



**ACTIVE
MONASH**

PLAYGROUND AND PLAYSPACE STRATEGY

Refresh
2025-2035







CONTENTS

| | | | |
|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| Introduction | 5 | Population Forecasts | 30 |
| Background | 6 | City of Monash..... | 30 |
| Playground hierarchy and classifications | 7 | Demographic analysis..... | 30 |
| Hierarchy considerations..... | 7 | Community Needs | 34 |
| Service levels | 8 | Monash 2021 and Beyond community survey ... | 34 |
| Minimum infrastructure provision standards..... | 9 | Playground Strategy Refresh community | |
| Aspirational minimum playground | | survey | 34 |
| provision standard | 9 | Existing Provision | 38 |
| Improving Playspaces | 10 | Local government benchmarking | 39 |
| Scope of Strategy | 14 | Gaps in open space | 40 |
| Playground definition | 14 | Potential gaps in provision | 40 |
| Outdoor active recreation infrastructure | 15 | Playground Upgrade Program 2025-2035 | 44 |
| Active recreation opportunities strategy..... | 15 | Implementing the Strategy | 45 |
| Vision | 16 | Adhering to the hierarchy | 45 |
| Our vision for playspaces..... | 16 | Focus on regional, district and | |
| The importance of playgrounds | 17 | neighbourhood playspaces | 45 |
| Inclusive play | 18 | What about SPARCs? | 46 |
| Social gathering places | 19 | Open Space and Playspace Principles | 47 |
| Growth and development..... | 19 | Recommendations - Playspace Upgrades | 48 |
| Obesity | 21 | Appendix 1: | |
| Gender implications for play | 23 | Playgrounds and playspaces in Monash | 54 |
| Physical activity..... | 23 | Appendix 2: | |
| Parks..... | 23 | Playspace Upgrade Program | |
| Health | 24 | 2025-2035 | 62 |
| Safety and security | 24 | | |
| Playspace equipment | 24 | | |
| Intersectionality | 24 | | |
| Reimagining play | 25 | | |
| Policy Context | 26 | | |
| Monash Council Plan 2021-2025..... | 26 | | |
| Monash Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 . | 27 | | |
| Monash Open Space Strategy | 28 | | |



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Monash Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong People, and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waterways. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.





INTRODUCTION

Monash Council provides a diverse array of play opportunities for children throughout a network of 139 (soon to be 141) public playspaces located in parks and reserves.

This refresh of the *Playground and Playspace Strategy 2020* has been undertaken to ensure Monash has a proactive, sustainable and evidenced-based approach to the ongoing provision and management of playgrounds and playspaces in the City of Monash.

Play is important for children's physical, cognitive, social, emotional and sensory development. Through play, important life skills are learnt using interaction, risk-taking, imagination, socialising and self-expression. Playing allows children to learn about themselves and others.

Playgrounds and playspaces provide environments where children can explore,

create, imagine, interact and reflect. Successful playgrounds enable children of all ages to take calculated risks, interact with others and be physically active. Playgrounds have evolved from simple slide and swing sets to integrated equipment that incorporate a range of features, challenges, themes and experiences.

Monash is a desirable area to live; as a result more people are choosing to stay in smaller houses and units to raise a family. As urban density intensifies and private open space is reduced, the importance of public open space increases. This places pressure on open space realms to provide high-quality experiences for a range of ages, abilities and interests. The continual improvement of quality passive and active open space, including playgrounds, will promote community participation in physical activity and improve health and wellbeing.

BACKGROUND

The *Monash Playground and Playspace Strategy Refresh 2025* (Strategy Refresh) expands on the *Playground and Playspace Strategy 2020* and reaffirms the service levels, provision and design standards for the development and renewal of playgrounds in the City of Monash.

All recommended actions in the Strategy Refresh are important as they improve the quality, safety, appeal and value of playgrounds across the City of Monash. The implementation of the Strategy Refresh and upgrade of future playspaces is an ongoing and evolving process. The Strategy Refresh will ensure that a high standard of playgrounds is delivered in priority order in accordance with the *Active Monash Capital Works Prioritisation Framework 2018*.

Capital Works Prioritisation Framework

This prioritisation framework identifies capital works priorities for the next 10+ years for recreation assets (including playgrounds) in a transparent and equitable manner. Under the framework, projects are ranked in order of priority for upgrade based on a clear and justifiable assessment methodology:

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Strategic justification (10%) |
| 2 | Physical environment (35%) |
| 3 | Community benefit (35%) |
| 4 | Economic benefit (10%) |
| 5 | Environmental assessment (10%) |

Playgrounds that have been identified as high priority for upgrade under this framework feature in the aspirational 10-year playspace upgrade program commencing 2025/26 (**Appendix 2**).

The Active Monash Capital Works Priorities Framework spreadsheet is a dynamic document and will be reviewed and updated annually before each capital works planning cycle to ensure the top capital works priorities remain relevant and reflect current conditions and community needs.

Playground hierarchy and classifications

A playground hierarchy is used to classify the scale and primary design focus for each playground. A playground's classification directly informs its scope and size and it also guides the level of service and infrastructure provision.

Monash has five (5) playground classifications that range from small pocket parks through to large regional destination playgrounds :

- Pocket
- Local
- Neighbourhood
- District
- Municipal/Regional.

The design focus of the playspace should reflect:

- The anticipated target group(s) who will primarily use the playground
- The extent of play elements and experiences to be provided
- The indicative duration of stay and mode of travel to the playground
- The distinctive features of the park and/or reserve.

Hierarchy considerations

If a district- or regional-scale playground is located in a neighbourhood, a series of smaller pocket or local playgrounds for toddlers should also be provided in the local area. This will enable small children to have a place to play without potentially feeling intimidated by older children rushing about them.

The nature of the suburb may influence the type of playground developed. If the house blocks are small or if the 'backyards' are small, there is a greater need for access to a quality playspace in a local park.

Other factors which should be considered include:

- Site suitability
- Existing gaps in provision i.e. where residents have to travel more than 400 metres to access a playground
- Current and future demand – using demographic data to identify the current and projected number of children living in a precinct
- The number, variety, quality and classification of nearby playspaces
- Strategic fit and alignment with relevant Council strategies and plans.

Service levels

For each classification level, Monash has established minimum service levels and provision standards for playspaces. These include:

- Primary design focus and target group
- Indicative catchment area
- Indicative duration of stay (visit time)
- Indicative number of play pieces including nature play elements
- Recommended inspection/maintenance check schedule.

TABLE 1: Monash playground classifications and inspection program

| Playspace classification | Primary design focus and target group | Indicative catchment area | Indicative duration of stay | Indicative no. of play pieces (incl. nature play) | Recommended inspection/maintenance check schedule |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Regional | Intergenerational* | 10km | 2+ hours | 15+ pieces | 2 inspections per week |
| District | Intergenerational* | 2.5km | 1+ hours | 8-12 pieces | 1 inspection per week |
| Neighbourhood | Preschool - secondary school | 1km | Up to 2 hours | 8-12 pieces | 1 inspection per week |
| Local | Preschool - primary school | 500m | Up to 1 hour | 5-8 pieces | 1-2 inspections per fortnight |
| Pocket | Toddlers - preschool | 400m | Up to 30 mins | 3-5 pieces | 1 inspection per fortnight |

***NOTE:** In the intermediate and teenage age groups there is a shift away from playgrounds to other active recreational facilities that allow for sport and active recreation. The *Monash Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy*¹ identifies strategic priorities for the planning and delivery of outdoor active recreation infrastructure such as fitness stations, basketball half courts, skate parks etc.

Intergenerational play also supports the active participation of adults accompanying or supervising children at playgrounds.

¹ www.monash.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/edms/things-to-do/sport-recreation/active-recreation-opportunities-strategy.pdf



Minimum infrastructure provision standards

Minimum playground infrastructure provision standards for each playground classification also apply as outlined in Table 2. These minimum standards may be exceeded at certain sites where a legitimate need for additional infrastructure can be demonstrated.

TABLE 2: Minimum playground infrastructure provision standards

| Playspace classification | Double BBQ (incl. paving and shelter) | Shade sail (over play area) | Public toilets (within 250m of playspace) | Accessible picnic table | Water fountain | Rubbish bins | Bike rack | Accessible features | Bench seating |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------|
| Regional | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Neighbourhood | | | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Local | | | | | | | | Yes | Yes |
| Pocket | | | | | | | | Yes | Yes |

The playground classifications, service levels and provision standards inform the design brief, project scope and budget for playspaces and enable Council to deliver a sustainable, equitable and feasible playground program. They also:

- Provide clarity and consistency around playground provision levels
- Provide a variety of play experiences for the community i.e. from larger regional destination playspaces to smaller local playspaces
- Ensure our playspaces offer the community with a broad range of high quality, creative play opportunities for different ages and abilities
- Prioritise the development of new playspaces in gap areas to enhance equity of access
- Demonstrate responsible asset management, based on an understanding of future asset renewal costs and obligations based on existing provision standards
- Ensure consistent quality playground design by embedding Monash's Playspace Design Principles and Considerations in playspace design briefs.

Aspirational minimum playground provision standard

Monash Council aspires to meet a minimum provision standard of having a playground within a 400 metre radius (as the crow flies) of 95% of all residential dwellings.

The level of playground provision varies from precinct to precinct and is directly affected by the amount of public open space available. Large areas of land in Monash are utilised by industry and technology, private golf courses and tertiary institutions (e.g. Monash University Clayton Campus) and this directly affects playground provision in parts of Monash.

IMPROVING PLAYSPACES

Council has progressively removed and replaced outdated playgrounds, often no longer compliant with Australian Standards or consistent with contemporary standards.

From 2014 to July 2025, Council will have upgraded a total of 68 playgrounds across Monash at an estimated cost of \$17.8 million (Table 3).

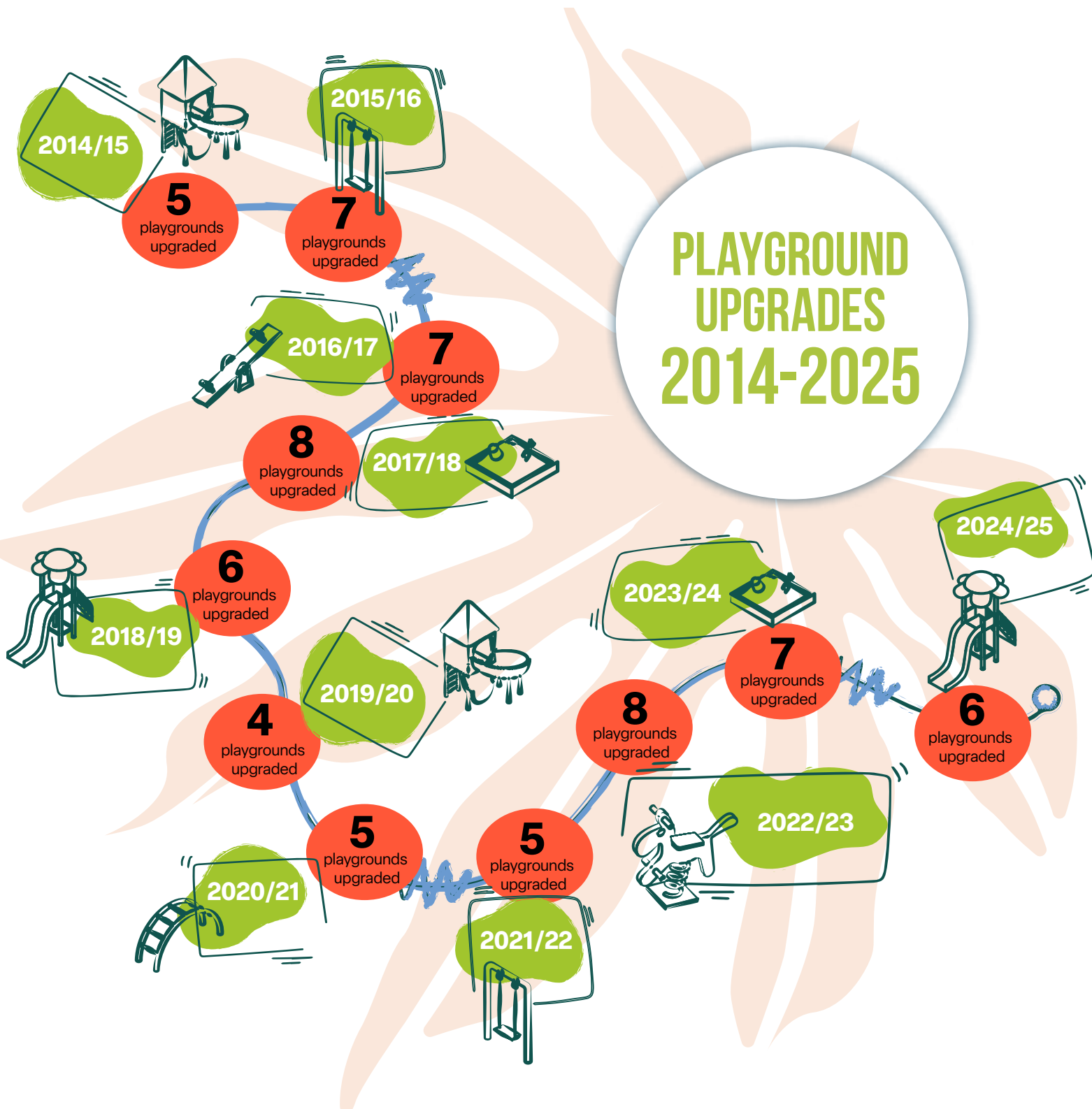


TABLE 3: Playground upgrades 2014-2025

| Year | Sites | Number of Sites | Total cost p.a. (incl. grants) |
|--|--|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 2014/15 | Valley Conservation Reserve, Wellington Reserve, Ashwood Drive Reserve, Beverley Grove Reserve (Mount Waverley Linear Reserve), Brandon Park Reserve. | 5 | \$1,150,000 |
| 2015/16 | Reg Harris Reserve, Marykirk Drive (Ronston Court) Reserve, Tally Ho Reserve, Woodlea Drive Reserve, Viewpoint Avenue Reserve, Mackellar Avenue Reserve, Bailey Street Reserve. | 7 | \$995,000 |
| 2016/17 | Dirigo Drive Reserve, Burlington Street Reserve (Burlington Square), Mayfield Park Reserve, Portland Street South Reserve, Davies Reserve, Napier Park, Jingella Reserve fitness station. | 7 | \$980,000 |
| 2017/18 | Pascall Street Reserve, Fiander Avenue Reserve, Netherby Avenue Reserve, Arthur Street Reserve, Samada Street Reserve, Murumba Drive Reserve, Freeway Reserve, Essex Heights Reserve fitness station. | 8 | \$1,050,000 |
| 2018/19 | Glen Waverley North Reserve, Mannering Drive Reserve, Catherine Avenue Reserve, Dennis Street Reserve, Adrian Street Reserve, Galbally Reserve. | 6 | \$1,350,000 |
| 2019/20 | Melissa Street Reserve, Evelyn Street Reserve, Electra Reserve, Wellesley Road Reserve. | 4 | \$900,000 |
| 2020/21 | Wilma Avenue Reserve, Bayview (Madison Court) Reserve, Danien Street Reserve, Capital Reserve, Whitehaven Crescent Reserve. | 5 | \$1.07m |
| 2021/22 | Garnett Street Reserve, Carlson Reserve, Gardiners Reserve, Botanic Drive Reserve, Petronella Avenue Reserve. | 5 | \$1.64m |
| 2022/23 | Herriotts Boulevard (England Road) Reserve, Atheldene Drive Reserve, Flora Road Reserve, Cambridge Street Reserve, Progress Park and Cameron Avenue Reserve, Westerfield Drive Reserve, Rivett Crescent Reserve, Samada Street Reserve improvements. | 8 | \$3.5m |
| 2023/24 | Talbot Park, Cambro Road Reserve, Mount Waverley Reserve, Diamond Avenue Reserve, Highview Park, Rembrandt Drive (Gainsborough Avenue) Reserve, Portland Street North Reserve. | 7 | \$2.35m |
| 2024/25* *subject to budget provision | Princes Highway Reserve, Mulgrave Reserve, Orchard Street (David Crawford) Reserve, Argyle Reserve, Westbrook Street Reserve (proposed), Centre Road West Skyrail (proposed). | 6 | \$2.8m |
| TOTAL | Average \$270k per playspace | 68 | \$17.8m |

