

OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

sample

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Statement of Acknowledgement

The City of Casey proudly acknowledges the traditional owners, Casey's Aboriginal communities and their rich culture and pays respect to their Elders past, present and future.

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as Australia's first peoples and as the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we work and live.

Diversity Statement

The City of Casey is home to a remarkable diversity of cultures, languages, faiths, identities, landscapes, and stories. From our first Australians to our most recent arrivals and every wave between, the City of Casey welcomes and represents all community members and their respective ambitions to live healthy, rewarding, and happy lives. These intersecting and overlapping community stories form Casey's collective identity and contribute to its evolving, rich history. We recognise this diversity as our strength and we aim to share, nurture, and celebrate it.

Fair Access Statement

This Statement of Intent establishes the expectation that gender equality is considered and prioritised in all current and future City of Casey's planning, policy, service delivery and practice as they relate to open space infrastructure.

The City of Casey recognises that gender equality is the attainment of equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities of women, men, trans and gender diverse people. Equality does not mean that women, men, trans and gender diverse people will become the same but that their rights, responsibilities, and opportunities will not depend on their gender.

The City of Casey recognises that gender equity is the provision of fairness and justice in the distribution of benefits and responsibilities based on gender. The concept recognises that people may have different needs and power related to their gender and these differences should be identified and addressed in a manner that rectifies gender related imbalances.

1. Purpose and Intent

Vision:

To deliver a connected network of quality and diverse open spaces now and into the future to improve the liveability of the City for residents and visitors.

Purpose:

The Open Space Strategy ('the Strategy') provides a framework to guide the planning, design, development and management of open space in the City of Casey.

2. Definitions

Council	means Casey City Council, being a body corporate constituted as a municipal Council under the Local Government Act 2020.
Councillors	means the individuals holding the office of a member of Casey City Council.
Council officer	means the Chief Executive Officer and staff of Council appointed by the Chief Executive Officer.
Encumbered open space	<p>Encumbered open space is land with a primary purpose that is not for open space, including but not limited to land:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Affected by a servicing easement including water, drainage, high voltage power lines or gas.• Subject to flooding.• Subject to landslip or has a slope greater than 1:3.• That contains waterways, retarding basins or wetlands.• That would ordinarily be protected from development due to the need to conserve flora, fauna, or heritage values.• That may be contaminated.• Roof tops, land above a basement or land that does not provide clear sky above.• That is located on common property managed by an owner's corporation.
Sports Facilities Framework (SFF)	Document that details Council's commitment to ensuring a varied, equitable and consistent approach to the development of new and existing sporting facilities. Supersedes the Leisure Facilities Development Plan Policy (LFDP).
Open space	Public land that has a leisure function or is reserved as a public park or conservation use. Also includes public land that does not have a core function of open space such as land that is primarily required for drainage or utility purposes but that may still be used for leisure purposes and valued by the community.

Unencumbered open space	<p>Unencumbered open space is land with a primary purpose for open space that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is free of servicing easements including water, drainage, sewer, high voltage power lines or gas. • Is not subject to flooding. • Is not subject to landslip or has a slope of less than 1:3. • Does not contain waterways, retarding basins or wetlands. • Does not contain land that would ordinarily be protected from development due to the need to conserve flora, fauna or heritage values. • Is not contaminated. • Is not located on roof tops, above a basement or that does not provide clear sky above. • Is not located on common property managed by an owner's corporation.
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3. Who is This Document for?

The target audience of the Strategy includes but is not limited to:

- The community: the Strategy outlines the range of open space provision and the standard of amenity Council will provide.
- Council officers: who plan, design and deliver open space for our community.
- State and Federal government and agencies: as well as outlining what standard of amenity Council will provide, the Strategy supports a more collaborative relationship between public landowners and managers. Public landowners and managers are encouraged to leverage opportunities, assets and funding to get the best outcome for the community.
- The development sector: the development sector is one of the primary facilitators of open space in the growth areas. The Strategy outlines what standard of amenity should be provided in open space, regardless of the delivery lead.

4. Context and Conditions

Public open space in the City of Casey includes:

- Land owned and/or managed by Casey City Council (may include local or state owned).
- State-owned land or land managed by other government agencies including national and regional parks, metropolitan parks and nature conservation reserves.
- Open space reserved for drainage and utility purposes.

Approximately half of the public open space in the City of Casey is not owned by Council, and a considerable proportion of Casey's open space serves a primary purpose of drainage, utility and conservation.

Council recognises the benefits that a quality open space network has for the health and liveability of the City's residents, and as such has a strong commitment to ensuring that a

diverse range of quality connected open spaces is provided within the City. The Strategy provides a considered approach to planning and managing the existing and future open spaces in Casey, to ensure Council meets the needs of Casey's current and future population, while attracting visitors and enhancing their experience.

The Strategy underpins other sport, leisure, environmental, infrastructure, health and wellbeing and landscape strategies and policies (refer to Appendix I – Strategic Connection).

The Strategy has four key pillars that support the objectives of this document by providing direction on advocacy, a planning framework, infrastructure design and maintenance standards.

Through the research and consultation phase of the original 2015 Strategy, several key challenges were identified as impacting on Casey's open space network. These challenges remain relevant today and include:

- Urbanisation of the City and an increasing population, placing pressure on individual open space parcels to accommodate higher numbers of users and connectivity of networks.
- Rising land values and subsequent financial impact of setting aside land for open space.
- Increasing residential densities with a resulting decrease in private spaces, impacting on the community's need to access public open space for incidental exercise, social gathering and relaxation.
- The ability to provide for a diverse range of sports across the City, as land for many sports is not provided for within new developments.
- Increasing community expectations regarding what open space can and should provide.
- A desire for spaces for the community to participate in a range of active and passive recreational activities.
- Climate change.
- Reliance on private vehicles for transportation.

This context underpins the direction for open space planning in the City of Casey into the future.

