowan Avenue	Altona North	Altona North / Brooklyn	Treed parkland	Local
45	Brooklyn Reserve	Nolan Avenue	Brooklyn	Altona North / Brooklyn	Treed parkland	Regional
46	A.W. Langshaw Reserve	Cresser Street	Altona North	Altona North / Brooklyn	Treed parkland	Local
47	W.J. Irwin Reserve	Hobbs Street	Altona North	Altona North / Brooklyn	Open grassed area	Local
48	S.J. Clement Reserve	2-14 Mills Street	Altona North	Altona North / Brooklyn	Open grassed area	Local
49	Paisley Park	15 Prissall Street	Altona North	Altona North / Brooklyn	Open grassed area	Local
50	R.J. Cooper Reserve	23 Collins Avenue	Altona North	South Kingsville / Spotswood	Open grassed area	Local
51	Edwards Reserve	Brunel Street	South Kingsville	South Kingsville / Spotswood	Treed parkland	District
51A	Craig Reserve	91 Craig Street	Spotswood	Newport	Treed parkland	Local
53	Mary Street Reserve	14 Mary Street	Spotswood	South Kingsville / Spotswood	Treed parkland	Local
54	D.W. McLean Reserve West	The Avenue	Spotswood	South Kingsville / Spotswood	Open grassed area	District
55	D.W. McLean Reserve East	The Avenue	Spotswood	Newport	Open grassed area	Local
56	Ducrow Reserve	Oxford Street	Newport	Newport	Open grassed area	Local
57	Leo Hoffman Reserve	45 Newcastle Street	Newport	Newport	Treed parkland	Local
58	Pavery Park	Margaret Street	Newport	Newport	Open grassed area	Local
58A	Newport Lakes Reserve East	19 Lakes Drive	Newport	Newport	Open grassed area	Local
58B	Jack Madigan Reserve	139 Mason Street	Newport	Newport	Treed parkland	Local
59	Loft Reserve	18 Mason Street	Newport	Newport	Open grassed area	Local

Park No.	Reserve/Facility Name	Address	Suburb	Planning Precinct	Landscape setting type	Proposed catchment hierarchy
60	Bryan Martyn Oval-Playground	Derwent Street	Newport	Newport	Open grassed area	Local
61	Paine Street Reserve	Mason Street	Newport	Newport	Treed parkland	Local
63	Digman Reserve	79 Home Road	Newport	Newport	Open grassed area	Local
64	Armstrong Reserve	17 Latrobe Street	Newport	Newport	Treed parkland	Local
65	Coronation Reserve	37 North Road	Newport	Newport	Treed parkland	Local
66	Newport Park	North Road	Newport	Newport	Open grassed area	District
66A	Newport Skate Park	Douglas Parade	Newport	Newport	Open grassed area	District
67	Greenwich Reserve	77 Tourist Drive 2, The Strand	Newport	Newport	Open grassed area	Local
67A	The Strand Reserve	The Strand	Williamstown	Williamstown / Williamstown North	Open grassed area	Local
68	Charles Bate Reserve	39 Tourist Drive 2	Williamstown	Williamstown / Williamstown North	Open grassed area	Local
69	Clough Reserve	10 Clough Street	Williamstown	Williamstown / Williamstown North	Open grassed area	Local
70	L.E. Burgoyne Reserve	17 The Strand	Williamstown	Williamstown / Williamstown North	Open grassed area	Local
71	Commonwealth Reserve	181A Nelson Place	Williamstown	Williamstown / Williamstown North	Treed parkland	Local
72	Maclean Reserve	Parker Street	Williamstown	Williamstown / Williamstown North	Open grassed area	Local
73	Rotary Park	19 Hanmer Street	Williamstown	Williamstown / Williamstown North	Treed parkland	Local
74	Hatt Reserve	29 Esplanade	Williamstown	Williamstown / Williamstown North	Open grassed area	Local
75	P.G. Sadler Reserve	Forster Street	Williamstown	Williamstown / Williamstown North	Open grassed area	Local

Park No.	Reserve/Facility Name	Address	Suburb	Planning Precinct	Landscape setting type	Proposed catchment hierarchy
76	Dennis Reserve	Lyons Street	Williamstown	Williamstown / Williamstown North	Treed parkland	Local
77	Ralph Willis Park	West Court	Williamstown	Williamstown / Williamstown North	Treed parkland	Local
78	Crofton Reserve (South)	118-125 Crofton Drive	Williamstown	Williamstown / Williamstown North	Open grassed area	Local
79	Jawbone Reserve	124 Crofton Drive	West Williamstown	Williamstown / Williamstown North	Open grassed area	Local
80	R.J. Long Reserve	54 Florence Street	Williamstown North	Williamstown / Williamstown North	Open grassed area	Local
81	Edina Reserve	7 Edina Street	Williamstown North	Williamstown / Williamstown North	Open grassed area	Local
82	Power Street Reserve	2 Power Street	Williamstown	Williamstown / Williamstown North	Treed parkland	Local
83	E.W. Jackson Reserve	8 Henry Street	Williamstown	Williamstown / Williamstown North	Open grassed area	Local
85	Blenheim Road Play Space	29 Blenheim Road	Newport	Newport	Cultivated /Ornamental garden	District
86A ⁷	Stockland Play Space	Evergreen Street	Altona North	Altona North / Brooklyn	Open grassed area	Local
86B	Patchwork Park	Primrose Street	Altona North	Altona North / Brooklyn	Open grassed area	Local
86C	CHC Play Space	Not Known	Altona North	Altona North / Brooklyn	Open grassed area	Local
86D	Oliver Hume Play Space	Not Known	Altona North	Altona North / Brooklyn	Open grassed area	Local
87	Precinct 16 West Park	9 Sutton Street	South Kingsville	South Kingsville / Spotswood	Open grassed area	Local
88	Spotswood Yards Play Space	Birmingham Street	Spotswood	South Kingsville / Spotswood	Open grassed area	Local
89	McCormack Park Splash Park	Jennings Street	Laverton	Laverton	Plaza/paved area	District
92	Kingfisher Drive Reserve	8 Kingfisher Drive	Seabrook	Seabrook	Open grassed area	Local

⁷ Note: New parks that do not have a park number from the play space inspection reports have been allocated the next number.