PLAYGROUND UPGRADE TIMELINES

1990-1994

7

1. St Clair Crescent Reserve
2. Regent St Reserve
3. Pinewood Reserve
4. Flora Rd Reserve
5. Lawrence Rd Reserve
6. Diamond Ave Reserve
7. Danien St Reserve

1995-1999

52

1. Greville St (Garnett St) Reserve
2. Bayview (Madison Ct) Reserve
3. Fregon Reserve
4. Electra Reserve
5. Mt Waverley Reserve
6. Orchard St (David Crawford) Reserve
7. Highview Park
8. Capital Reserve
9. Hinkler Reserve
10. Atheldene Dr Reserve
11. Garrick Ct (Sheldon Place) Reserve
12. Petronella Ave East Reserve
13. Bowden Ct Reserve
14. Haversham Ave (Fernly Ct) Reserve
15. Opal Ct Reserve
16. Knell St Reserve
17. Dunoon St Reserve
18. Janice Rd Reserve
19. French St Reserve
20. Kingsley Grove Reserve
21. Carlson Reserve
22. Princes Highway Reserve
23. Strelde Ave Reserve
24. Charlton St Reserve
25. Winbourne Rd Reserve
26. Rosemary St Reserve
27. Gillon Ct Reserve
28. Cheel St Reserve
29. Bowmore St Reserve
30. Octavia Ct Reserve
31. Grantley Dr Reserve
32. Le Fey Ct Reserve
33. Wilson Rd Reserve
34. Brynor Crescent Reserve
35. Paxton Dr Reserve
36. Botanic Dr Reserve
37. Trafford Ct Reserve
38. View Mt Rd Reserve
39. Ainslie Dr Reserve
40. Rembrandt Dr (Gainsborough Ave) Reserve
41. Columbia Park Reserve
42. Grandview Rd Reserve
43. Mulgrave Reserve
44. Gladeswood Reserve
45. Portland St North Reserve
46. Albany Dr Reserve
47. Wilma Ave Reserve
48. Finch St Reserve
49. Westerfield Dr Reserve
50. McKenna Rd Reserve
51. Herriotts Boulevard (England Rd) Reserve
52. Cambro Rd Reserve

2000-2004

11

1. Bogong Reserve
2. Batesford Reserve
3. Wilson St Reserve
4. Salisbury Reserve
5. Parkhill Dr Reserve
6. Jacaranda Rd Reserve
7. Oliver Ct (Blanton Dr) Reserve
8. Allen St Reserve (Scotchmans Creek Linear Park – Crown land)
9. Talbot Park
10. Queens Parade Reserve
11. Canova Dr Reserve

2005-2009

11

1. Essex Heights Reserve
2. Grovelands Dr Reserve
3. Cinnabar Ave Reserve
4. Cambridge St Reserve
5. Schoolhall St Reserve
6. Rata St Reserve
7. Lansdowne Circuit Reserve
8. Whitehaven Crescent Reserve
9. Jack Edwards Reserve
10. Brentwood Reserve
11. Manchester Place Reserve

2010-2014

19

1. Rivett Crescent Reserve
2. Fraser St Reserve
3. Central Reserve
4. Argyle Reserve
5. Federal Reserve
6. Brunton Crescent North (Ellis Park) Reserve
7. Ashwood Dr Reserve
8. Wellesley Rd Reserve (sensory)
9. Grantham Terrace Reserve
10. Southern Reserve
11. Meade Reserve
12. F E Hunt Reserve
13. Brickmakers Park Reserve
14. Warrawee Park
15. W A Scammell Reserve
16. Progress Park
17. Holmesglen Reserve
18. Damper Creek Conservation Reserve
19. Lum Reserve

2015-2019

35

1. Wellington Reserve
2. Valley Conservation Reserve
3. Beverley Grove Reserve (Mt Waverley Linear Reserve)
4. Jordan Reserve
5. Tally Ho Reserve
6. Baily St Reserve
7. Viewpoint Ave (Waverley Road) Reserve
8. Waverley Womens Sports Centre
9. Brandon Park Reserve
10. Mackellar Ave Reserve
11. Dirigo Dr Reserve
12. Marykirk Dr (Ronston Ct) Reserve
13. Woodlea Dr Reserve
14. Reg Harris Reserve
15. Burlington St Reserve (Burlington Square)
16. Bowman St Reserve
17. Pascall St Reserve
18. Napier Park Reserve
19. Netherby Ave Reserve
20. Portland St South Reserve
21. Fiander Ave Reserve
22. Davies Reserve
23. Mayfield Park
24. Arthur St Reserve
25. Samada St Reserve
26. Dennis St Reserve
27. Murumba Dr Reserve
28. Freeway Reserve
29. Glen Waverley North Reserve
30. Mannering Dr Reserve
31. Evelyn St Reserve
32. Melissa St Reserve
33. Catherine Ave Reserve
34. Adrian St Reserve
35. Galbally Reserve

2020-2025

33

1. Waverley Park Lake Regional Playspace
2. Jells Park Yabby Hill Regional Playspace (Parks Vic)
3. Bayview (Madison Ct) Reserve
4. Wilma Ave Reserve
5. Danien St Reserve
6. Capital Reserve
7. Whitehaven Crescent Reserve
8. Greville St (Garnett St) Reserve
9. Carlson Reserve
10. Gardiners Reserve
11. Botanic Dr Reserve
12. Petronella Ave East Reserve
13. Westerfield Dr Reserve (sensory)
14. Cambridge St Reserve
15. Progress Park and Cameron Ave Reserve
16. Herriotts Boulevard (England Rd) Reserve
17. Atheldene Dr Reserve
18. Flora Rd Reserve
19. Rivett Crescent Reserve
20. Samada St Reserve Improvements
21. Talbot Reserve
22. Cambro Rd Reserve
23. Mt Waverley Reserve
24. Diamond Ave Reserve
25. Highview Park
26. Rembrandt Dr (Gainsborough Ave) Reserve
27. Portland St North Reserve
28. Mulgrave Reserve*
29. Orchard St (David Crawford) Reserve*
30. Princes Highway Reserve*
31. Argyle Reserve*
32. Westbrook Street Reserve (proposed)*
33. Centre Road West Skyrail (proposed)*

*To be upgraded by 30 June 2025 – subject to budget approval

SCOPE OF STRATEGY

Playground definition

For the purposes of this Strategy Refresh a playground is defined as:

“...any accessible area used for outdoor play or recreation which contains recreational play equipment such as slides and swings which is typically found in a public park or reserve.”

A playground forms part of a playspace which may incorporate additional infrastructure and features such as picnic shelters, public toilets,

drinking fountains, basketball half courts and public tennis facilities.

Monash currently has 139 public playgrounds. Two new pocket playgrounds are also due for completion mid-2025. This will bring the total number of playspaces up to 141.

Refer to **Appendix 1: Playgrounds in Monash** for a comprehensive list of public playgrounds in the City of Monash.



Outdoor active recreation infrastructure

While the scope of this Strategy Refresh focuses on playgrounds, it is important to note that Council also provides outdoor active recreation hubs and active recreation infrastructure in public parks and reserves such as:

- Fitness stations or exercise equipment
- Multi-sport courts with basketball, netball and/or futsal goals
- Community tennis facilities such as public tennis courts, hit-up tennis walls and table tennis tables
- Bocce courts
- Skate parks and pump tracks
- Bouldering and climbing walls.

In cases where recreational infrastructure is integrated into the playspace, as opposed to stand-alone active recreation infrastructure, it will be considered and treated as part of the playspace.

“**...any accessible area used for outdoor play or recreation which contains recreational play equipment such as slides and swings which is typically found in a public park or reserve.**”

Active recreation opportunities strategy

The *Monash Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy*¹ identifies strategic priorities for the planning and delivery of outdoor active recreation infrastructure such as fitness stations, basketball half courts, skate parks etc. to enable residents to participate ‘in their own way.’

The City of Monash has delivered a range of active recreation facilities across its open space network, including outdoor fitness equipment, circuit paths and trails, basketball courts and cricket practice facilities. The *Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy* aims to increase the diversity of opportunities for physical activity and balance the provision of facilities across the network.

The establishment of a series of neighbourhood ‘active recreation hubs’ will complement the provision and upgrade of playspaces by:

- Increasing the diversity of facilities
- Creating destinations for play, active recreation and physical activity
- Providing intergenerational elements so people of all ages and abilities can play, recreate and be active together e.g. children, parents and grandparents
- Providing new opportunities for residents to be physically active.

¹ www.monash.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/edms/things-to-do/sport-recreation/active-recreation-opportunities-strategy.pdf

Our vision for playspaces:

The City of Monash will provide a diverse range of quality, fun, accessible, well designed and maintained playspaces that assist children's cognitive, physical, social, emotional and sensory development as well as providing a community gathering space that encourages interaction, understanding, physical activity and community health and wellbeing.

This Strategy Refresh aims to ensure the continued holistic and systematic approach to playground developments and provides:

- A clear vision that ensures Monash playspaces offer a broad range of high-quality, creative play opportunities for different age groups and abilities
- A playground classification framework and minimum infrastructure provision standards that deliver clarity around provision and services levels and a diverse range of play experiences
- An understanding of future demand for playspaces in Monash, and identifies gaps in provision and potential sites for the development of new playgrounds
- Equitable access to playgrounds
- A responsible and sustainable approach to managing playground renewals with the view to reducing the playground renewal gap to under 20 years.

The objectives of the Strategy Refresh are:

- Confirm the strategic direction for the planning, development and upgrade of playspaces in the City of Monash for the next 10 years
- Ensure future playground developments are relevant and responsive to community needs
- Maintain a safe play environment for children in our parks where children can take calculated risks
- Reaffirm Monash's playground design standards, classifications and service levels and minimum infrastructure provision standards
- Provide play environments and equipment that offer children recreation opportunities that contribute to their physical, emotional, cognitive, social and sensory development
- Provide a variety of creative, high-quality play opportunities for children and their families to enjoy and recreate together.



THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAYGROUNDS

The United Nations has stated that:

...every child has a right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child, and to participate freely in cultural life and arts.¹

The Good Play Space Guide acknowledges the importance of play as follows:

All children need to play. All children have the right to play. When children play they are not just filling in time, they are learning to interpret their world. Play facilitates the learning of life skills, and for this reason, the provision of quality outdoor playspaces is vitally important in local communities.²

Through play children develop qualities necessary in adulthood, such as:

- Problem solving
- Independence
- Self-awareness
- Creativity
- Resilience
- Spatial knowledge
- Flexibility and ability to deal with change.³



¹ United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 31

^{2,3} Sport and Recreation Victoria, The Good Space Guide 2007



Inclusive play

Besides the obvious benefits of movement, exercise and fitness, physical play provides the building blocks to children's complete development, from balance, vision and hearing, to tactile learning and sensory integration. Play benefits young children, young people and the young at heart, and inclusive design needs to consider all ages, cultural backgrounds and abilities.

What is an inclusive playspace?

*Everyone Can Play: A Guideline to Create Inclusive Play*¹ defines an inclusive playspace as:

...easy to access, easy to move around in, provide a range of play types and challenges, and are equipped with appropriate facilities, in a comfortable environment. Inclusive playspaces allow everyone to stay as long as they choose.

Inclusive playspaces remove the obstacles and barriers that prevent people from participating in play. They provide access to a variety of play experiences and consider as many people's needs as possible.

Accessibility vs. Inclusivity

The *Everyone Can Play* guideline encourages playspace planners, designers and users to think beyond accessibility needs, so that everyone can realise the joys of play. Accessibility is commonly associated with mobility standards and safety compliance. Accessibility refers to the physical ability of people to access a place or thing. Accessible design predominantly addresses the movement needs of those with disabilities.

When designing for playspaces, complying with accessibility standards across equipment, surfacing and support facilities, is key to creating a playspace for all.

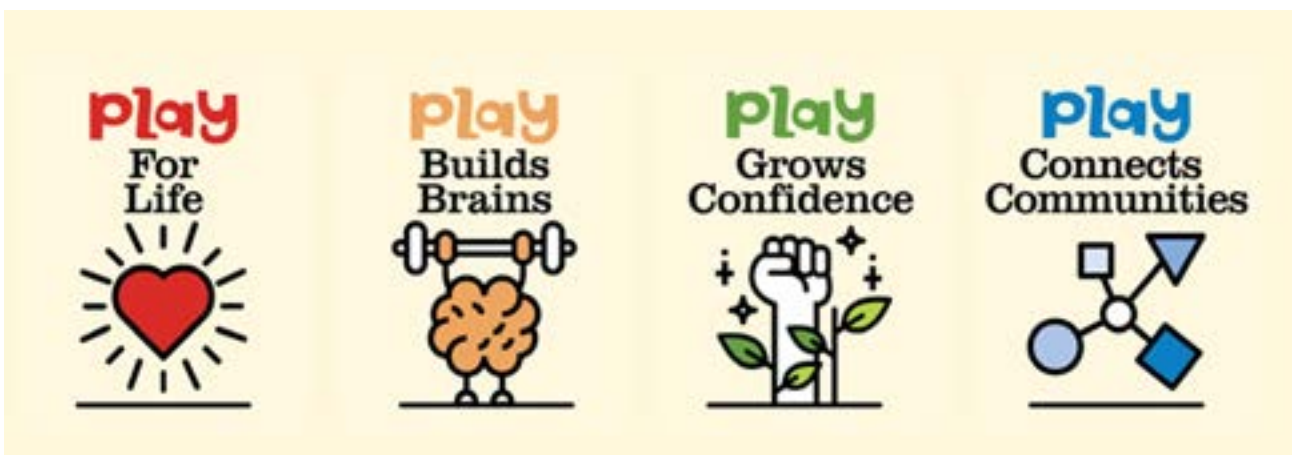
¹NSW Government, *Everyone Can Play A Guideline to Create Inclusive Play*, 2023

Social gathering places

Quality playspaces provide venues for community events, activities and social gatherings. They often become the social hub for local communities, particularly for those with young children, and contribute to the landscape appeal of individual settings.