Since then, the following priorities have emerged:

- Recognition and acknowledgement of Traditional Owners.
- Environment and climate change.
- Ensuring gender equality, accessibility, intergenerational spaces and child safety.

Traditional Owners

Open space in the City of Casey is located on Bunurong Country. Connection to land for Traditional Owners is integral to the upholding of spiritual and cultural values and can be applied through:

- Recognition, celebration and education of culture and heritage through (including but not limited to) site features, preservation of artifacts, naming, signage and wayfinding.
- Implementing traditional land management practices.
- Protection of archaeological places and other places of tangible and intangible significance.

Environment and Climate Change

Open space plays a critical role in conserving, enhancing and restoring the natural environment.

Casey features approximately 30 nature reserves and revegetated sites. In addition to sites dedicated for environmental purposes, all open space provides opportunities to support biodiversity, encourage sustainable use of resources (such as water) and increase tree canopy cover.

Open space is also essential in mitigating the impact of urban heat. Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 data show City of Casey as being one of the top three Local Government Areas with high levels of urban heat, resulting in high heat vulnerability for many local communities. Open space has a central role in influencing the microclimate in urban areas, as well as providing respite to communities vulnerable to the impacts of high urban heat. Planning and design of open space should support its role in increasing cooling capacity (such as consideration of canopy tree planning, size, geometry, and where appropriate other features such as irrigation).

Gender Equality

It is imperative that the community benefits from open space in an equitable manner. Contemporary local research initiatives have demonstrated that women and girls often feel unsafe in public spaces, especially at night, and safety concerns are heightened for LGBTQIA+ and gender diverse people (refer to Appendix I – Strategic Connection). Furthermore, traditional open space infrastructure overwhelmingly supports participation by men and boys (such as skate parks and BMX tracks) – additional barriers to participation may also be experienced depending on gender or sexuality.

Victoria's Gender Equality Act 2020 (the Act) requires the Victorian public sector, local governments and universities to take positive action towards achieving workplace gender equality. As Defined Entities under the Act, local governments are also required to consider and promote gender equality, including undertaking gender impact assessments, on policies, programs and services that have a direct and significant public impact.

The following principles are to be applied to the planning, design, delivery and management of open space:

- Open space infrastructure and environments are genuinely welcoming, safe and inclusive.
- Women, girls and gender-diverse participants will have equitable access to and use of open space.
- Women, girls and gender-diverse people are equitably represented in engagement and decision making.

Implementation of these principles will encourage access to and use of open space by women, girls and gender diverse community members, creating public places that are safe, fair and equitable.

Accessibility

Open space should provide equal opportunities for use and enjoyment by people of all abilities. This may be facilitated through:

- Planning, design, delivery and management of open space, with the lens of reducing barriers to access.
- Application of Universal Design principles to all infrastructure projects.
- Ease of independent travel to open space.
- Consider opportunities to specifically address the needs of particular groups such as those with dementia, vision and hearing impairments, neurodiversity and mobility needs (for instance, play that references behaviours and therapies associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder).

Intergenerational Spaces

Casey is an age-friendly community where everyone has the opportunity to live their best life, and be supported to stay healthy and thrive as they age.

The open space network should provide intergenerational and multi-use/flexible spaces, suited to a variety of purposes and age groups. It should also provide active and passive recreation and exercise spaces for older people to support well-being all year round. Open space should be welcoming, accessible and encourage social and cultural connection, and be responsive to access and use requirements for all ages.

Child Safety

All children or young people who attend services, programs, and events delivered by, or within spaces owned or managed by the City of Casey, have the right to feel and be safe. The wellbeing and safety of children and young people in our care will always be our priority. Council has zero-tolerance of child abuse and is committed to creating and maintaining a child safe and child friendly organisation where all children are valued and protected from abuse, harm and neglect. The City of Casey is committed to creating and maintaining a child safe organisation where protecting children from abuse, harm and neglect is embedded in the everyday thinking and practice of Council, its employees, contractors and volunteers.

Safe and child-friendly open spaces are a priority of the Strategy, and will be embedded in Council's open space network. This will be facilitated by incorporating the voice of children and young people in the planning, delivery and maintenance of open space.

5. What Do We Want to Achieve?

The Strategy is anticipated to result in the following outcomes:

1

A connected network of quality and diverse open spaces within new development areas to cater for community demands.

2

Implementation of Open Space Standards and General Design Requirements (refer to Section 6 – Open Space Standards) to ensure open spaces across the City are engaging, safe, accessible and fit for purpose, particularly for Traditional Owners, women, girls and gender diverse people, LGBTQIA+ community, people with disability, and multicultural communities.

3

Development of strong connections with the City's cultural and heritage significance and natural features through the protection of built and natural assets.

4

Improved partnerships with statutory authorities and Government to secure opportunities for an expanded open space network to meet the service needs of the City's large and diverse population.

5

Protection and enhancement of significant environmental areas to support biodiversity.

6

Establishment of diverse landscape settings across the open space network to connect people with nature.

7

Development of a regional trail network to promote extended forms of physical activity and sense of escape, supported by a local trail network to connect people to destination places and reduce reliance on vehicle transport.

8

Development of new open spaces for sport to meet the needs of a growing community across a range of sports.

9

Advocate for and progress the delivery of new regional open spaces for sport and informal recreation use, to complement the existing open space network and provide more diverse opportunities for the community.

10

Development of spaces that provide a range of facilities and engage a broader range of ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds and act as community hubs.

6. Open Space Standards

This section outlines the standards for open space in Casey, based on their function and hierarchy.

Function

Open space functions help to determine how each space is intended to be used, and the infrastructure needed to support its function. The function of open space can be determined by considering its primary role in the network, the benefits that people seek from it, and any additional context of the settlement type (i.e. where the open space is to be situated and anticipated community use). Open spaces can be made up of a single function or fulfil a range of functions within the one space.

