

21.10 OPEN SPACE

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21.10-1 Overview

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Monash has an extensive network of public open space that provides the community with health, social and psychological benefits as well as environmental, ecological, tourism and economic benefits. By 2028 an additional 14,057 people in Monash will increase the demand for public open space.

Public open space is an intrinsic part of liveable urban neighbourhoods and provides for a range of functions including for social/ family recreation and local parks, sport and recreation trails or accessways. Most of this land is owned and managed by Council, however there are also large areas managed by other authorities such as Parks Victoria that are largely open to the public. Private open space is owned by private owners such as golf courses and school land.

Due to historical development differences, and in some instances topography, the distribution, type and quantity of public open space across Monash varies. This can present challenges in meeting the diverse needs of existing residents and providing equitable access to open space, particularly as demographics, recreational choices and expectations change.

The ability for our open space to meet these needs is becoming increasingly important as well as ensuring that open space is accessible to all in the community, regardless of where they live, their age, gender, income, ethnicity, education or abilities.

21.10-2 Key issues

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- The provision and planning of open space should consider the changing demographics and growing population of the Monash community and help result in healthier, happier and more vibrant communities.
- Open space areas should provide for nature conservation, active and passive recreation, recreation trails, as well as infrastructure requirements.

21.10-3 Objectives, strategies and implementation

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Objectives

- To maintain and enhance the public open space network for current and future populations.
- To provide a diverse and integrated network of open space that provides equitable access to good quality public open space for all residents regardless of their age, gender, ethnicity or abilities.
- To protect and enhance all open space with identified environmental significance, significant natural landscape and heritage values from degradation as a result of community recreational demands.
- To ensure appropriate and equitable public open space contributions at the time of subdivision to meet future needs of residents.

Strategies

- Protect public open space areas from inappropriate development on adjoining and nearby land.
- Ensure that all new development and redevelopment in the municipality addresses the current and future needs of the open space network based on future population growth, including expansion of the path and trail network.

- Ensure that there is no net loss of open space through development unless there is a clear net community benefit of provision in an area currently adequately provided in open space that is of a high standard.
- Improve the diversity of public open space functions and landscape setting type and encourage the development of multi-use social/ family recreation parks that improve social cohesiveness.
- Promote the development of parks that are safe, shaded, well located and accessible and vibrant and where appropriate incorporate universal design features and environmentally sustainable design principles.
- Ensure that strategic redevelopment sites that seek high residential densities provide an appropriate level of open space to cater for the intended population, including for student and aged care accommodation.
- For development in employment and industrial areas encourage public open space to cater for the needs of workers.
- The location of new public open space has regard to the protection of indigenous flora or fauna of significance. Significant natural landscapes and heritage vales.
- Ensure that public open space and recreation trails with a specific role for bushland or conservation are carefully maintained to protect significant flora and fauna.
- Increase the planting of canopy trees in public open space.
- Determine an appropriate amount of cash or land public open space contributions for residential, commercial, industrial, or a mix of land uses.

Implementation

These strategies will be implemented through the following actions.

Policy and exercise of discretion

- Using local policy to ensure that development causes minimal impact and loss of amenity to open space areas. (*Residential Development and Character Policy, Clause 22.01, Industry and Business Development and Character Policy, Clause 22.03, Stormwater Management Policy, Clause 22.04, Tree Conservation Policy, Clause 22.05, Outdoor Advertising Policy, Clause 22.08, Public Open Space Contributions Policy Clause 22.15*)
- Complying with the State environment protection policy (Waters).

Zones and overlays

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

Further strategic work

- Establish a policy to determine the appropriate circumstances for an open space contribution resulting from the development of residential, commercial, industrial or a mix of land uses.

Other actions

- Implementing the actions identified in the Monash Open Space Strategy 2018.
- Having regard to the Dandenong Valley Parklands Future Direction Plan 2006 which aims to ensure the protection and enhancement of the environmental values, progressive

development of trail connections, and provision of recreation and leisure opportunities of the Dandenong Valley Parklands.

- Continuing to implement Council’s street tree programs, in accordance with the City of Monash Street Tree Strategy 2016 and Monash Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy 2018.
- Implement the actions identified in the Monash Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy 2018.
- Implementing the actions identified in the City of Monash Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016 - 2026.

21.10-4 Reference documents

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Active Reserves Facility Hierarchy. Active Monash, City of Monash, February 2018
A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021. City of Monash, 2017
Healthy by Design: a Guide to Planning Environments for Active Living in Victoria. National Heart Foundation of Australia June 2012
Monash –Open Space Strategy 2018, City of Monash, October 2018
Monash Walking and Cycling Strategy, City of Monash, 2013
Dandenong Valley Parklands Future Direction Plan 2006, Parks Victoria, June 2006
Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016 – 2026. City of Monash, March 2016
Urban Biodiversity Strategy 2018 – 2028. City of Monash. November 2018
Desktop Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, December 2002

Map: Open Space in Monash