Playspaces provide a broad range of benefits for local communities, including:

- Facilitating opportunities for social interaction
- Contributing to a sense of community connectedness and wellbeing
- Contributing to community pride and appreciation of the natural environment
- Encouraging participation in physical activities (which derives a range of physical and mental health benefits).



Growth and development

The City of Monash is experiencing significant population growth that is predicted to continue in the future. The 2021 estimated residential population for the City of Monash was 203,501. The population forecast for 2023 is 204,213, and is forecast to grow to 250,219 by 2041 (or 22.53%).²

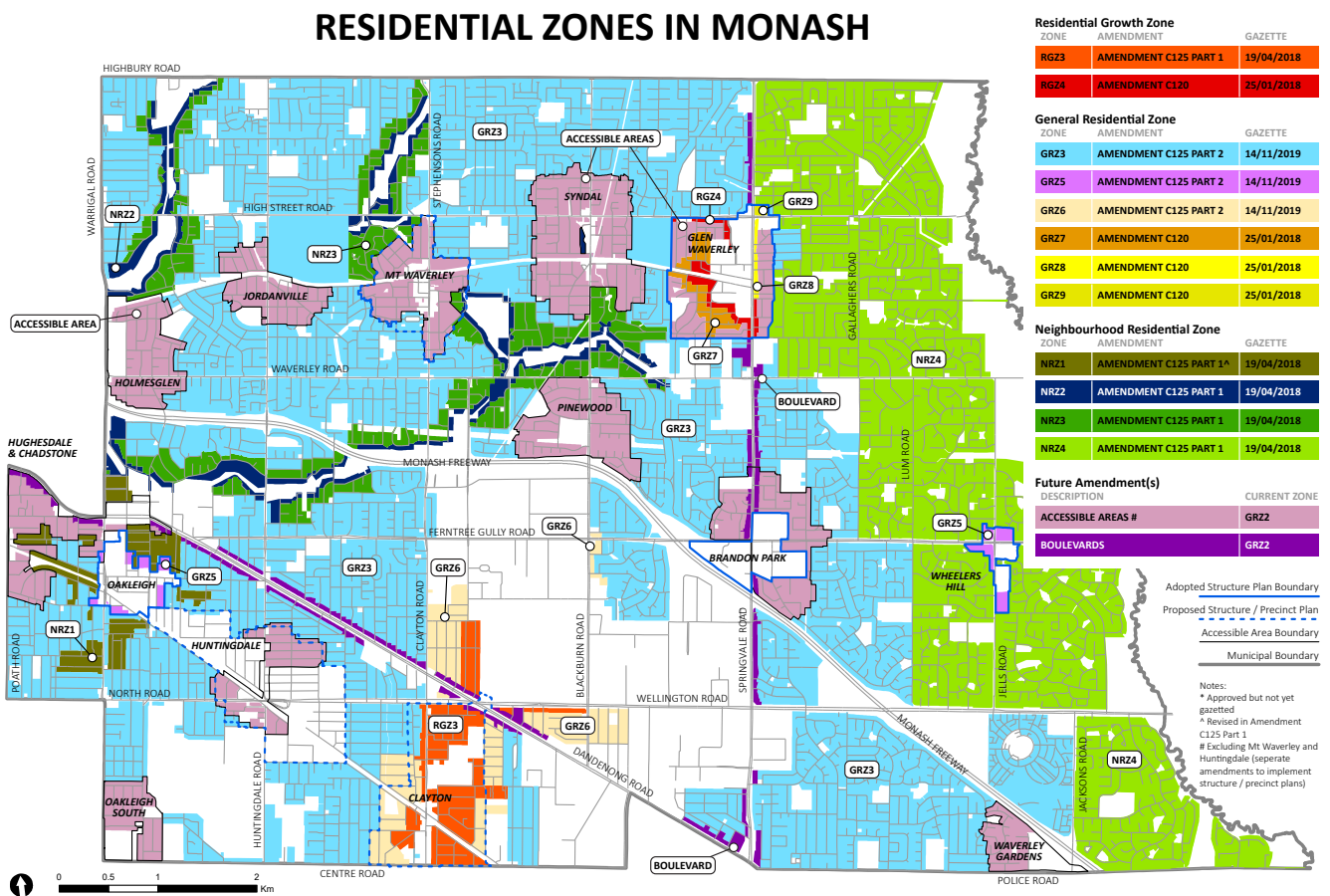
¹ Image from Play Australia website retrieved from www.playaustralia.org.au

² Profile ID, City of Monash Population Forecast retrieved 11 April 2023

Monash is also experiencing a significant amount of residential development, particularly in areas such as Glen Waverley and Clayton (refer Map 1: Residential growth zones).

In many property developments, older housing stock is being replaced with high-density apartments, often leading to a loss of private gardens in the neighbourhood. This loss affects the amount of space children have for play, while increasing urbanisation impacts on opportunities to connect with nature (hence the importance of nature play and the use of natural materials and plantings).

MAP 1: Residential growth zones (orange and red areas)



Obesity

Obesity is a world-wide issue that contributes to physical, psychological and metabolic health problems. Australia has one of the highest rates of obesity in the world. In 2017-2019 Australia ranked fifth among OECD countries with 31% of Australian adults living with obesity. About **14 million Australians are living with overweight or obesity** - that's 2 in every 3 adults, and 1 in 4 children.¹

Without further action we face a future with more weight-related chronic diseases and early death, greater vulnerability to infectious diseases, and significant costs to health care, economic development, and community wellbeing. The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has shown that people with obesity or chronic diseases get sicker and are more likely to die from infectious diseases. There is also evidence that COVID-19 continues to influence Australians' eating and sedentary behaviour patterns.

Our environments and lifestyles have also made us less physically active. More machines and technologies, as well as traditional urban design, encourage us to drive and have led to more sedentary work and leisure activities, and much more screen time.

The Australian Government's *National Obesity Strategy 2022-2032* (the Strategy) sets out a vision for an Australia that encourages and enables healthy weight and healthy living for all.

The Strategy's goal is for more people to maintain a healthy weight, through achieving two targets:

- Halt the rise and reverse the trend in the prevalence of obesity in adults by 2030
- Reduce overweight and obesity in children and adolescents aged 2-17 years by at least 5% by 2030.

These are aspirational targets require a societal and sustained approach for change. One way local government can realise the Strategy's goals is to create environments that make it easier for people to lead healthier lives.

It is widely acknowledged that it is important to instil participation in physical activity and healthy eating in children before they develop poor physical and nutritional habits. Children have unique needs, as do different segments among children (young and adolescent, boys and girls), so it is important that these issues are acknowledged when designing playspaces to encourage a physically active community.

¹ Australian Government *National Obesity Strategy 2022-2032*





GENDER IMPLICATIONS FOR PLAY

Physical activity

The Centre for Physical Activity and Nutrition¹ at Deakin University, through their ‘public open spaces’ research, has confirmed the importance of providing children with access to public open spaces. Young boys and adolescent boys with access to playspaces in their local park had a greater level of physical activity than those without. The same was not seen among girls. Features important to adolescent girls included trees that provide shade, water features and signage regarding dogs.

The study also found that neither adolescent boys nor girls performed the recommended one hour of moderate-to-vigorous-intensity physical activity per day. This highlights the need for features that promote physical activity for various age groups and genders – in particular, the inclusion of interesting and age-appropriate play equipment.

Parks

UK advocacy group Make Space for Girls identifies park infrastructure for young people consists almost entirely of facilities such as skate parks, multi-use games areas (e.g., fenced pitches, basketball courts) and BMX tracks and that these spaces are generally seen as meeting the needs of all young people when in fact they are places dominated by boys.

It has been shown that boys tend to dominate the space in existing teen play areas, and that this is often done by deliberately excluding girls. Probably as a result of this, girls are less active when there are groups of boys present. Girls will often avoid using spaces when boys are present, only going to some spaces at times of day when they know they will be empty [...] The researchers suggest that public playgrounds need to provide several smaller areas to prevent girls becoming marginalised in big open spaces. Other work shows that girls are much more likely to use well-kept play areas which supply the kind of experiences they want, and they are more likely to linger in this kind of play area .

¹ Deakin University (Centre for Physical Activity and Nutrition), *Public open spaces – what features encourage children to be active?*



Health

The lack of park facilities for girls, and the barriers excluding them, also has an impact on their health. From age 10, activity levels drop significantly in girls, until by 13-15, only 8% of girls are meeting activity guidelines. By age 16, the pattern of exercise in adult years has usually been set, so this decline has lifetime impact.

The role of play and playgrounds in meeting this need, however, has not been much studied, but they are a free setting for physical activities which don't have to be competitive. For example, a U.S. study found that swings were the best providers of moderate physical activity for teenage girls in parks.

Safety and security

Make Space for Girls identifies that 'not feeling safe' is a key barrier which stops girls using parks.

Teenage girls also interpret safety more widely than adults do. To them, it means more than not being attacked, it also includes not being judged or disapproved of or stared at. This feeling contributes to their absence from parks and other spaces.

The lack of appropriate facilities can also contribute to this – if teenage girls try to use what play equipment there is, they are often made to feel unwelcome by the parents. Other park users can also be a significant safety issue for teenage girls, most of all groups of boys or men.

Playspace equipment

Boys and girls have different play preferences and design considerations, and equipment selection should include elements that are popular with all genders such as balancing, music, social spaces (benches facing each other), basket swings and signage that reinforces equitable play and belonging in shared community play spaces.

Yorkshire Sport asked 456 teenagers what would help them be active in a park, with the top three elements for girls being age-appropriate swings, trampolines and play/adventure equipment, compared with trampolines, outdoor gym equipment and playing fields for boys.¹

In Australian schools, 'in-between' or peripheral places have also been found to extend playing territory for girls, which can be limited in formal spaces by boys.²

Intersectionality

Girls from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are less likely than other girls to participate in physical activity³, and girls from non-white backgrounds are also more likely to be the targets of sexual harassment and of race discrimination in general which again affects their ability to use public spaces⁴. It is also worth noting that park design and provision often may not take into consideration the requirements of some members of other ethnic and religious groups - for example by not recognising their wish to be segregated from dogs.

Much of the data available on gender and play, or gender and physical activity, is binary in nature. While we use this data to show the gendered implications, we recognise that this does not represent the gender diversity of the population.

^{1&4} Walker & Clarke (2023), *Make Space for Girls - The Research Background 2023*

² Aminpour, Bishop & Corkery (2020) 'The hidden value of in-between spaces for children's self-directed play within outdoor school environments', *Landscape and Urban Planning* 194.

³ Reece et al. (2017) *Women and Girls in Sport, Active Recreation and Physical Activity - A Participation Review*.

Reimagining play

Play must look beyond the typical play equipment associated with traditional playgrounds. Traditional playgrounds provide physical opportunities for play, but often fail to cater for the full spectrum of a child’s developmental needs.

Table 4 outlines the key developmental needs of children and the types of play opportunities and space that provide for these needs. It highlights the relevance and importance of more unique play environments, rather than typical physically focused play equipment.

TABLE 4: Developmental needs of children and relationship to play experiences

| Development need | Play experience |
|---|--|
| <p>COGNITIVE Opportunity for exploration, manipulating objects, problem solving, imaginative play. Most important for really young children.</p> | <p>Gardens, logs, rocks, sand, natural elements that allow for touch. Focus on unique textures, things that can be manipulated or create sounds or music. Mazes or puzzles are also important.</p> |
| <p>PHYSICAL Opportunity for movement, balance, coordination, jumping, hanging, climbing, sliding, rocking, swinging. Important for all ages of children however the physical challenge required increases with age and mobility.</p> | <p>Traditional play equipment such as swings or rope climbing that challenge children physically. Important that there is a range of opportunities for older children to also engage with more difficult or complex physical challenges to enable progression and keep children engaged.</p> |
| <p>SOCIAL Opportunity for communication, teamwork, interactive play. Most important for preschool and above however it’s important for all ages.</p> | <p>Consideration of elements that allow for shared use such as cubbies, seating, basket swings. Elements that promote interaction and assistance with others such as pulleys and structures.</p> |
| <p>EMOTIONAL Opportunity for appropriate risk-taking, self-direction and self-regulation. Most important for preschool and above however it’s important for all ages.</p> | <p>Play elements that are more challenging and not so prescriptive. These elements enable progression, challenge and a sense of achievement when mastered. Elements could include high rope climbs or balance beams.</p> |
| <p>SENSORY Opportunity for sensory stimulation (sound, sight, touch, smell). Most important for really young children.</p> | <p>Gardens, logs, rocks, sand, natural elements that allow for touch. Focus on unique textures, things that can be manipulated or create sounds or music.</p> |

A successful playground is defined by the amount of usage it gets. Children come back time after time to a playground that can sustain their interest – and this means designing playspaces to delight, entertain and engage them. Similar sized equipment or a limited choice of activities will not meet all their developmental needs and not result in frequent return visits. Hence it is important to deliver a diversity of opportunities across a range of playspaces as no one site can realistically deliver on all of these developmental needs for all stages of a child’s growth.

POLICY CONTEXT

The Strategy Refresh provides Council with a vision for playground provision and identifies playground development priorities for the next 10 years.

It is important to note that the Strategy Refresh is aspirational and does not commit Council to implementing all recommended actions or delivering the playground upgrade priorities as detailed in Appendix 2. Funding for playground upgrades is subject to the annual adoption of Council's capital works budget and consideration of broader capital works priorities and asset renewal programs.

However, the Strategy Refresh will guide Council in improving and managing playspaces in Monash with the view to:

- Improving overall community health and wellbeing
- Encouraging physical activity and participation
- Providing opportunities for intergenerational play
- Catering for the future needs of our diverse community.

Existing Council policies and plans provide an important framework for the Strategy Refresh such as the *Council Plan*, *Health and Wellbeing Plan* and *Open Space Strategy*.

Monash Council Plan 2021-2025

The *Monash Council Plan* is a medium-term strategic document. It describes strategic priorities in the broader context of the longer-term aspirations of the community, as documented in the *Community Vision - Monash 2040*. **The Strategy Refresh contributes to strategic objectives such as:**

- Enhanced Places - Improving open spaces, bushland and street trees, including prioritising biodiversity and community engagement
- Sustainable City - Ensure an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable municipality
- Inclusive Services - Fostering an equitable, just and inclusive Monash
- Good Governance - Ensure a financially, socially and environmentally sustainable organisation.

The provision of accessible, safe and inviting playspaces for the community is important to Council achieving its strategic objectives. Equitable access to social and family recreation opportunities and playspaces is instrumental in supporting our community to live healthy, active lives. These accessible spaces provide not only for the wellbeing of individuals but also enhance the sense of community and connection.

Monash Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025

The *Monash Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021- 2025* is dedicated to maximising the health and wellbeing of people who live, work, study and play in Monash.

All three pillars of the *Monash Health and Wellbeing Plan* (illustrated below) apply to the Strategy Refresh, in particular Pillar One (Active and Healthy - A city dedicated to optimal health and wellbeing for its community) and the promotion of inclusive healthy environments.

Providing quality contemporary playspaces fulfils key themes in the Plan, such as active living and equity and fairness for all abilities. Playspaces provide increased participation outcomes for the community across all ages and ability levels.

Pillar One

ACTIVE AND HEALTHY

A city dedicated to optimal health and wellbeing for its community.



HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

1. Active Living
2. Healthy Eating and Preventing Obesity
3. Harm Prevention



HEALTHY MINDS

4. Loneliness
5. Mental Health
6. Strong Connected Families and Resilient Young People
7. Age-Friendly



HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

8. Built Spaces
9. Open Spaces and Green Spaces
10. Climate Change and Health

Pillar Two

ENGAGED, CONFIDENT AND CONNECTED

A city which actively listens, engages and values community voice in shaping its own future.



CONNECTED

11. Active Community Engagement
12. Creative Expression and Community Events
13. Lifelong Learning
14. Strengthening Neighbourhoods and Communities



SUPPORTED

15. Accessible and Affordable
16. Homelessness and Social Housing
17. Assertive Outreach

Pillar Three

SAFE AND RESPECTFUL

A city where every member of the community is valued and respected.



ADVOCACY

18. Advocacy and Policy



INCLUSIVE FOR ALL

19. Addressing All Forms of Discrimination
20. Equitable Communications
21. Fair For All Abilities
22. Gender Equity
23. LGBTIQA+ Inclusion
24. Celebrating Diverse Communities
25. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation



SAFE COMMUNITIES

26. Preventing Violence Against Women and Children
27. Community Safety

Monash Open Space Strategy

The *Monash Open Space Strategy* aims to address shortfalls of open space in precincts that have current or future projected gaps of open space.

This has implications for the provision of playgrounds. **Key open space recommendations that affect future playground provision include:**

- Address current and projected future gaps in the provision of open space and prioritise the development of new or improved open space to areas with the greatest shortfall, including: Hughesdale, Oakleigh East, Clayton, Notting Hill and Chadstone Precincts
- Promote more diversity of playspaces, and better efficiency of existing open space
- Provide for shortfalls of open space by maximising the capacity and diversity of existing open space by:
 - ▶ Promoting the development of multi-use social family recreation and migrate selected spaces to social/family recreation sites
 - ▶ Providing a range of open space function types and landscape setting types in each precinct
 - ▶ Ensuring that a range of facilities are provided on parks. Examples of facilities may include playground, kick-about areas, small court areas (i.e. basketball half-courts), low level casual hard courts or sports provision, exercise equipment, skate, BMX and/or dog off-leash facilities
 - ▶ Enhancing the diversity, play value and inclusiveness of open space and playspaces
 - ▶ Using service provision standards to inform the planning, design, infrastructure provision and maintenance standards for open spaces to ensure viability and fit for purpose of the size, quality and diversity.
- Improving the inclusiveness of parks in Monash by:
 - ▶ Improving the amount of destination playspaces in Monash that provide accessibility and inclusion to all, especially families, older adults, teenagers and young people and regardless of ability, cultural background or gender
 - ▶ Introducing a range of universal design features to selected parks
 - ▶ Reducing the number of smaller pocket playspaces, in favour of larger destination playspaces (district and regional playspaces) that can be used by multiple age groups, people of all abilities and for family social recreation.





City of Monash

The City of Monash is located in the established eastern suburbs of Melbourne and includes the suburbs of Ashwood, Burwood (part), Chadstone, Clayton, Glen Waverley, Hughesdale, Huntingdale, Mount Waverley, Mulgrave, Notting Hill, Oakleigh, Oakleigh East, Oakleigh South (part) and Wheelers Hill. The municipality is residential, although there is a significant industrial belt stretching from Mount Waverley through Clayton-Notting Hill to Mulgrave and there are major commercial centres at Glen Waverley, Oakleigh, Clayton and Mount Waverley.

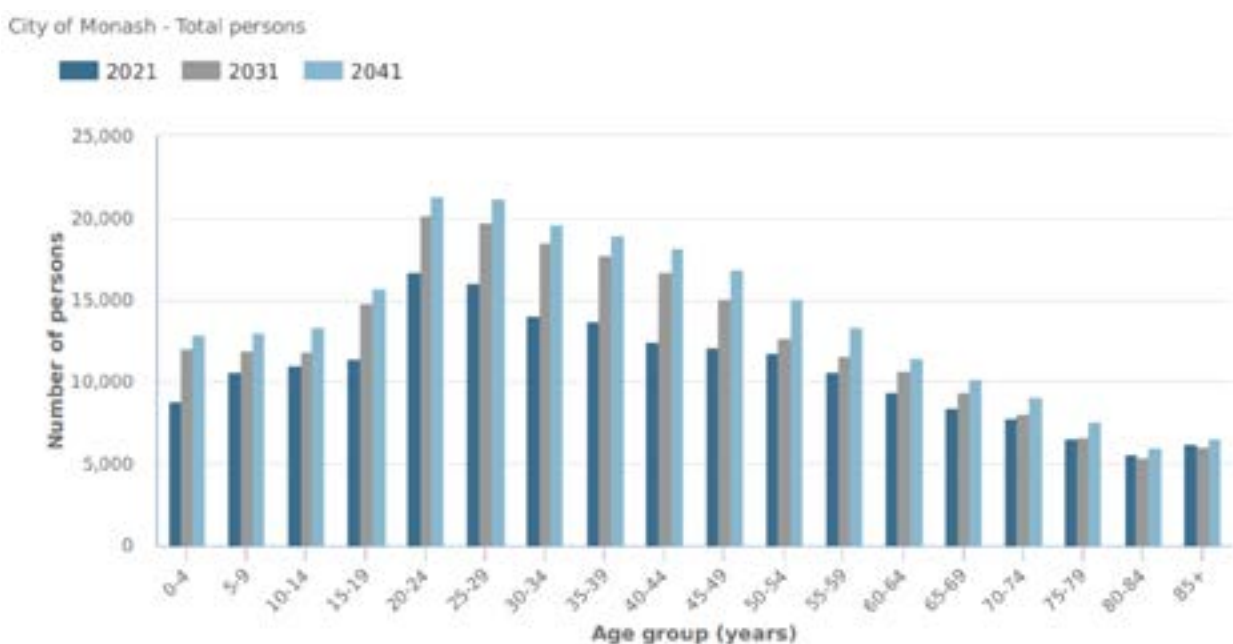
Demographic analysis

The 2021 estimated residential population for the City of Monash was 203,501. The 2023 population forecast for City of Monash is 204,213. Between 2023 and 2041, the population for the City of Monash is forecast to grow to 250,219 which is an increase of 46,006 persons (or 22.53%), at an average annual change of 1.25% per annum.

Population growth is expected across all suburbs in Monash from 2021 to 2041, however significant population increases are forecast in existing residential growth zones such as Clayton (48.4%) and Glen Waverley (31.6%). This will continue to place pressure on local infrastructure, such as playgrounds, in these areas.

The population increase across suburbs between 2021 and 2041 is also mirrored across all age groups.

GRAPH 1: Forecast age structure – 5 year age groups



Source: Population and household forecasts, 2021 to 2041, prepared by [id](#) (opens a new window) (informed decisions), November 2022.

TABLE 5: Forecast age structure – service age groups

| City of Monash - Total persons | 2021 | | 2031 | | 2041 | | Change between 2021 and 2041 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number |
| Babies to preschool (0 to 4) | 8,787 | 4.6 | 12,062 | 5.3 | 12,885 | 5.1 | 4,098 |
| Primary school (5 to 11) | 15,039 | 7.8 | 16,557 | 7.2 | 18,254 | 7.3 | 3,215 |
| Secondary school (12 to 17) | 12,886 | 6.7 | 15,114 | 6.6 | 16,538 | 6.6 | 3,651 |
| Total persons | 36,712 | 19 | 43,733 | 19 | 47,677 | 19 | 10,964 |

Source: Population and household forecasts, 2021 to 2041, prepared by .id (informed decisions), November 2022.

The area with the greatest increase in persons aged 0 to 17 years between 2021 and 2041 in the City of Monash is Glen Waverley.

Knowing when and where to deliver age-based services is an essential part of local government planning. Mapping the distribution of selected age groups across the City of Monash provides the evidence-base for efficiently targeting and delivering these services.

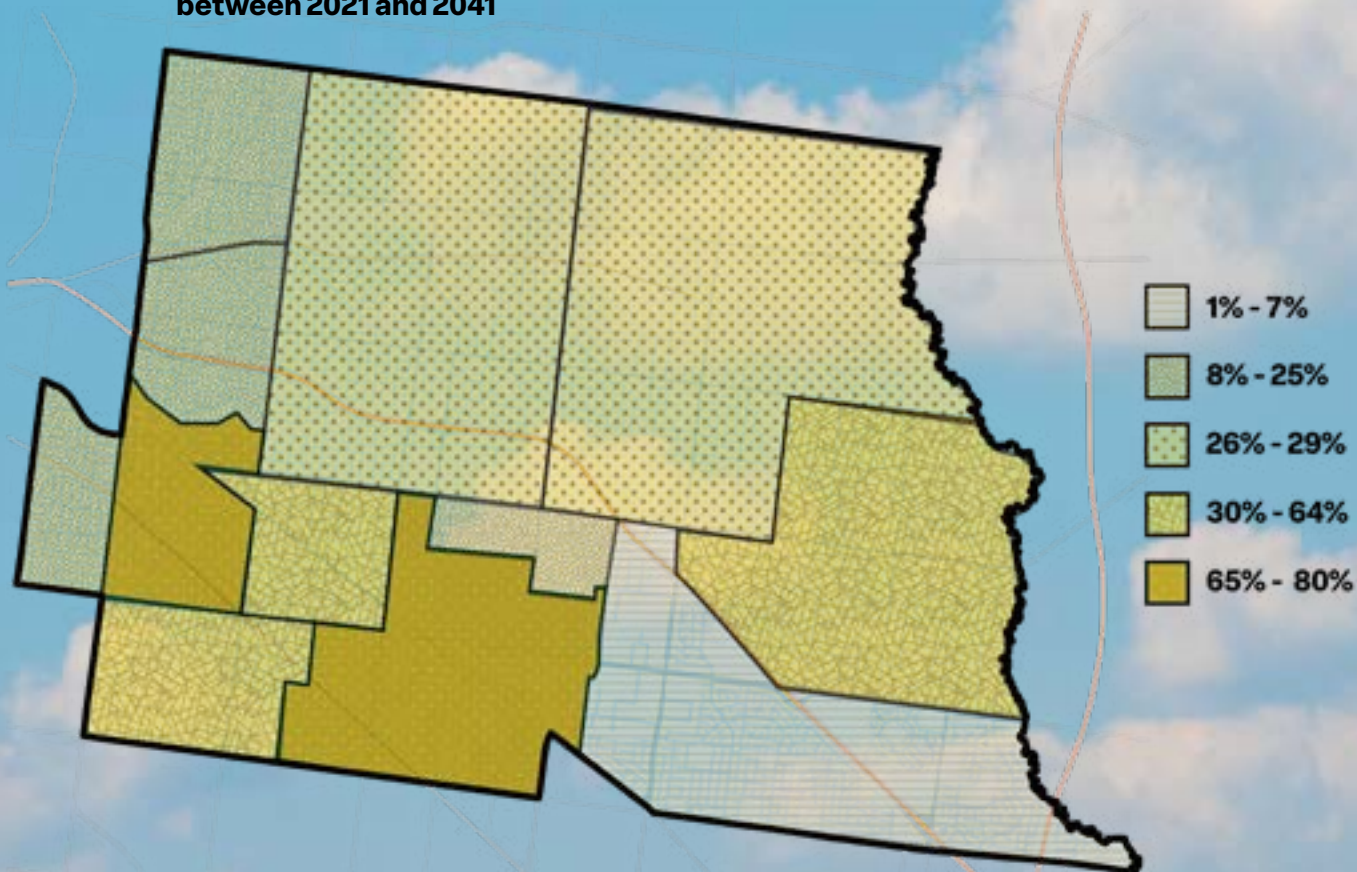
Of particular note is the significant increase in the percentage of children (aged 0-17) in Monash from 2021 to 2041. Over this period, the 0 to 17 year cohort is forecast to grow by a total of 10,964 children. This will result in an increase demand for playgrounds across Monash, particularly in the south-west of the municipality, where the numbers of persons aged 0 to 17 years are expected to increase by 79.7% in Clayton, 77.4% in Oakleigh and 63.9% in Oakleigh South.

TABLE 6: Monash population and age structure – persons aged 0 -17 years (Profile ID)

| City of Monash Area | 2021 | | 2041 | | Change between 2021 and 2041 | |
|-----------------------------|--------|------|--------|------|---------------------------------|-------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| City of Monash | 36,712 | 19.0 | 47,676 | 19.1 | +10,964 | +29.9 |
| Ashwood - Burwood | 2,115 | 20.9 | 2,341 | 19.2 | +226 | +10.7 |
| Chadstone | 1,804 | 18.6 | 2,261 | 19.6 | +457 | +25.4 |
| Clayton | 1,875 | 9.6 | 3,370 | 11.6 | +1,495 | +79.7 |
| Glen Waverley | 8,987 | 20.8 | 11,580 | 20.4 | +2,593 | +28.9 |
| Hughesdale | 1,429 | 18.7 | 1,598 | 17.7 | +169 | +11.9 |
| Mount Waverley | 7,548 | 21.1 | 9,602 | 22.1 | +2,054 | +27.2 |
| Mulgrave | 4,219 | 21.0 | 4,504 | 20.2 | +285 | +6.7 |
| Notting Hill | 490 | 16.6 | 530 | 16.3 | +40 | +8.2 |
| Oakleigh | 1,457 | 17.0 | 2,585 | 17.0 | +1,128 | +77.4 |
| Oakleigh East - Huntingdale | 1,669 | 18.8 | 2,193 | 17.8 | +524 | +31.4 |
| Oakleigh South | 1,227 | 21.1 | 2,011 | 21.8 | +784 | +63.9 |
| Wheelers Hill | 3,892 | 18.7 | 5,101 | 19.7 | +1,209 | +31.1 |

Source: Population and household forecasts, 2021 to 2041, prepared by .id (informed decisions), November 2022.

MAP 2: Monash population and age structure - increase of persons aged 0-17 between 2021 and 2041



Between 2021 and 2041, Clayton (79.7%), Oakleigh (77.4%) and Oakleigh South (63.9%) are expected to see a 60-80% increase in persons aged 0-17, putting greater pressure on the provision of open space and playgrounds in these areas.



Monash 2021 and Beyond community survey

The findings of the *Monash 2021 and Beyond community survey* indicate the importance of parks and playspaces to Monash residents. Respondents identified local parks and playgrounds as the most important public open spaces to community, followed by bushland reserves and shared pathways for walking and cycling.

To encourage people to use public open spaces more, the top three most highly recommended strategies for Council were:

1. Continuing to invest in updating and reinvigorating these areas, including interesting child-friendly spaces
2. Keeping all our public open spaces well-maintained and very clean
3. Adding seating and park furniture.

Local parks, reserves and playgrounds were also identified as the second-most frequently used recreational facility in Monash (after local walking paths/cycling trails), with three-quarters (76%) of respondents reporting using local parks, reserves and playgrounds, and more than half (56%) reporting using them ‘frequently.’

Playground Strategy Refresh community survey

The findings of the Playground Strategy Refresh community survey (August 2023) indicate important play priorities and community needs with regards to future play provision.