Function Classifications

FUNCTION	DESCRIPTION
Parks	<p>Local parks are smaller informal open spaces servicing the local neighbourhood area catchment. They will be distributed throughout the City to provide all residents with access to quality open space. These parks are smaller in their size and have less infrastructure than District and Regional parks. District and Regional parks provide opportunities for a range of age groups typically catering for play, picnics, casual ball games, trail activities and environmental qualities.</p> <p>Land used for parks may also be referred to as passive open space.</p>
Natural Assets	<p>Areas dedicated for environmental values, promoting and enhancing sustainability of flora and fauna, and providing an opportunity for the community to connect with nature. These may include standalone sites consisting of remnant and/or newly created vegetation, nodes of vegetation incorporated into parks and reserves as well as areas such as coastal foreshores. These sites will promote environmental sustainability, provide habitat corridors, reduce the heat effect across the City and connect people with nature. Where appropriate these sites will be accessible to the community through dedicated formalised pathways of natural/porous materials which will seek to restrict damage to vegetation and fauna.</p>
Trails, Waterways and Easements	<p>Land which is set aside for or has a secondary function to accommodate trail linkages or open space corridors/walkways. These include walkways between streets and neighbourhoods, open space corridors, waterways, drainage corridors, floodplains, tree reserves, wetland areas and utility easements which accommodate service infrastructure.</p>
Sports	<p>Land set aside to provide for organised sport. These open spaces should also provide for non-organised recreational uses, and at the District and Regional level act as community hubs. Land used for sport may also be referred to as active open space.</p> <p>Note: some sports may include a “Municipal” tier of provision – for further information, refer to the Sports Facilities Framework.</p>

Hierarchy

A three-tiered hierarchy of public open space based on its catchment has been developed. The catchment is how far people travel to use the space. The hierarchy influences the level of infrastructure provision and maintenance regime applied.

Hierarchy Classifications

HIERARCHY	DESCRIPTION
Local	Predominantly provided to serve an immediate local catchment i.e. relatively small in size, servicing daily and weekly neighbourhood use. Generally within walking distance to the surrounding catchment.
District	<p>Generally larger areas of a greater complexity (perhaps with support facilities). Serves a group of suburbs or a precinct, with significance for the precinct as a whole or a substantial part of it (due to the size, function or diversity in the space). There may also be local significance (conservation, cultural value, or for large social gatherings). Community members might be expected to ride or drive for access.</p> <p>Most District-level parks may feature some of the required qualities (i.e. size; one or two District embellishments such as a single half court). However others may include a larger range of embellishments (i.e. barbecues, toilets, outdoor fitness equipment, multiple and/or full sized courts) – these are referred to as District Plus spaces.</p>
Regional	Areas that serve regional catchments (whole of, or broader than, the municipality) that may host significant sites, including of flora and fauna species, or, by virtue of their size, that offer diversity of opportunities or levels of development that would not necessarily be available for all primary functions and in every municipality, and that may attract high numbers of people, including tourists/visitors beyond the municipality.

Some spaces may be restricted, and may or may not have a primary open space function. They include but are not limited to botanical gardens, conservation reserves, golf courses, racecourses, community farms, government schools and cemeteries.

The Open Space Standards tables below outline the standards for each of the four open space functions. The tables are a reference guide for the development industry, Government and Council to inform the size, location, distribution and design of open spaces for the City of Casey.

Open Space Standards

Parks

Local parks service the local catchment and will be distributed throughout the City, to provide all residents with access to quality open space. District and regional parks service a broader catchment and are destination places in their own right.

ATTRIBUTE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
DESCRIPTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided within walking distance of residents to encourage physical activity and socialisation for all ages. • Smaller in size and have lower levels of infrastructure. • Include areas for play, kick-about-space, paths, seating and landscaping. • May also be provided in the form of hard plaza spaces at neighbourhood activity centres as well as in commercial and industrial zones. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide higher level multi-functional parks within each local neighbourhood. • Will be community focal points or destination places along trails. • Include a wider range of facilities and infrastructure for all ages and abilities, to encourage longer usage periods by the community. • District parks may include play areas, open-kick about spaces, seating, paths, dog-off leash areas, considerable vegetation and where appropriate, other infrastructure such as toilets, barbeques and car parking. • District parks may also be provided in the form of hard plaza space at higher order activity centres as well as in higher order commercial precincts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide multiple social and recreation functionality. • Draw from a wider catchment and will include infrastructure and facilities such as barbeques, toilets, shelter and car parking to encourage longer term stays from users. • Sites include Casey Fields Regional Playspace and Wilson Botanic Park. • Regional parks may also be provided in the form of hard plaza space at higher order activity centres. • Whilst commercial facilities such as cafés may be considered within these spaces, affordable or free community access should remain a focus. • May be provided in the form of plaza, regional accessible play space or ornamental garden.
DISTRIBUTION/ CATCHMENT	Local parks within 400 metres safe walking distance of residents and	Within 1 kilometre of every dwelling in suburban areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal and beyond.

ATTRIBUTE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
	employees where practicable.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broader distribution as regional parks will service a wide catchment including beyond the municipality.
LOCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible within walking distance from suburban dwellings without having to cross a major physical barrier (i.e. a major road, waterway or railway). • At least one centrally located park within the townships. • Centrally located in community activity node e.g. adjacent to sports, shop or community facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple District parks to be provided in each suburb where practicable. • May be located within town centres as part of civic plaza space. • Centrally located in community activity node e.g. adjacent to sports, shops or community meeting facilities. • Connected by the trail network. • To have at least two road frontages and not be overlooked by private yards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where appropriate, consider central location in community activity node e.g. adjacent to sports, shops or community meeting facilities. • Connected by the trail network. • To have at least two road frontages and not be overlooked by private yards.
QUALITY	Not on encumbered land but can be co-located with encumbered spaces such as waterways and bushland areas to provide complimentary amenity.		
SIZE	<p>Size requirements per open space reserve for suburban areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 hectares for medium/high density housing areas • 1 hectare for standalone open spaces • 0.6 hectares or higher if the space is connected with a usable encumbered space such as a waterway curtilage 	Preferably minimum size of 2 hectares per open space reserve unless in a town/ commercial centre.	No size dimensions as these spaces may be connected with other regional parks or civic plaza space.