The key findings of this survey include:

Playground visits

Most survey respondents indicated they visit playgrounds three or more times a week and elect to walk to playgrounds in Monash.

Of the survey respondents, 79% identified as female, 20% as male and 1% preferred not to say.

Play equipment

The top 4 most important playground pieces were:

1. Swings and slides (66%)
2. Climbing structures (61%)
3. Youth play opportunities e.g. adventure play structures such as bouldering walls, pump track, parkour facilities (47%)
4. Toddler play equipment e.g. rockers, junior slides, expression and junior harness swings, spinners, educational play panels (46%).



Supporting infrastructure

The top 4 most important playground infrastructure requirements were:

1. Shelters e.g. shade sail over play area (69%)
2. Public toilets (61%)
3. Bench seats (40%)
4. Rubbish bins (35%).

Future needs

The top 4 play features or themes they would like to see more of in Monash were:

1. Adventure play e.g. flying foxes, climbing walls, balance beams (73%)
2. Nature play e.g. log steppers, dry creek bed, insect hotel, gardens (58%)
3. Water play and water features e.g. water spouts, 'beach areas' for sand play (53%)
4. Social play e.g. shared play opportunities such as basket swings (31%).

Survey respondents indicated:

- 61% think existing playgrounds in Monash sometimes meet their family's and the community's needs
- 18% think existing playgrounds in Monash currently meet their family's and the community's needs
- 21% think existing playgrounds in Monash do not meet their family's and the community's needs.

With increasing numbers of households with both parents in the workforce, grandparents are tending to take on the role of carers and require local parks and playgrounds to take grandchildren (87% of survey respondents indicated they had children/grandchildren they take to playgrounds). An aging population in Monash may place greater importance on the design of play provision. This may have an influence not so much on the type of play equipment to be provided, but developing appropriate supporting facilities to these areas such as seating, shade, amenities etc.



"I would love it if playgrounds were more wheelchair accessible including pathways. Suggestions include liberty swings, sensory play areas and having fully accessible toilet and changing place facilities."

"I would like to see: a bigger flying fox, swings for older children, shade sails, big swirly slide, giant rocks for imagination play near a dry creek bed, nest swing, water play area. I would also like a mini forest approximately two metres square with mixed native shrubs and trees. Thank you."

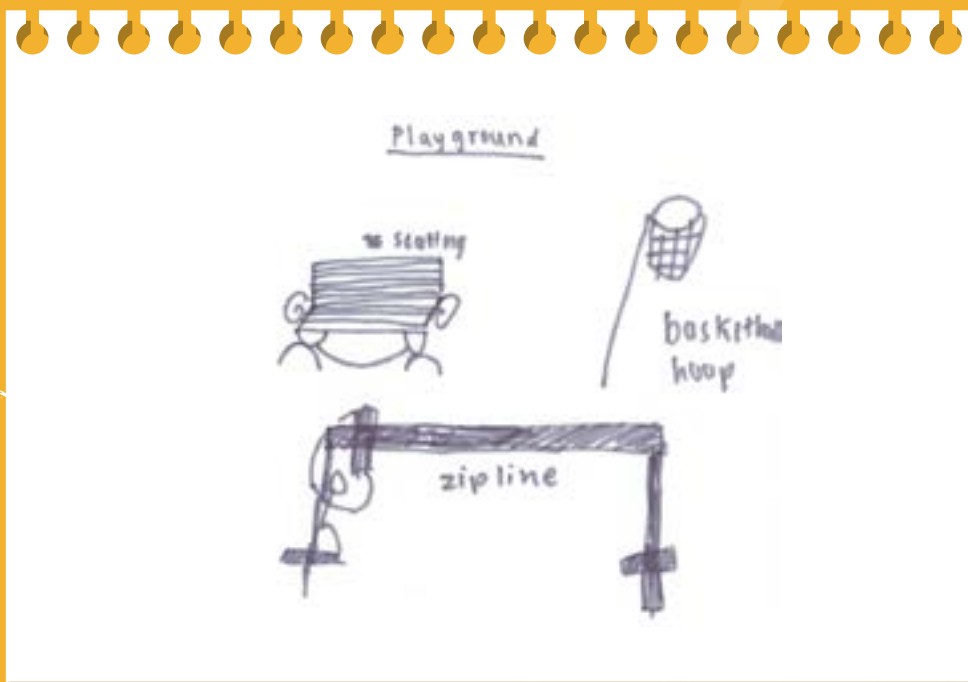
QUOTES FROM THE COMMUNITY

(from the Playground Strategy Refresh survey)

"An all abilities playground would be very much appreciated. Wood chip is great for neurotypical kids but a safety hazard for neurodiverse kids and it's hard to access for people with mobility challenges (in wheelchairs or with walkers). Facilities for all abilities can be used for years to come and everyone is included, people with disabilities, elderly, carers etc."

"A water park or a small creek to play water in. A sensory garden [and] sensory footpath would be great! Scooter parks if space allows will be much-loved too."

Children's drawings of their favourite playgrounds, Playground Strategy Refresh survey, August 2023





EXISTING PROVISION

The City of Monash has 141 designated playgrounds inclusive of two new playgrounds expected to be completed within the next few years.

TABLE 7: Playground classifications

| | Pocket | Local | N'hood | District | Regional | Sub-total |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Total | 47* | 56 | 22 | 13 | 3 | 141* |

*Inclusive of two new proposed pocket parks – 2A Westbrook Street, Chadstone and Centre Road West Skyrail, Clayton

There is a high number of existing pocket- and local-scale playgrounds across Monash.

With a limited number of high-quality district (13) and regional (3) playgrounds across the municipality, a key direction of the Strategy Refresh is to improve the quality of existing playgrounds to provide an equitable distribution of destination playspaces across the municipality.

TABLE 8: Precinct population and playground analysis - Monash Open Space Strategy

| Precinct | Population 2021 | % Monash population | Monash community open space (Ha) | Ha per 1,000 residents | No. of playspaces | No. of residents per playspace |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Ashwood/Burwood | 10,431 | 5.1% | 42.6 | 4.1 | 8 | 1304 |
| 2. Chadstone | 10,208 | 5.0% | 17.8 | 1.7 | 5 | 2042 |
| 3. Clayton | 22,689 | 11.1% | 12.0 | 0.5 | 8 | 2836 |
| 4. Glen Waverley | 44,530 | 21.9% | 106.7 | 2.4 | 29 | 1536 |
| 5. Hughesdale | 8,509 | 4.2% | 4.5 | 0.5 | 3 | 2836 |
| 6. Mount Waverley | 36,298 | 17.8% | 129.3 | 3.6 | 23 | 1578 |
| 7. Mulgrave | 20,425 | 10.0% | 64.9 | 3.2 | 20 | 1021 |
| 8. Notting Hill | 3,339 | 1.6% | 1.7 | 0.5 | 3 | 1113 |
| 9. Oakleigh South | 5,870 | 2.9% | 16.3 | 2.8 | 5 | 1174 |
| 10. Oakleigh | 9,921 | 4.9% | 33.0 | 3.3 | 9 | 1102 |
| 11. Oakleigh East/ Huntingdale | 8,930 | 4.4% | 10.6 | 1.2 | 6 | 1488 |
| 12. Wheelers Hill | 22,531 | 11% | 72.8 | 3.3 | 22 | 1024 |
| TOTAL | 203,501 | | 512.1 | 2.5 | 141* | |

Local Government benchmarking

Benchmarking against other Local Governments Areas (LGAs) was undertaken in 2022 to seek information about playground provision trends and service standards.

The comparative statistics between authorities were similar with approximately 1 playspace per 1,400 head of population and 1 playspace per 275 head of children between the ages of 0-17 years. Both of these benchmarks only measure against the number of playspaces provided in each local government area.

TABLE 9: Local Government Playground: Population Benchmarking 2022

| Local Government Area (LGA) | Est. resident population (ERP) 2021 | No. of playspaces | Ratio - playspaces per total population | Total population of children (0-17 years) ERP 2021 | Ratio - playspaces per child | Service level - minimum distance to a playground |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---|--|------------------------------|--|
| Monash | 203,501 | 141 | 1:1,443 | 35,827 | 1:254 | 400m |
| Stonnington | 106,278 | 76 | 1:1,398 | 14,637 | 1:193 | n/a |
| Glen Eira | 150,685 | 47 | 1:3,206 | 31,287 | 1:666 | 500m |
| Knox | 160,484 | 211 | 1:760 | 32,684 | 1:154 | 400m |
| Casey | 340,419 | 299 | 1:1,138 | 80,804 | 1:268 | 400m |
| Manningham | 134,608 | 160 | 1:841 | 24,600 | 1:154 | 400m |
| Boroondara | 167,896 | 101 | 1:1,662 | 34,116 | 1:338 | 400-500m |
| Maroondah | 117,498 | 127 | 1:925 | 24,543 | 1:193 | 400m |
| Whitehorse | 169,346 | 174 | 1:973 | 32,901 | 1:189 | 400m |

Monash's aspiration to provide a playground within 400 metres of 95% of all residents is consistent with the playground provision service level for neighbouring metropolitan Councils. Most Councils aspire to provide a playspace within a 400-500 metre radius of every residential property. Although challenging to achieve, this benchmark provides a guide for **identifying gaps** in playground provision and assessing community needs and access to existing playspaces.



Gaps in open space

The *Monash Open Space Strategy* sets the minimum open space provision standard for open space to be within a 400 metre radius of every residential property. In accordance with the *Monash Open Space Strategy*, it is recommended that Council aspires to meet a minimum playground provision standard of within a 400 metre radius (as the crow flies) of 95% of all residential dwellings. Map 3 highlights the location of residences in relation to playgrounds for Monash.

Note: This benchmark does not allow for playspace facilities that may be located within close proximity to a Monash resident, but are located in a neighbouring local government area.

In most instances, playgrounds are located in public open space. Gaps in playground provision will typically mirror gaps in open space provision.

The *Monash Open Space Strategy* assesses the amount of open space available in Monash precincts. Across Monash there is currently around 2.5ha provided per 1,000 people provision of community open space.

Five precincts have a significant shortfall (or undersupply) in open space:

- **Precinct 8:**
Notting Hill 5m² per capita (0.5ha per 1,000 people)
- **Precinct 3:**
Clayton 5m² per capita (0.5ha per 1,000 people)
- **Precinct 5:**
Hughesdale 5m² per capita (0.5ha per 1,000 people)
- **Precinct 11:**
Oakleigh East/Huntingdale 12m² per capita (1.2ha per 1,000 people)
- **Precinct 2:**
Chadstone 17m² per capita (1.7ha per 1,000 people).

In order to address gaps in playground provision, gaps in open space in these five precincts will need to be redressed.

Potential gaps in provision

It is important to note that a large majority of residents in Monash currently live within 400 metres of a playspace.

There are some areas within Monash that are not fully serviced by the 400 metre benchmark. Many of these areas do not have residential properties due to large parcels of land being restricted use, such as private golf courses, tertiary institutions (Monash University, Clayton Campus), industrial and high technology areas.

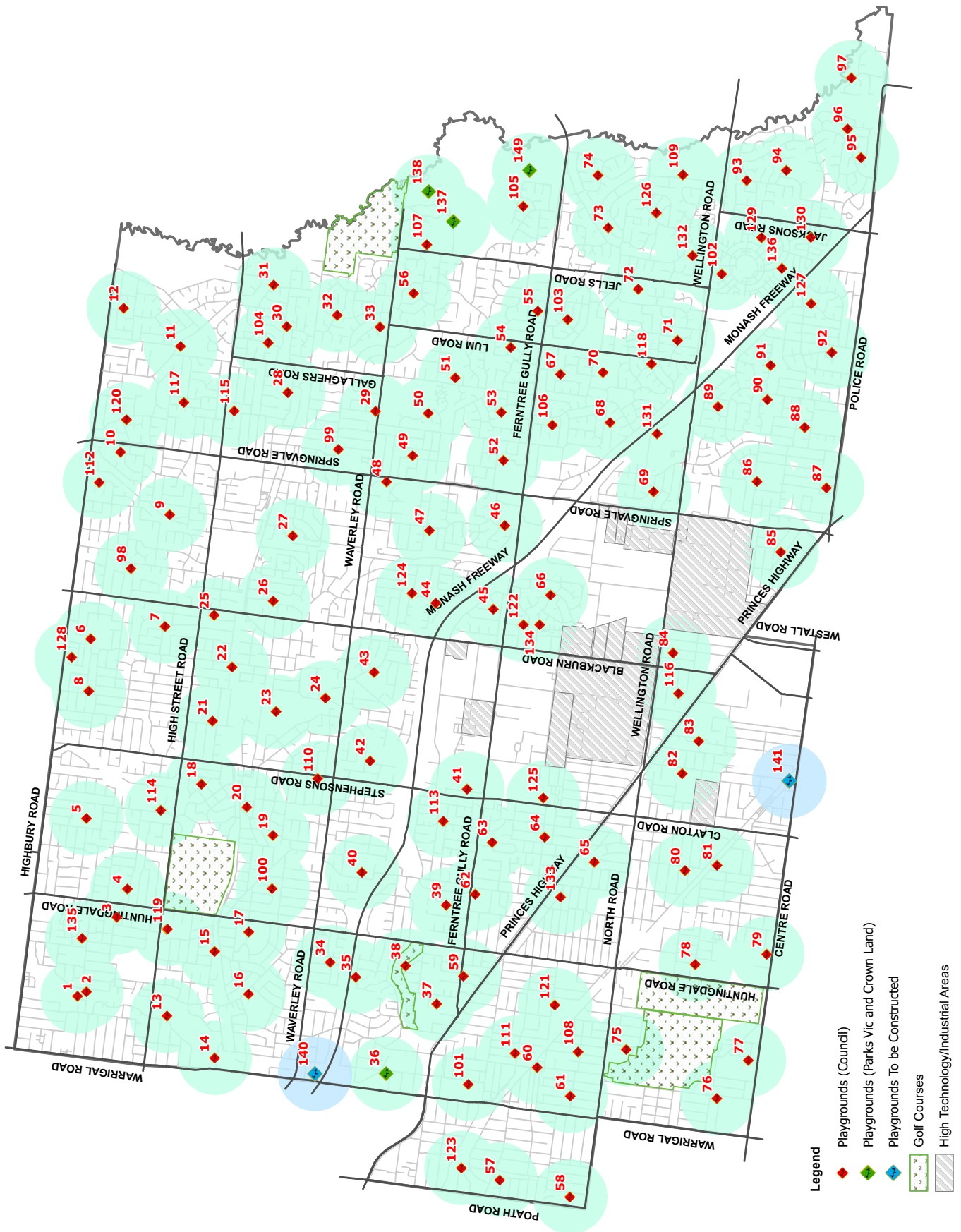
A 400 metre benchmark would also ensure Monash playgrounds are accessible in terms of Plan Melbourne's concept of 20-Minute Neighbourhoods¹. The 20-Minute Neighbourhood is all about 'living locally' - giving people the ability to meet most of their daily needs within a 20-minute walk from home, with safe cycling and local transport options.

Council should explore opportunities to increase the provision of playspaces within areas that fall outside the 400 metre catchment areas (or buffers) and prioritise the development of new playgrounds in gap areas.