ATTRIBUTE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.3 hectares or higher if the space is located within a commercial or industrial precinct. <p>Open spaces of 0.6 hectares or higher must be at least 70 metres in both length and width.</p>		
RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE			
BARBECUES	Generally not provided.	May be provided.	May be provided.
DRINKING FOUNTAINS	Not provided.	May be provided.	May be provided.
OUTDOOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT	Not provided.	May be provided (can be in the form of clusters or circuits).	May be provided (can be in the form of clusters or circuits).
HARDCOURTS	Generally not provided.	<p>May provide hardcourts e.g. community use tennis/basketball/ netball/multi-sport courts etc.</p> <p>Alternative and equivalent recreational infrastructure can be considered in District parks. The site, demand for the activity, and infrastructure within the surrounding open space network should be considered when evaluating appropriateness.</p>	<p>May provide hardcourts e.g. community use tennis/basketball/ netball/multi-sport courts etc.</p> <p>Alternative and equivalent recreational infrastructure can be considered in Regional parks. The site, demand for the activity, and infrastructure within the surrounding open space network should be considered when evaluating appropriateness.</p>
KICK ABOUT SPACE/ OPEN LAWN	Provided.	Provided.	Provided.

ATTRIBUTE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
PATHS (PEDESTRIAN/ CYCLING/ SHARED/ EQUESTRIAN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paths to be provided. • Paths should link to the activity zones within the park and connect with the broader trail network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paths to be provided. • Paths should link to the activity zones within the park and connect with the broader trail network. • Include formalised paths (not necessarily sealed) • May include supporting infrastructure such as bicycle parking and horse hitching rails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paths to be provided. • Paths should link to the activity zones within the park and connect with the broader trail network. • Fully accessible to people with disability, prams and mobility aids with concrete paths. • May include supporting infrastructure such as bicycle parking and horse hitching rails.
PLAYSPACE	<p>Local-level playgrounds are small to medium size, catering for the local community.</p> <p>May include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas for co-operative play and games • Range of surfaces • Loose materials/contact with nature • Equipment for play and physical activity • Areas with places to hide and retreats from activity, screened from boisterous play. 	<p>District-level playgrounds are medium to large, usually situated within larger parks/ reserves with attractive surroundings and which often include other features.</p> <p>May include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas for co-operative play and games • Some props and range of surfaces • Loose materials/contact with nature • Equipment for exercise • Areas with places to hide and retreat from activity, screened from boisterous play. 	<p>Regional-level playgrounds are large with unique qualities that usually form part of a larger site with natural and/or built features. They should also provide for people with a disability through the provision of accessible amenity facilities and play areas. Regional playgrounds should provide a choice of logical routes around the space to activities and enable parents and carers to support children playing.</p> <p>May include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas for co-operative play and games • Some props and range of surfaces • Loose materials/contact with nature • Equipment for exercise

ATTRIBUTE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Areas with places to hide and retreats from activity, screened from boisterous play.
PUMP TRACKS AND SKATE	Not provided.	May provide skate/scooter and/or pump tracks.	
LANDSCAPING			
PLANTING	Minimise the inclusion of garden beds with a focus on more tree planting.	Includes considerable vegetation to provide amenity, shade and educational value, including tree and understory planting and minimal garden beds.	
SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE			
CAR PARKING	Not provided.	Indented car parking (or equivalent) must be provided.	
LIGHTING	Not provided.	May provide lighting within town centre parks.	May provide lights for some night activities.
PUBLIC ART	Not provided.	May provide public art.	Public art to be provided.
RUBBISH BINS	Not provided.	Provided.	Provided.
SEATING AND TABLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Seating to be providedTables may be provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Seating to be providedMeeting place with tables provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Significant seating to be providedMeeting place with tables provided.

ATTRIBUTE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
SHADE (NATURAL AND CONSTRUCTED)	Shade to include mature trees and may include some structures.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Significant shade and shelter,Shade to include mature trees and may include some structures.
TOILETS	Public toilets may only be considered where the park forms a wayside stop i.e. is situated along a main path journey.	May provide toilets (may be connected to sporting fields where appropriate).	
MAINTENANCE			
REGIME	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Basic level maintenance to occur to ensure spaces are kept presentable.Includes mown grass serviced typically 13 times p.a.Playgrounds to be maintained in accordance with Australian Standards (note that Local parks incorporating playgrounds may be assigned a higher maintenance standard than parks with no playground facilities).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">District parks to be at a slightly higher level than basic maintenance to ensure higher levels of presentation and to reflect the higher use of these sites compared to local parks.Includes mown grass serviced typically 17 times p.a.Playgrounds to be maintained in accordance with Australian Standards.Ancillary infrastructure such as seating, drinking fountains and signage to be maintained to ensure they remain usable.Toilet and barbecue cleaning to be undertaken on a regular basis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Regional spaces to be maintained to a high level of presentation and to reflect the higher use and the regional catchment of these spaces.Includes mown grass serviced typically 26 times p.aPlaygrounds to be maintained in accordance with Australian Standards.Ancillary infrastructure such as seating, drinking fountains and signage to be maintained to ensure they remain usable.Toilet and barbecue cleaning to be undertaken on a regular basis.