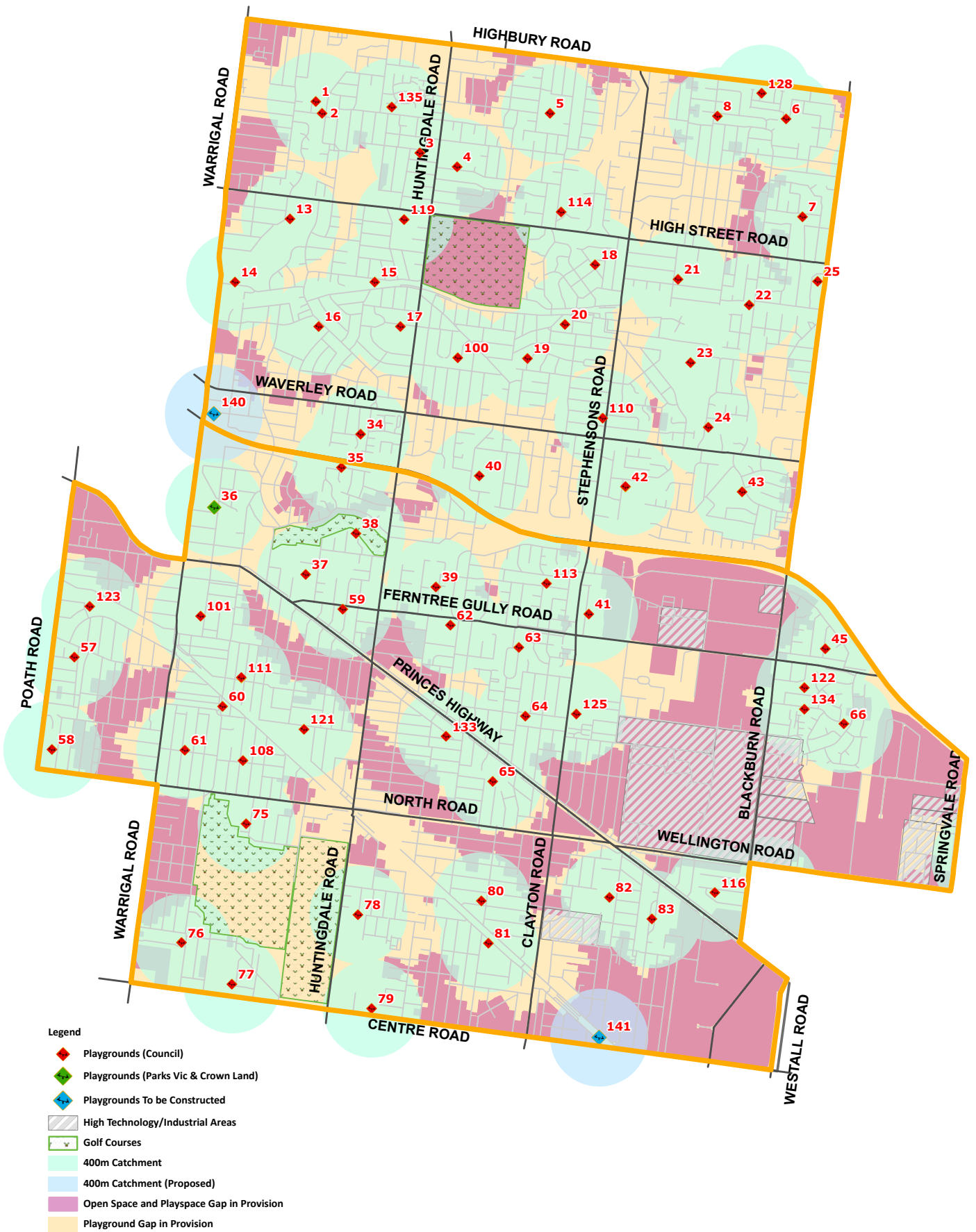
Refer to **Map 4 and Map 5**: Monash open space and playground provision gaps.

¹ *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050* - www.planning.vic.gov.au/guides-and-resources/strategies-and-initiatives/plan-melbourne

MAP 3: Location of residences in relation to playgrounds for Monash

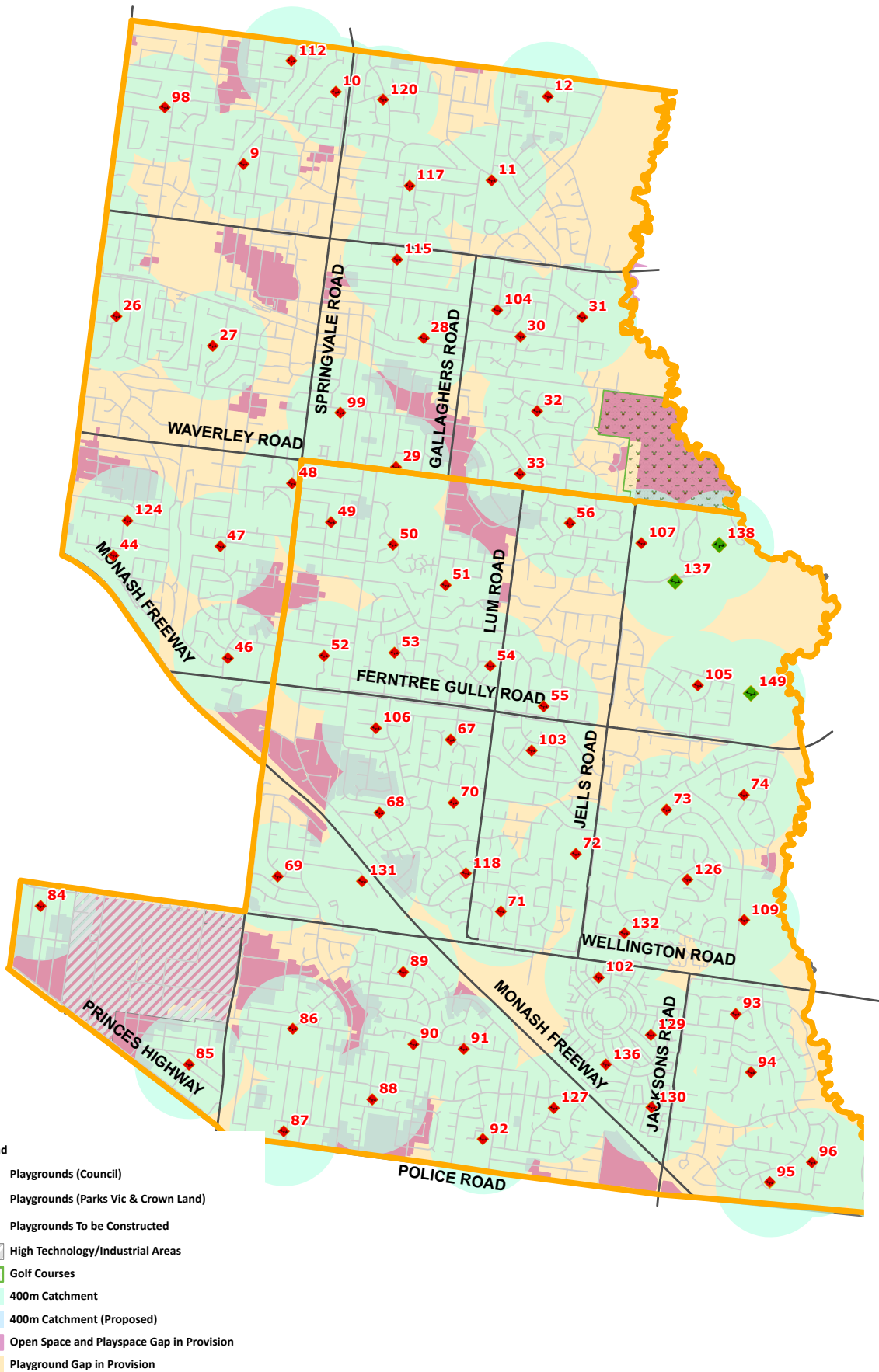


MAP 4: MONASH (EAST) - OPEN SPACE AND PLAYGROUND PROVISION GAPS



- Legend**
- ◆ Playgrounds (Council)
 - ◆ Playgrounds (Parks Vic & Crown Land)
 - ◆ Playgrounds To be Constructed
 - ▨ High Technology/Industrial Areas
 - ⊗ Golf Courses
 - 400m Catchment
 - 400m Catchment (Proposed)
 - Open Space and Playspace Gap in Provision
 - Playground Gap in Provision

MAP 5: MONASH (WEST) - OPEN SPACE AND PLAYGROUND PROVISION GAPS





PLAYGROUND UPGRADE PROGRAM 2025-2035

The Playground Upgrade Program 2025-2035 (Appendix 2) identifies playground upgrade priorities by applying the methodologies outlined in the Active Monash Capital Works Priorities Framework and the Monash Playspace Classifications and Service Levels. **Additional considerations used to inform this program and playground works include:**

1. Replacement of play equipment removed after previous safety audits
2. Replacement and rotation of play panels during maintenance or upgrades
3. Meeting the localities' age demographics
4. Range of play experience currently provided
5. Age, type and attractiveness of existing equipment
6. Issues relating to maintenance of existing equipment
7. Proximity to other features i.e. preschool, maternal and child health centres, shops, sporting grounds and other playgrounds
8. Reserve masterplans
9. Monash *Open Space Strategy* Implementation Plan
10. Significant gaps in open space and playground provision.





IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY

The Strategy Refresh focuses on playground renewal and outlines an aspirational 10-year playground upgrade program from 2025-2035.

In accordance with the *Monash Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy*, the development of destination playspaces (regional and district playspaces) will also consider the suitability of the site to cater for additional outdoor recreation infrastructure. Such activities include: ball sports (basketball, tennis, bocce and table tennis), wheeled sports (skate boarding, in-line scootering and bike riding) and exercise stations (fitness and stretching equipment).

Adhering to the hierarchy

A key focus of this document is ensuring a sustainable and implementable plan for playground renewals. One of the key issues that has become apparent through recent playground upgrade consultations is growing community expectations to see 'their' local playground increase in scale and complexity.

A transparent and strategically formulated scaled playground hierarchy that clearly classifies playgrounds from pocket through to regional, will assist in managing 'scope creep' and growing community expectations with regards to what should be contained within playspaces, especially in smaller local and pocket playspaces.

Monash has a disproportionately larger number of pocket (47*) and local (56) playgrounds (totalling 103 or 73% of all playgrounds). Unregulated 'scope creep' across these smaller playspaces will have a significant impact on future capital and operational budgets which is unsustainable. A greater investment into suitable larger and strategically positioned sites will provide a greater level of community benefit for larger segments of the population.

Focus on regional, district and neighbourhood playspaces

Given the higher maintenance implications of more complex and larger playspaces, it makes sense to provide improved playspaces in accessible and suitable locations, rather than spreading the maintenance burden across smaller parks and play environments.

Larger playspaces can better cater for people of all abilities and ages (e.g. intergenerational, tweens, people of differing abilities) and become an important destination place for longer stays and extended play experiences that support family social gatherings, picnics and barbecues.

Residents are more likely to travel further to destination playgrounds as they provide additional facilities such as public toilets, shelters, barbecues, picnic tables, off-street car parking and intergenerational play opportunities. Destination playspaces, such as district and regional playspaces, typically attract visitors who stay longer and travel further than visitors to pocket, local and neighbourhood playspaces.

*Inclusive of two new proposed pocket parks – 2A Westbrook Street, Chadstone and Centre Road West Skyrail, Clayton

What about SPARCs?

The 'SPARC' Principles¹ outline Monash's approach to the development of intergenerational active spaces. These principles will particularly inform the design of large-scale playground developments such as regional and district playgrounds by providing socially inclusive, playful, active, relevant and connected playspaces that provide intergenerational play opportunities for all ages and abilities e.g. tweens, teens and older adults.

S

..... **Socially inclusive**

Socially inclusive spaces are welcoming and accessible places that provide for people of all ages and abilities at all times of the day. They are places that all community members, no matter what age, gender, level of ability or cultural background, can safely and freely enjoy with others or on their own.

P

..... **Playful**

Playful spaces are fun, vibrant, engaging, interesting, educational, creative, quirky, challenging and adventurous.

A

..... **Active**

Active spaces attract people to exercise and play, and are important local destinations where people can be vigorous and expend energy. People of all ages need exercise and activity. For children, opportunities to be active and lively are essential to development.

R

..... **Relevant**

Relevant spaces are fit for purpose, both in location and in the range of activities or activity spaces they provide, and enable different people to do different things in a space they can call their own.

C

..... **Connected**

Connected spaces are accessible and available, promote wayfinding, and provide opportunity for community members to share space and support each other.

¹ Putting a SPARC in Your Park, PLAYCE Report, May 2015

OPEN SPACE AND PLAYSPACE PRINCIPLES

It is important to note that the Strategy Refresh is aspirational, and it is acknowledged that not all of the recommendations will be implemented in the life of the Strategy Refresh.

Implementation relies on factors including budget, external funding, the level of development and the availability of open space in appropriate locations (i.e. gap areas).

Like the *Monash Open Space Strategy*, the Strategy Refresh supports the development of quality, diverse and accessible playspaces to drive the liveability, health and wellbeing of our community by:

- Meeting the current and future needs of the community - close to where people live, work and play
- Having a diversity of functions for social, physical and environmental experiences for the whole community
- Strengthening the 'Garden City Character' of residential, commercial and industrial areas
- Ensuring an appropriate level of access to playgrounds is available for all residents regardless of where they live, their age, gender, income, ethnicity, education or ability
- Continuing to provide playgrounds across Monash where there is a demonstrated need (i.e. in gaps) to ensure an appropriate level is available for all residents
- Ensuring quality playspaces (fit-for-purpose) - the playspace is well-designed and meets the needs of the primary target group
- Including sustainability in the design, development and management of playspaces
- Understanding cohorts are more dependent on playgrounds and playground designs should have a primary focus on these cohorts (e.g. children)
- Protecting canopy trees, habitat, flora and fauna and waterways in and around playspaces, to ensure environmental protection, enhancement and appreciation.

In line with Monash's *Council Plan* priorities and Monash's *Open Space Strategy* principles, the development of quality playspaces is of vital importance to ensure these spaces remain relevant and attractive to our community. Playspaces provide opportunities for physical activity and forming social connections that have flow-on benefits for our health and wellbeing. New and exciting playspaces will facilitate an increase in physical activity levels in the community and increase community participation in recreation.