ATTRIBUTE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
NOTES			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May provide a dog-friendly space in accordance with Council's Dog Friendly Spaces Policy. • May provide a dedicated separate space for a memorial or place of remembrance within a park or town square setting whilst considering the potential for conflicts within the space. • May provide a community garden space (in line with Community Gardens Policy) where it is in close proximity to a neighbourhood house or community centre to ensure local community ownership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibly access to refreshments and other commercial services. • Considerable areas to be irrigated. • May provide a public event space.

Open Space Standards

Natural Assets

Areas dedicated for environmental values, promoting sustainability of flora and fauna and providing an opportunity for residents to connect with nature.

ATTRIBUTE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
DESCRIPTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council owned and managed sites.• Provide interaction with local sites of environmental value.• Identified for their protection of remnant and newly created vegetation and contain native vegetation in a natural state.• Accessed through local street network.• An example includes Colley Street Nature Reserve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council owned and managed sites.• Higher levels of service than at the local level.• Destination spaces that include ancillary infrastructure such as car parking as well as native vegetation connecting people to nature.• Access to the sites may be through dedicated paths and the local road network.• Examples include Brookland Greens Nature Reserve and Kurll Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Larger in size.• Owned and managed by state agencies or statutory authorities.• Whilst Council does not maintain these sites, it does advocate for their development, appropriate use and protection.• State agency managed sites may include other recreational opportunities where they are consistent with the reservation purpose and approved management plans.• May include other recreational and sporting opportunities.• Service standards for state owned or managed sites are based on recommendations in accordance with the former Public Land Conservation Council and current Victorian Environmental Assessment Council recommendations.

ATTRIBUTE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection objectives and service level standards are applied by the public land manager through management plans, master plans, levels of protection framework and service levels framework/visitor experience framework. Examples include Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne and Cardinia Creek Parklands.
LOCATION	Often isolated sites with limited connectivity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes connections to existing or future paths and trails. Established vegetation sites to be connected by local path networks. 	Connections to the site from external path and trail network.
QUALITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites containing remnant vegetation may be provided to Council by the State Government through the planning process, on the basis of the environmental value of the site to fulfill biodiversity objectives (i.e. the site allows for birds to move through). Created vegetation sites to be identified by Council on the basis of the land being underutilised for other functions (such as flood zones) and has the potential to provide biodiversity values due to its proximity to other revegetation sites. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managed by a state agency or statutory authority. Sites will be allocated for protection by State Government through the planning process, on the basis of the environmental value of the site to fulfill biodiversity objectives (i.e. the site allows for birds to move through).

ATTRIBUTE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Created vegetation sites to be identified by Council on the basis of the land being underutilised for other functions (such as flood zones) and has the potential to provide biodiversity values due to its proximity to other revegetation sites.
SIZE	Provided in various sizes depending on existing site sizes and available land/opportunities for new sites and development pressures.		Provided on sites greater than 30 hectares.
RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE			
GENERAL	Limited infrastructure to be provided to avoid any impacts on the biodiversity objectives.	Barbeques and drinking fountains may be provided where appropriate, without impacting the biodiversity values of the site and being considerate of the amenity value.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide opportunities for multiple social functionality including walking, cycling or riding and education.Barbeques and drinking fountains should be provided where appropriate.Ancillary infrastructure must be in keeping with the asset type and reserve values.
PATHS (PEDESTRIAN/ CYCLING/ SHARED/ EQUESTRIAN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Includes formalised path networks up to 1 metre in width to allow for the community to connect with nature whilst reducing the impact on flora and fauna.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Includes formalised path networks up to 1.5 metre width to allow for the community to connect with nature whilst reducing the impact on flora and fauna.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Includes formalised path networks to allow for the community to connect with nature whilst reducing the impact on flora and fauna.

ATTRIBUTE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Equestrian use is permitted and signed where appropriate, ensuring adequate path widths to enable shared use by equestrians and pedestrians.At newly created vegetation sites, formalised path networks and other ancillary infrastructure to be provided at a point when the vegetation is sufficiently mature and the site is safe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">DDA access on the path networks is desirable.Equestrian use is permitted in signed areas within these spaces where adequate paths widths are provided for shared use.At newly created vegetation sites, formalised path networks and other ancillary infrastructure to be provided at a point when the vegetation is sufficiently mature and the site is safe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">DDA access on the path networks is desirable.Equestrian use is permitted in signed areas within these spaces where adequate paths widths are provided for shared use. This is subject to the activity being consistent with the purpose of the land and consistent with approved management plans.At newly created vegetation sites, formalised path networks and other ancillary infrastructure to be provided at a point when the vegetation is sufficiently mature and the site is safe.
LANDSCAPING			
PLANTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Includes protection and expansion of existing remnant vegetation as well as creation of new vegetation within selected sites.Indigenous vegetation to be planted exclusively through these sites with the aim of re-establishing the natural habitat of flora and fauna.		
SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE			
CAR PARKING	Generally not provided.	Car parking may be provided where appropriate without impacting the biodiversity values of the site and being considerate of the amenity value.	Car parking should be provided where appropriate.

ATTRIBUTE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
FENCING	Perimeter fencing to be provided to restrict non-permitted access by vehicles and prohibited uses.		
SIGNAGE	Interpretative and wayfinding signage to be provided.		
TOILETS	Generally not provided.	Toilets may be provided where appropriate without impacting the biodiversity values of the site and being considerate of the amenity value.	
MAINTENANCE			
REGIME	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High threat weeds maintained to negligible levels.• Moderate threat weeds maintained to less than 10% of the site.• Path maintenance to ensure clearly defined path networks are provided and continue to be safe and functional.• Boundary fencing and access points to be maintained to adequately restrict prohibited uses.• Nature reserves on a residential interface will be maintained sufficiently to ensure they are presentable and minimise the fire risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High threat weeds maintained to negligible levels.• Moderate threat weeds maintained to negligible levels in biodiversity hotspots, and to less than 10% in all other areas.• Low threat weeds – no target.• Pest animals to be determined on a site-by-site basis, taking into consideration threatened species.• Path maintenance to ensure clearly defined path networks are provided and continue to be safe, functional and DDA compliant where appropriate.• Boundary fencing and access points to be maintained to adequately restrict prohibited uses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High threat weeds maintained to negligible levels.• Moderate threat weeds maintained to negligible levels in biodiversity hotspots, and to less than 5% in all other areas.• Low threat weeds maintained to less than 10% in biodiversity hotspots and no target in all other areas.• Pest animals to be determined on a site-by-site basis, taking into consideration threatened species.• Path maintenance to ensure clearly defined path networks are provided and continue to be safe, functional and DDA compliant where appropriate.• Boundary fencing and access points to be maintained to adequately restrict prohibited uses.