RECOMMENDATIONS - PLAYSACE UPGRADES

Playspace Upgrades

| # | RECOMMENDED ACTIONS | TIMING | BUDGET | RESPONSIBLE Lead in bold |
|---|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 1 | Reaffirm the playground classifications (Table 1) and playground infrastructure provision standards (Table 2) and use these to inform future capital works budget bids for playground upgrades. | ONGOING | Open Space Reserve | Active Monash |
| 2 | Implement the Playground Upgrade Program 2025-35 (Appendix 2) over the next 10 years to upgrade existing playgrounds (subject to Council budget approval). | MEDIUM-LONG TERM (4-10 years) | Open Space Reserve | Active Monash |
| 3 | Undertake playground condition audits every four years and use condition audit data to proactively identify play equipment in need of renewal and inform future playground capital works priorities in accordance with the <i>Active Monash Capital Works Prioritisation Framework</i> | ONGOING (Every 4 years) | Existing operating budgets | Strategic Asset Management Active Monash |
| 4 | In accordance with Council-endorsed masterplans, upgrade the playspaces at Mulgrave Reserve and Gladeswood Reserve to district-level playgrounds. | SHORT TERM (1-3 years) | Open Space Reserve | Active Monash |
| 5 | Subject to site suitability and strategic justification, increase the scale and complexity of select playgrounds with the view to reducing the total number of pocket playspaces and providing more flexible, multi-use, destination playspaces. | ONGOING | Subject to budget approval | Active Monash Statutory Planning |
| 6 | Prioritise playground upgrades in larger social/family recreation parks that can be used by multiple age groups, people of all abilities and for physical, social and environmental activities e.g. regional, district and neighbourhood playspaces. These playspaces have the potential to attract visitors from a wider catchment and deliver a greater community benefit. | ONGOING | Existing operating budgets | Active Monash City Design Capital Works |

| # | RECOMMENDED ACTIONS | TIMING | BUDGET | RESPONSIBLE Lead in bold |
|----|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 7 | Cater for shortfalls in playground provision by maximising the capacity and diversity of existing playspaces by providing a range of inclusive playspace experiences, themes, function types and landscape setting types. | SHORT TERM (1-3 years) | Subject to budget approval | Active Monash |
| 8 | Prioritise the improvement of existing playspaces in the five precincts identified in the <i>Monash Open Space Strategy</i> that have a significant shortfall in open space: Notting Hill, Clayton, Hughesdale, Oakleigh East/Huntingdale and Chadstone. | ONGOING | Subject to budget approval | Active Monash |
| 9 | Improve signage in playspaces by more universally applying Monash's signage suite and design palette for naming, directional, interpretive information and risk management signs especially at regional, district and neighbourhood scale playgrounds. | ONGOING | Subject to budget approval | Active Monash |
| 10 | Incorporate more interpretive, environmental (nature-play) and educational elements in playspace designs. | ONGOING | Subject to budget approval | Active Monash |
| 11 | Activate and celebrate new playspaces and encourage physical activity by delivering free community programs (Active Communities) in and around playspaces and scheduling opening events for large playground developments such as district and regional playgrounds. | ONGOING | Subject to budget approval | Active Monash |
| 12 | Aim to deliver a sensory-themed playspace (where the primary design focus targets people with additional needs) in each major precinct i.e. in Mulgrave and Mount Waverley precincts to complement the Wellesley Road Reserve Sensory Playspace (Glen Waverley precinct) and Westerfield Drive Sensory Playspace (Oakleigh precinct). | ONGOING | Subject to budget approval | Active Monash |

| # | RECOMMENDED ACTIONS | TIMING | BUDGET | RESPONSIBLE Lead in bold |
|----|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 13 | In accordance with recommendation #12, investigate the potential for Pinewood Reserve Playspace in the Mount Waverley precinct to become the next sensory-themed playspace. Include signage/information for different needs e.g. Access Key, communication boards, different languages, and statements around everyone being welcome. | SHORT TERM (1-3 years) | Subject to budget approval | Active Monash |
| 14 | Ensure playspace designs are inclusive of the needs of women and girls - apply a gender lens to playspace designs and engage women and girls in playground consultations. Collect disaggregated data wherever possible to ensure the needs of women and girls have been considered. | ONGOING | Existing operational budgets | Active Monash |
| 15 | Consider relocating or reviewing the location within reserves of existing playgrounds that are due for upgrade where their 400 metre catchments significantly overlap (e.g. shared catchments >75%) to redress gaps in provision. | ONGOING | Subject to budget approval | Active Monash |
| 16 | Following the completion of condition audits every four years (recommendation #3), ascertain which discrete play elements and/or pieces of equipment are at end-of-life or no longer fit-for-purpose and replace with a like-for-like replacement. | ONGOING | Reactive Playground Budget | Active Monash Horticulture Services Capital Works |
| 17 | Consider the development of destination playspaces in residential growth zones to support growing populations such as Bogong Reserve Playspace in Glen Waverley. | SHORT-MEDIUM TERM (1-7 years) | Subject to budget approval | Active Monash |



Tic Tac Toe

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| X | O | O |
| O | O | O |
| | X | O |

Recommendations – New Playspaces

| # | RECOMMENDED ACTIONS | TIMING | BUDGET | RESPONSIBLE Lead in bold |
|----|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 18 | Prioritise the development of new playgrounds (with a focus on improving open space for social family recreation) in areas where the minimum playground provision standard of within a 400 metre radius (as the crow flies) of 95% of all residential dwellings is not met i.e. in playground gaps areas. | ONGOING | Open Space Reserve | Active Monash |
| 19 | Prioritise the development of new playgrounds in the five precincts identified in the <i>Monash Open Space Strategy</i> that have a significant shortfall in open space being Notting Hill, Clayton, Hughesdale, Oakleigh East/Huntingdale and Chadstone. | MEDIUM-LONG TERM (4-10 years) | Open Space Reserve | Active Monash |
| 20 | Investigate the development of new and innovative themed playspaces in gap areas to provide a greater variety of play experiences for the community e.g. adventure play, water play, nature play and education and sensory playgrounds. | SHORT TERM (1-3 years) | Existing operating budgets | Active Monash |
| 21 | Fund the strategic acquisition of land in open space and playground gap areas from the Open Space Reserve. | MEDIUM-LONG TERM (4-10 years) | Open Space Reserve | Strategic Planning Property Services |
| 22 | Wherever possible investigate options for developing public playspaces in gap areas on other agency land (e.g. VicTrack, VicRoads, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and Department of Education). | ONGOING | Existing operating budgets | Active Monash Property Services |
| 23 | Ensure there is no net loss of playspaces through land disposal or development unless there is a clear net community benefit and playspaces are already over-provided in the surrounding area and of a high standard. | ONGOING | Existing operating budgets | Active Monash |
| 24 | Ensure Monash's Playspace Design Standards and Furniture Design Standards are used to inform and are integrated into playspace designs and tender specifications. | ONGOING | Playspace design budgets | Active Monash City Design Capital Works |

| # | RECOMMENDED ACTIONS | TIMING | BUDGET | RESPONSIBLE Lead in bold |
|----|---|---------------------------|---|--|
| 25 | Develop a new pocket playspace in a gap area located at 2A Westbrook Street, Chadstone (VicRoads lease). | SHORT TERM (1-3 years) | Funded from sale proceeds from former North Oakleigh Tennis Club site | Active Monash City Design Capital Works |
| 26 | Develop new pocket playspace at Centre Road West Skyrail Community Playspace in partnership with Vic Track and as agreed with the Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA). | SHORT TERM (1-3 years) | External funding (LXRA) | Active Monash City Design Capital Works |
| 27 | District- and regional-scale playspaces to have an intergenerational design focus and provide opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to play and recreate together. Active recreation opportunities and infrastructure such as fitness equipment, basketball hoops, climbing and bouldering walls, pump tracks, multi-sport courts etc., should be incorporated in future designs for regional- and district-scale playground projects in accordance with priorities identified in the <i>Monash Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy</i> | ONGOING | Subject to budget approval | Active Monash |
| 28 | Investigate the possibility of upgrading suitable existing playgrounds to a regional playspace in the Oakleigh and Glen Waverley precincts to complement existing regional playspaces in Wheelers Hill (Jells Park and Waverley Park Lake Playspaces) and Mount Waverley (Valley Reserve Playspace) and provide residents in these precincts with more equitable access to a large-scale destination playground. | LONG TERM (8-10 years) | Subject to budget approval | Active Monash |
| 29 | Undertake proactive maintenance inspections of Council-owned and managed playspaces in accordance with the recommended inspection and maintenance check schedule outlined in Table 1 . | ONGOING | Operating Budget | Horticulture Services |
| 30 | Advocate to Suburban Rail Loop Authority (SRLA) to identify opportunities for new pocket parks in Clayton for integration into the State Government's Precinct Vision and Structure Plan resulting from the Suburban Rail Loop Clayton East Station development. | SHORT TERM (0-3 years) | Operating Budget | Active Monash |



APPENDIX 1: PLAYGROUNDS IN MONASH

| Map No. | Reserve | Street | Suburb | Playspace Classification *Post upgrade | Other Reserve Features *Planned |
|---------|---|---|---------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Octavia Court Reserve (Gardiners Reserve) | 7-8 Octavia Court | Burwood | Local | |
| 2 | Ashwood Drive Reserve | 71-73 Ashwood Drive | Ashwood | Local | |
| 3 | Parkhill Drive Reserve | 18-26 Parkhill Drive | Ashwood | Local | |
| 4 | Essex Heights Reserve | Outlook Road | Mt Waverley | Local | Fitness Equipment |
| 5 | Federal Reserve | 2 Federal Street | Mt Waverley | Neighbourhood | |
| 6 | Tally Ho Reserve | 42 Bennett Avenue | Mt Waverley | Neighbourhood | |
| 7 | Baily Street Reserve | 32-34 Baily Street | Mt Waverley | Local | |
| 8 | Pascall Street Reserve | Cnr Leeds Road and Pascall Street | Mt Waverley | Local | |
| 9 | Glen Waverley North Reserve | Chesterville Road | Glen Waverley | District | Fitness Equipment |
| 10 | Highview Park | 51-85 Springvale Road | Glen Waverley | Local | |
| 11 | Capital Reserve | 85-95 Capital Avenue | Glen Waverley | Local | |
| 12 | Le Fey Court Reserve | 6-7 Armour Close | Glen Waverley | Pocket | |
| 13 | Queens Parade Reserve (west of Ashwood Reserve) | Queens Parade (104-106 High Street Road) | Ashwood | Local | |
| 14 | Holmesglen Reserve | Power Avenue | Ashwood | District | |
| 15 | Salisbury Reserve | 50-60 Salisbury Road | Ashwood | Local | |
| 16 | Batesford Reserve | Power Avenue (94 Batesford Road) | Chadstone | Neighbourhood | |
| 17 | Jordan Reserve | 12-22 Burton Street | Chadstone | Local | |
| 18 | Bowman Street Reserve | 2-10 Bowman Street | Mt Waverley | Local | |

| Map No. | Reserve | Street | Suburb | Playspace Classification *Post upgrade | Other Reserve Features *Planned |
|---------|--|--|---------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 19 | Beverley Grove Reserve (Mount Waverley Linear Reserve) | 12 Beverley Grove | Mt Waverley | Local | |
| 20 | Winbourne Road Reserve | 25A Winbourne Road | Mt Waverley | Pocket | |
| 21 | Mount Waverley Reserve | Cnr St Albans Street and Charles Street | Mt Waverley | District* | |
| 22 | Lawrence Road Reserve | Lawrence Road (34 Blues Hill Avenue) | Mt Waverley | Pocket | |
| 23 | Valley Conservation Reserve | 80 Waimarie Drive | Mt Waverley | Regional | |
| 24 | Regent Street Reserve | 46-48 Regent Street | Mt Waverley | Pocket | |
| 25 | St Clair Crescent Reserve | 4-6 St Clair Crescent | Mt Waverley | Local | |
| 26 | Fiander Avenue Reserve | 21A and 23A Fiander Avenue | Glen Waverley | Pocket | |
| 27 | Bogong Reserve | 49-77 Bogong Avenue | Glen Waverley | District* | |
| 28 | Hinkler Reserve | 69-77 Hinkler Road | Glen Waverley | Local | |
| 29 | Viewpoint Avenue Reserve | Cnr Viewpoint Avenue and Waverley Road | Glen Waverley | Local | |
| 30 | Wellesley Road Reserve | Cnr Wellesley and Glen Tower Roads (40-42 Glen Tower Road) | Glen Waverley | Local | Sensory |
| 31 | Napier Park Reserve | 23-27 Torwood Avenue | Glen Waverley | Neighbourhood | Fitness Equipment |
| 32 | Atheldene Drive Reserve | Atheldene Drive (3 Pentland Court) | Glen Waverley | Pocket | |
| 33 | Paxton Drive Reserve | 27 Paxton Drive | Glen Waverley | Local | |
| 34 | Rosemary Street Reserve | 24-26 Rosemary Street | Chadstone | Pocket | |
| 35 | Adrian Street Reserve | 19 Adrian Street | Chadstone | Neighbourhood | |
| 36 | Allen Street Reserve (Scotchmans Creek Linear Park) (Crown land) | Cnr Allen Street and Drummond Street | Oakleigh | Local | Fitness Trail |

| Map No. | Reserve | Street | Suburb | Playspace Classification *Post upgrade | Other Reserve Features *Planned |
|---------|--|--|---------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 38 | Gillon Court Reserve | 1 Gillon Court | Oakleigh | Pocket | |
| 39 | Melissa Street Reserve | 11-17 Melissa Street | Mt Waverley | Local | |
| 40 | Mayfield Park | 35-38 Mayfield Drive | Mt Waverley | Neighbourhood | |
| 41 | Kingsley Grove Reserve | 24A Kingsley Grove | Mt Waverley | Pocket | |
| 42 | French Street Reserve (Fairway Reserve) | Cnr French Street and Fairway Avenue (6 French Street) | Mt Waverley | Pocket | |
| 43 | Pinewood Reserve | 7-13 Pinewood Drive | Mt Waverley | Local | Sensory* |
| 44 | Herriotts Boulevard (England Road) Reserve | 6 Herriotts Boulevard | Glen Waverley | Local | |
| 45 | McKenna Road Reserve | 18-20 McKenna Road | Glen Waverley | Pocket | |
| 46 | Woodlea Drive Reserve | 12-14 Woodlea Drive | Glen Waverley | Local | |
| 47 | Fraser Street Reserve | 43-51 Fraser Street | Glen Waverley | Pocket | |
| 48 | Central Reserve | 690-724 Waverley Road | Glen Waverley | District | Skatepark |
| 49 | Botanic Drive Reserve | 35 Botanic Drive | Glen Waverley | Pocket | |
| 50 | Manning Drive Reserve | 33-35 Manning Drive | Glen Waverley | Local | Fitness Equipment |
| 51 | View Mount Road Reserve | 52-58 View Mount Road | Whealers Hill | Local | |
| 52 | Brandon Park Reserve | 649-659 Ferntree Gully Road | Glen Waverley | Neighbourhood | |
| 53 | Brentwood Reserve | 11-31 Maylands Crescent | Glen Waverley | Local | |
| 54 | Bowden Court Reserve | 7-8 Bowden Court | Whealers Hill | Local | |
| 55 | Trafford Court Reserve | 5 Trafford Court (4 Irene Court) | Whealers Hill | Pocket | |
| 56 | Garrick Court (Sheldon Place) Reserve | 3 Garrick Court | Whealers Hill | Pocket | |