ATTRIBUTE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature reserves on a residential interface will be maintained to ensure they are presentable and minimise the fire risk. • Council may enter into a memorandum of understanding with state agencies or statutory authorities to undertake the maintenance of Crown Land sites where it sees that the site has potential leisure benefits for its residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature reserves on a residential interface will be maintained to ensure they are presentable and minimise the fire risk. • Council may enter into a memorandum of understanding with state agencies or statutory authorities to undertake the maintenance of Crown Land sites where it sees that the site has potential leisure benefits for its residents.

Open Space Standards

Trails, Waterways and Easements

Land which is set aside for or has a secondary function to accommodate trail linkages or open space corridors/walkways. These include walkways between streets and neighbourhoods, open space corridors, waterways, drainage corridors, floodplains, tree reserves, wetland areas and utility easements which accommodate service infrastructure.

ATTRIBUTE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
DESCRIPTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide and/or utilise land for local trail circuits and walkways through each local neighbourhood to connect to local destinations such as recreation reserves, parks, shops, schools, as well as perimeter circuits within parks and reserves.• Utilising a combination of unencumbered and encumbered land such as wetlands and utility easements to create path connections.• Encourage local communities to be involved in physical activity including walking, running, cycling, riding and skating.• Local community equestrian riding will also be provided for through equestrian trail loops and connections to destinations such as equestrian clubs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide and/or utilise land that connects adjoining neighbourhoods to facilitate opportunities to participate in physical activity (i.e. walking, cycling, skate/scooter, equestrian).• Lead to key destination spaces with ancillary facilities such as seating, drinking fountains and potentially toilets, barbeques and car parking that facilitate socialisation, rest and reprieve.• These destination spaces may also act as start and finish points for trail users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide larger trail connections that link suburbs and may also extend beyond the municipal borders to connect with trails in other municipalities.• These trails will include seating, drinking fountains and signage to provide reprieve for users undertaking longer forms of exercise.• Regional equestrian trails will encourage longer community equestrian trail riding, and link with key destination places such as regional parks and pony clubs.

ATTRIBUTE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
DISTRIBUTION/ CATCHMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">One trail circuit in every locality connecting to community facilities, in pleasant landscapes, streets and parks and avoiding crossing of driveways.Linear parks and trails should be provided along waterways, vegetation corridors and road reserves within 1 kilometre of 95 percent of all dwellings.	Trails designed to link more than one community and/or provide a link to regional trails.	Trails to connect suburbs and to other municipalities.
LOCATION	Trails may run along utility easements and creeks.		
QUALITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Basic level may be footpaths/trails in rural areas.Perimeter trails around large parks and recreation reserves with links to district and regional trails.Trails to be above the 1 in 10 year ARI flood level around the curtilage of wetlands and creek corridors and include a 2 metre buffer (to be approved by the responsible authority/land manager).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Keep away from sensitive riparian areas/river banks.Trails to be above the 1 in 10 year ARI flood level around the curtilage of wetlands and creek corridors and include a 2 metre buffer (to be approved by the responsible authority/land manager).	
SIZE	Size requirements per open space reserve: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Accessways to be a minimum of 10 metres wide.Tree reserves to be 12 metres wide.		

ATTRIBUTE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE			
GENERAL	Generally not provided.	Create destination nodes at various points along key district level trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trails to connect to destination nodes which are to be located at various points along key trails. Key trail heads and activity hubs to include bicycle parking. Consideration of usage counters along key longer trails.
BARBECUES	Barbecues to be considered where there is a prominent view and where there is a nearby public toilet.	Destination spaces to include barbeques if appropriate.	
DRINKING FOUNTAINS	Generally not provided.	Destination spaces to include drinking fountains if appropriate.	Key trail heads and activity hubs to include drinking fountains.
OUTDOOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT	Generally not provided.	Low level fitness equipment (i.e. chin up bar / sit-up bench) to be considered along trail loops whilst movable outdoor fitness equipment to be considered at key destination sites.	
PATHS (PEDESTRIAN/ CYCLING/ SHARED/ EQUESTRIAN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared paths minimum 2.5 metres wide; 4 metres for equestrian trails. Equestrian trails to be provided as a natural grass (preferred) or granitic path. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared paths minimum 2.5 metres wide; 4 metres for equestrian trails. Combination of unsealed and sealed trails. Unsealed trails for horse riders, runners, cyclists and pedestrians. Sealed shared trails for cycling, skating, running, walking, prams, wheelchairs and mobility aids. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared paths minimum 2.5 metres wide; 4 metres for equestrian trails. Combination of unsealed and sealed trails. Unsealed trails for horse riders, runners, cyclists and pedestrians. Sealed shared trails for cycling, skating, running, walking, prams, wheelchairs and mobility aids.