| Map No. | Reserve | Street | Suburb | Playspace Classification *Post upgrade | Other Reserve Features *Planned |
|---------|--|--|---------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 57 | Bowmore Street Reserve | Cnr Kelvininside Street and Bowmore Street (2A Kelvininside Street) | Hughesdale | Pocket | |
| 58 | Argyle Reserve | Kinrade Street (240-260 Poath Road) | Hughesdale | Local | |
| 59 | Cheel Street Reserve | Cnr Cheel Street and Fern Tree Gully Road (34 Ferntree Gully Road) | Oakleigh East | Pocket | |
| 60 | Cambridge Street Reserve | Cambridge Street (38-40 Haughton Road) | Oakleigh | Neighbourhood | |
| 61 | Schoolhall Street Reserve | Cnr Schoolhall Street and Hatter Street (Schoolhall Street Road Reserve) | Oakleigh | Pocket | |
| 62 | Reg Harris Reserve | Cnr Carmichael and Ferntree Gully Roads (108-112 Ferntree Gully Road) | Oakleigh East | District | |
| 63 | F E Hunt Reserve | Cnr Highland Avenue and Turnbull Avenue | Oakleigh East | Local | |
| 64 | Strelden Avenue Reserve | 8-10 Strelden Avenue | Oakleigh East | Pocket | |
| 65 | Princes Highway Reserve | 1658-1660 Dandenong Road | Oakleigh East | District* | Fitness Equipment* |
| 66 | Westerfield Drive Reserve | 33-37 Westerfield Drive | Notting Hill | Local | Sensory |
| 67 | Ainslie Drive Reserve | 5-13 Ainslie Drive | Wheelers Hill | Pocket | |
| 68 | Mackellar Avenue Reserve | 35-37 Mackellar Avenue | Wheelers Hill | Pocket | |
| 69 | Rivett Crescent Reserve | Cnr Rivett Crescent and Burnet Street (2 Burnet Street) | Mulgrave | Pocket | |
| 70 | Lum Reserve | 231-259 Lum Road | Wheelers Hill | Neighbourhood | |
| 71 | Netherby Avenue Reserve | Netherby Avenue (69-71 Chancellor Avenue) | Wheelers Hill | Local | |
| 72 | Columbia Park Reserve | Columbia Drive (245-269 Jells Road) | Wheelers Hill | Neighbourhood | |
| 73 | Marykirk Drive (Ronston Court) Reserve | Ronston Court and Marykirk Drive (13-15 Craig Hill Drive) | Wheelers Hill | Local | |

| Map No. | Reserve | Street | Suburb | Playspace Classification *Post upgrade | Other Reserve Features *Planned |
|---------|--|---|----------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 74 | Haversham Avenue (Fernly Court) Reserve | 29-33 Haversham Avenue (Fernly Court, Pinewood Close and Landscape Court) | Whealers Hill | Local | |
| 75 | W A Scammell Reserve | Guest Road (1216 North Road) | Oakleigh South | Neighbourhood | |
| 76 | Progress Park Reserve and Cameron Avenue Reserve | 1-7 Cameron Avenue and 9-15 Cameron Avenue | Oakleigh South | Neighbourhood | Pump Track |
| 77 | Murumba Drive Reserve | 25-31 Murumba Drive | Oakleigh South | Local | |
| 78 | Davies Reserve | Wallace Avenue (410A Huntingdale Road) | Oakleigh South | District | Fitness Equipment |
| 79 | Talbot Park | 1261 Centre Road | Oakleigh South | District* | Fitness Equipment* |
| 80 | Flora Road Reserve | 7-9 Flora Road | Clayton | Local | |
| 81 | Meade Reserve | Haughton Road (2A Faulkner Street) | Clayton | Local | Fitness Equipment |
| 82 | Fregon Reserve | Browns Road | Clayton | Neighbourhood | |
| 83 | Evelyn Street Reserve | 16-42 Evelyn Street | Clayton | Local | |
| 84 | Cambro Road Reserve | 9 Cambro Road | Clayton | Pocket | |
| 85 | Wilma Avenue Reserve | 36-38 Wilma Avenue | Mulgrave | Pocket | |
| 86 | Wellington Reserve | 36-42 Mackie Road | Mulgrave | Neighbourhood | Fitness Equipment |
| 87 | Dunoon Street Reserve | 1-3 Dunoon Street | Mulgrave | Pocket | |
| 88 | Knell Street Reserve | 26 Knell Street | Mulgrave | Pocket | |
| 89 | Opal Court Reserve | 4-5 Opal Court | Mulgrave | Pocket | |
| 90 | Albany Drive Reserve | 68-72 Albany Drive | Mulgrave | Pocket | |

| Map No. | Reserve | Street | Suburb | Playspace Classification *Post upgrade | Other Reserve Features *Planned |
|---------|---|---|---------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 91 | Whitehaven Crescent Reserve | 20-30 Whitehaven Crescent | Mulgrave | Local | |
| 92 | Southern Reserve | 35-37 Huxley Avenue (Police Road) | Mulgrave | Neighbourhood | |
| 93 | Grantham Terrace Reserve | 13-17 Grantham Terrace | Mulgrave | Local | |
| 94 | Gladeswood Reserve | Grantham Terrace | Mulgrave | District* | Fitness Equipment* |
| 95 | Portland Street South Reserve | 7-11 Portland Street (Dunrossil Close) | Mulgrave | Local | |
| 96 | Portland Street North Reserve | 63-73 Portland Street | Mulgrave | Local | |
| 97 | Oliver Court (Blanton Drive) Reserve | Cnr Blanton Drive and Oliver Court (36A Blanton Drive) | Mulgrave | Local | |
| 98 | Orchard Street (David Crawford) Reserve | 13-17 Orchard Street | Glen Waverley | Local | |
| 99 | Wilson Road Reserve | 8-12 Wilson Road | Glen Waverley | Pocket | |
| 100 | Bayview (Madison Court) Reserve | 16 Madison Court | Mt Waverley | Neighbourhood | Fitness Equipment |
| 101 | Warralee Park | 99 Drummond Street | Oakleigh | District | |
| 102 | Lansdowne Circuit Reserve | 4 Lansdowne Circuit | Mulgrave | Local | |
| 103 | Rembrandt Drive (Gainsborough Avenue) Reserve | 7 Rembrandt Drive and 5 Gainsborough Avenue | Whealers Hill | Pocket | |
| 104 | Brynor Crescent Reserve | 16 Brynor Crescent | Glen Waverley | Pocket | |
| 105 | Petronella Avenue East Reserve | 63-65 Petronella Avenue | Whealers Hill | Local | |
| 106 | Jacaranda Road Reserve | 20-22 Jacaranda Road | Whealers Hill | Pocket | |
| 107 | Waverley Womens Sports Centre | 2-30 Jells Road (Jells Road) | Whealers Hill | Neighbourhood | |
| 108 | Wilson Street Reserve | Cnr Wilson Street and Bishop Street (38A Bishop Street) | Oakleigh | Pocket | |
| 109 | Mulgrave Reserve | Garnett Road | Whealers Hill | District* | |

| Map No. | Reserve | Street | Suburb | Playspace Classification *Post upgrade | Other Reserve Features *Planned |
|---------|---|---|---------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 110 | Charlton Street Reserve | Cnr Charlton Street and Stephenson Road (389-391 Stephenson's Road) | Mt Waverley | Local | |
| 111 | Burlington Street Reserve (Burlington Square) | Cnr Downing Street and Burlington Street (31 Dowling Street) | Oakleigh | Local | |
| 112 | Canova Drive Reserve | 11 Canova Drive | Glen Waverley | Pocket | |
| 113 | Catherine Avenue Reserve | 62 Catherine Avenue (Ian Grove) | Mt Waverley | Local | |
| 114 | Damper Creek Conservation Reserve | Cnr Park Road and Norman Court | Mt Waverley | Neighbourhood | |
| 115 | Danien Street Reserve | 10-12 Danien Street | Glen Waverley | Local | |
| 116 | Dennis Street Reserve | 12-20 Dennis Street | Clayton | Local | Fitness Equipment |
| 117 | Diamond Avenue Reserve | Diamond Avenue (13-15 Brighton Street) | Glen Waverley | Pocket | |
| 118 | Dirigo Drive Reserve | Dirigo Drive (214-220 Brandon Park Drive) | Whealers Hill | Pocket | |
| 119 | Electra Reserve | 21A Electra Avenue (High Street Road) | Ashwood | Neighbourhood | Fitness Equipment |
| 120 | Grantley Drive Reserve | 31-33 Grantley Drive | Glen Waverley | Pocket | |
| 121 | Jack Edwards Reserve | 22-38 Edward Street | Oakleigh | Pocket | |
| 122 | Finch Street Reserve | 20 Finch Street | Notting Hill | Pocket | |
| 123 | Galbally Reserve | 19 Arthur Street (Freda Street) | Hughesdale | District | Fitness Equipment |
| 124 | Janice Road Reserve | Cnr Janice Road and Sandgate Avenue | Glen Waverley | Pocket | |
| 125 | Carlson Reserve | 64-72 Clayton Road | Clayton | District* | Fitness Equipment |
| 126 | Grandview Road Reserve | 107-109 Grandview Road | Whealers Hill | Local | |

| Map No. | Reserve | Street | Suburb | Playspace Classification *Post upgrade | Other Reserve Features *Planned |
|---------|--|--|---------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 127 | Grovelands Drive Reserve | 2-6 Grovelands Drive | Mulgrave | Local | |
| 128 | Cinnabar Avenue Reserve | Cinnabar Avenue | Mt Waverley | Pocket | |
| 129 | Manchester Place Reserve | Manchester Place | Mulgrave | Pocket | |
| 130 | Brunton Crescent North (Ellis Park) Reserve | Cnr Brunton Crescent, Ellis Park Avenue and Newport Drive (1 Brunton Crescent) | Mulgrave | Local | |
| 131 | Freeway Reserve | Kernot Avenue (361-415 Wellington Road) | Mulgrave | Pocket | Fitness Trail |
| 132 | Rata Street Reserve | 15-21 Rata Street Reserve | Wheelers Hill | Pocket | |
| 133 | Greville Street (Garnett Street) Reserve | Cnr Greville Street and Garnett Street (59 Greville Street) | Huntingdale | Local | |
| 134 | Samada Street Reserve | 24 Samada Street | Notting Hill | Neighbourhood | Fitness Equipment |
| 135 | Arthur Street Reserve | 27-29 Arthur Street | Burwood | Pocket | |
| 136 | Waverley Park Lake Regional Playspace | Cavenagh Boulevard | Mulgrave | Regional | |
| 137 | Yabby Hill Regional Playspace, (Jells Park, Parks Victoria) | Waverley Road (38-72 Jells Road) | Wheelers Hill | Regional | |
| 138 | Jell Park North (Jells Park, Parks Victoria) | Waverley Road (38-72 Jells Road) | Wheelers Hill | Local | |
| 139 | Jells Park South (Jells Park, Parks Victoria) | Ferntree Gully Road (38-72 Jells Road) | Wheelers Hill | Local | |
| 140 | PROPOSED Westbrook Street Reserve (VicRoads) | 2a Westbrook Street | Chadstone | Pocket* | |
| 141 | PROPOSED Centre Road West Skyrail Community Playspace (VicTrack) | Cnr Centre Road and Houghton Road | Clayton | Pocket* | |



APPENDIX 2: PLAYSPLACE UPGRADE PROGRAM 2025-2035



The 10-year Playground Upgrade Program is subject to Council budget adoption for the financial year and has been directly informed by playground priorities identified in the *Active Monash Capital Works Priorities Framework*.

| Year | Playground | Suburb | Classification |
|-------------------|---|----------------|----------------|
| Year 1 2025/26 | Albany Drive Reserve | Mulgrave | Pocket |
| | Winbourne Road Reserve | Mount Waverley | Pocket |
| | Gladeswood Reserve | Mulgrave | District |
| | Queens Parade Reserve (west of Ashwood Reserve) | Ashwood | Local |
| | Pinewood Reserve | Mount Waverley | Local Sensory |
| Year 2 2026/27 | Wilson Road Reserve | Glen Waverley | Pocket |
| | Regent Street Reserve | Mount Waverley | Pocket |
| | View Mount Road Reserve | Wheelers Hill | Local |
| | Hinkler Reserve | Glen Waverley | Local |
| | Gillon Court Reserve | Oakleigh | Pocket |
| | Finch Street Reserve | Notting Hill | Pocket |
| Year 3 2027/28 | Salisbury Reserve | Ashwood | Local |
| | Le Fey Court Reserve | Glen Waverley | Pocket |
| | Jacaranda Road Reserve | Wheelers Hill | Pocket |
| | Bogong Reserve (subject to Suburban Rail Loop Authority's review of the Glen Waverley Activity Centre Structure Plan) | Glen Waverley | District |
| Year 4 2028/29 | Wilson Street Reserve | Oakleigh | Pocket |
| | Ainslie Drive Reserve | Wheelers Hill | Pocket |
| | Grandview Road Reserve | Wheelers Hill | Local |
| | Knell Street Reserve | Mulgrave | Pocket |
| Year 5 2029/30 | Columbia Park Reserve | Wheelers Hill | Neighbourhood |
| | Kingsley Grove Reserve | Mount Waverley | Pocket |
| | Grovelands Drive Reserve | Mulgrave | Local |
| Year 6 2030/31 | McKenna Road Reserve | Glen Waverley | Pocket |
| | Charlton Street Reserve | Mount Waverley | Local |
| | Batesford Reserve | Chadstone | Neighbourhood |



| Year | Playground | Suburb | Classification |
|--------------------|---|----------------|----------------|
| Year 7 2031/32 | Lawrence Road Reserve | Mount Waverley | Pocket |
| | Oliver Court (Blanton Drive) Reserve | Mulgrave | Local |
| | Haversham Avenue (Fernly Court) Reserve | Wheelers Hill | Local |
| | St Clair Crescent Reserve | Mount Waverley | Local |
| Year 8 2032/33 | Dunoon Street Reserve | Mulgrave | Pocket |
| | Allen Street Reserve (Scotchmans Creek Linear Park) | Oakleigh | Local |
| | Bowden Court Reserve | Wheelers Hill | Local |
| | Fregon Reserve | Clayton | Neighbourhood |
| Year 9 2033/34 | Parkhill Drive Reserve | Ashwood | Local |
| | Cheel Street Reserve | Oakleigh East | Pocket |
| | Bowmore Street Reserve | Hughesdale | Pocket |
| | Warrawee Park | Oakleigh | District |
| Year 10 2034/35 | Garrick Court (Sheldon Place) Reserve | Wheelers Hill | Pocket |
| | Janice Road Reserve | Glen Waverley | Pocket |
| | French Street Reserve | Mount Waverley | Pocket |
| | Rosemary Street Reserve | Chadstone | Local |
| | Strelden Avenue Reserve | Oakleigh East | Pocket |
| | Opal Court Reserve | Mulgrave | Local |



ACTIVE MONASH

Monash Civic Centre | 293 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley, 3150 | 8.30am to 5pm | Monday to Friday
Oakleigh Service Centre | 3 Atherton Road, Oakleigh, 3166 | 8.30am to 5pm | Monday to Friday
9518 3555 | www.monash.vic.gov.au | mail@monash.vic.gov.au | NRS 1800 555 660

Monash Interpreter Service

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| 普通话 | 4713 5001 | Việt Ngữ | 4713 5003 | हिंदी | 4713 5005 | 한국어 | 4713 5010 | தமிழ் | 4713 5021 |
| 廣東話 | 4713 5002 | Ελληνικά | 4713 5004 | Italiano | 4713 5008 | සිංහල | 4713 5020 | Other languages | 4713 5000 |