ATTRIBUTE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equestrian trails to be provided as a natural grass (preferred) or granitic path. Protection zone to be provided on either side of the path. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equestrian trails to be provided as a natural grass (preferred) or granitic path. Protection zone to be provided on either side of the path. Sealed paths to be provided along regional trail routes for accessibility. Unsealed trails to be provided in some instances to accommodate runners, bushwalkers and mountain bike riders. May provide bicycle repair stations.
LANDSCAPING			
PLANTING	Landscape treatments to be provided to enhance the amenity of trails including through streetscapes, wetlands curtilages and utility easements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape treatments to be provided to enhance the amenity of trails including through streetscapes, wetlands curtilages and utility easements. Trails to include a range of landscape setting types to provide sunny and shaded areas, connections with views and environmental stimuli. 	
SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE			
CAR PARKING	Generally not provided.	Destination spaces (which may be Sport or District parks) to include car parking if appropriate.	Key trail heads and activity hubs to include car parking.

ATTRIBUTE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
FENCING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preference for non-fenced spaces around waterways and pipe tracks (where appropriate and safe). Where fencing is required it should be low scale and permeable. • Semi-transparent fencing to be provided where residential development backs on to utility easements and wetlands. • To be accessible where practical, supporting use of mobility aids, prams or similar whilst seeking to exclude trail bikes. 		
LIGHTING	Efficient lighting to occur on key pedestrian thoroughfares to encourage safe pedestrian movement. Preference for solar LED lighting where possible, with consideration of nocturnal fauna (i.e. dimmable).		
PUBLIC ART	Generally not provided.	Generally not provided.	Consideration for public art at nodal points along the trail that reflects the local settlement context.
SEATING AND TABLES	Seating to be provided every 400 metres where possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seating to be provided every 400 metres where possible. • Rest and viewing points off the path network to be provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seating to be provided every 400 metres where possible. • Rest and viewing points off the path network to be provided. • Key trail heads and activity hubs to include picnic tables.
SIGNAGE	Reserve signage may be provided.	Reserve signage may be provided.	Networks to have directional, interpretative and information signs.
TOILETS	Generally not provided.	Destination spaces to include toilets if appropriate.	Key trail heads and activity hubs to include a public toilet.

ATTRIBUTE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
MAINTENANCE			
REGIME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic level maintenance to occur to ensure spaces are kept presentable and tree health is preserved. • Trails to be maintained to ensure a safe and usable surface for users. • The buffer space around waterways is to be maintained by the relevant land owner and land manager. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail maintenance standards to replicate Local level trails with the addition of the following: • Utility easements to be maintained to minimise fire risk. • Ancillary infrastructure such as seating, drinking fountains and signage to be maintained to ensure they remain usable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail maintenance standards to replicate Local level trails with the addition of the following: • Interpretative, directional and information signage to maintained to ensure it is presentable and legible.

Open Space Standards

Sports

Land set aside to provide for organised sport. These open spaces should also provide for non-organised recreational uses, and at the District and Regional level act as community hubs.

ATTRIBUTE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
DESCRIPTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide localised open space for sport in close proximity to where people live. • Will encompass less physical infrastructure and facilities due to their catchment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide sporting opportunities across the District level catchment. • Larger in size and well connected to local residential neighbourhoods through a defined network of paths and trails. • A higher level of infrastructure will be provided to accommodate the needs of sporting clubs that will use these spaces as home venues. • Include non-organised recreation facilities to promote socialisation and less structured physical activity amongst the community. • Act as community hubs for the neighbourhoods they service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide larger open spaces to accommodate a greater level of facility provision at the one site. • Accommodate higher levels of the sport's pathways (i.e. particularly for sports which are not always provided for within local residential areas). • Accommodate non-organised recreation facilities to encourage their use by the broader community.
DISTRIBUTION/ CATCHMENT	Located within 800 metres-1 kilometre of dwellings in an urban area or at school sites; one in every rural village.	Located within 1 kilometre of all dwellings.	

ATTRIBUTE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
LOCATION	Accessible via the local path network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located off a collector road and on a public transport route. Council-owned indoor facilities should ideally be located within a community hub (i.e. either in a town centre or co-located with a school and/or community facility). Schools, community facilities or other public events should not encroach on the open space site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At some distance from houses to limit impact from noise, car parking and lights. Prominent site served by public transport. Accessed by a main road (at least a collector road and preferably an arterial). Schools, community facilities or other public events should not encroach on the open space site.
QUALITY	Not to be provided on encumbered land.		
SIZE	<p>Size requirements per open space reserve:</p> <p>Sufficient size to accommodate a full-sized playing field and ancillary infrastructure including pavilion, car parking, landscaping and paths (4 to 5 hectares).</p>	<p>Size requirements per open space reserve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A minimum of 10 hectares in size. Sufficient land to accommodate multiple playing fields in one major recreation reserve in addition to support building/pavilion and car park and ancillary space (sufficient to accommodate District-level park facilities) offering pleasant landscape settings for non-sporting, recreation opportunities, dog exercise. 	May vary on a site-by-site basis.

ATTRIBUTE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE			
GENERAL	Generally not provided.	District-level park infrastructure/facilities to be included on the site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The codes/range of sports provided should be based on the Sports Facilities Framework and sports pathways.• The full range of sports including equestrian should be considered for these spaces.• Regional-level park infrastructure/facilities to be included on the site with public access to toilets.• Consistent design in the site’s features including buildings and shelters.
PATHS (PEDESTRIAN/ CYCLING/ SHARED/ EQUESTRIAN)	Paths to be provided.	Perimeter path circuits within the site and trails that link to surrounding off-road trail networks.	
PLAYSPACE	Generally not provided.	Play space to be provided.	
LANDSCAPING			
PLANTING	Ancillary space offering pleasant landscape setting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ancillary space offering pleasant landscape setting.• Contact with nature, environmental qualities to be provided.• Explore opportunities for interesting landscape settings such as use of viewing mounds (which may also substitute for vehicle deterrents).	

ATTRIBUTE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mature trees to be provided where appropriate for spectator amenity, shade and to enhance the visual amenity of the site.	
SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE			
GENERAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ancillary space offering seating and shade and paths.Minimise the visual impact of obtrusive service requirements such as water tanks, power and gas meters.Support facilities for the individual sports to be provided in accordance with SFF standards and commensurate with the level of sporting competition.		
FENCING	To be considered on a site-specific basis.	Oval fencing to be avoided in some instances to increase flexibility of the site (where it does not conflict with the requirements of the sport).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Oval fencing to be avoided in some instances to increase flexibility of the site (where it does not conflict with the requirements of the sport).Fencing to be provided where it is a requirement of the sport or to accommodate higher level competitions and events.
PUBLIC ART	To be considered on a site-specific basis.	Public art to be considered and integrated into the landscape setting of the overall site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">High quality, prominent public art to be provided.Public art to be considered and integrated into the landscape setting of the overall site.
SEATING AND TABLES	Seating to be provided.		

ATTRIBUTE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
SHADE (NATURAL AND CONSTRUCTED)	Shade to be provided.		
TOILETS	May be provided.	Public access to toilets to be considered where the embellishments on site are a sufficient attractor.	
MAINTENANCE			
REGIME	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure a safe playing surface commensurate with the level of competition and frequency of activity.• Pavilions maintained to a safe and functional level.• Ancillary spaces to be maintained to ensure they remain tidy and presentable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure a safe playing surface commensurate with the level of competition and frequency of activity.• Pavilions maintained to a safe and functional level.• Ancillary spaces to be maintained to ensure they remain tidy and presentable.• Maintenance must reflect the role of the sites as community hubs with higher and broader levels of use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure a safe playing surface commensurate with the level of competition and frequency of activity.• Pavilions maintained to a safe and functional level.• Ancillary spaces to be maintained to ensure they remain tidy and presentable.• Maintenance must reflect the premier nature of the site/facilities and subsequent player and spectator visitation to the site.
NOTES			
			Commercial facilities including but not limited to cafés may be considered within the site.

General Design Requirements

The following requirements are to be applied to all open space regardless of function and hierarchy, unless otherwise agreed by Council:

- Incorporate environmentally sustainable design (ESD) principles.
- Incorporate universal design principles.
- Open space is safe, welcoming, engaging and inclusive particularly for women, girls, gender diverse people, indigenous community, multi-cultural community and LGBTQIA+ community.
- Accessible to people with a disability.
- Incorporate age-friendly design principles, and cater to a range of age groups (at least families, children and older adults).
- Incorporate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), and other community safety urban design principles as appropriate.
- Active frontages from local residential houses and nearby built form onto the site to promote passive surveillance of the site.
- Minimise potential for vehicles interacting with shared path users by avoiding driveways crossing over shared paths and by providing setbacks from residential housing to paths.
- Provision for vehicle exclusion measures.
- Treatments (such as fencing and signage) may be applied to improve community safety in relation to inherent features (e.g. body of water in proximity to a playground).
- May include heritage components such as heritage buildings, historic monuments, Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, significant trees, European settlement sites where Council can identify a suitable use for the facility and development contributions funds are provided. These spaces will not be credited as unencumbered open space.
- Preference for open space to be delivered within a single property. Where open space must span multiple properties, the first development proponent must prepare an indicative concept master plan for the entire park to the satisfaction of Council, unless otherwise agreed by Council.
- Must be designed to enable practical, cost-effective and efficient maintenance.
- Paths and trails to be delivered in accordance with Council's Walk and Ride in Casey and Equestrian Strategy standards.
- Landscaping and planting treatments should be suitable to local climate and soil conditions.
- Canopy tree coverage within open space should be a minimum of 30% (excluding areas dedicated to biodiversity or native vegetation conservation).
- Where lighting is to be provided, preference is for solar LED lighting where possible.
- Substation kiosks should be located outside of public open space.
- Telecommunication towers are considered on a case-by-case basis. Development must not impact the location/layout/configuration/usage of any existing infrastructure (temporary disruption as approved by Council may be permitted, with infrastructure reinstated in the same location and to the same condition at the development proponent's cost).
- Open space with a sport function is to be provided in accordance with Council's Sports Facilities Framework standards.

7. Key Pillars

The four key pillars of the Strategy will assist Council in its advocacy and planning to meet the current and future open space needs of its residents and visitors. These key pillars influence the functionality, planning, development, management and promotion of open space for the City.

A Planned City

Enhance the planning of Casey's open space to deliver a connected network of quality open spaces that meet the diverse needs of the community. The creation of a planned City will be underpinned by:

- Open space standards (refer section 6. Open Space Standards) that influence the land development process, open space network and infrastructure provision.
- A Planning Framework (refer Appendix II) that provides key considerations for practitioners seeking to deliver a connected and diverse open space network.
- A Land Acquisition and Disposals framework (refer Appendix III) which provides guidance on key considerations regarding strategic land purchases and disposals to assist in the delivery of a quality connected open space network.

A Green City

Creating a green City will be achieved by enhancing biodiversity, amenity and environmental quality in parks, promoting contact with nature and community pride, responding to climate change and generating greater environmental and health benefits.

A City of Trails

Facilitating physical activity, transport, and a sense of escape through the delivery of a strong regional and local trail network. This network will provide exercise opportunities whilst also connecting people with local destination places such as parks, recreation reserves, shops, educational facilities and public transport.

An Active City

Creating open spaces for the entire community and encourage physical activity within these spaces. The creation of an active City will encourage residents to participate in outdoor recreation and contribute to their health and wellbeing. The development of multipurpose destination parks that cater for all ages, abilities and backgrounds will be a key outcome of this pillar.

Key Pillar 1 – A Planned City



The Planned City key pillar will provide direction and support on planning, design and decision making for open space in the City. In new residential areas the land development process does not always deliver the quality and quantity of open space required to deliver the range of community benefits desired and is able to be maintained in a sustainable manner. There is also increased pressure on public open

space in established residential areas of the City due to further infill residential development.

This pillar seeks to guide Council regarding key issues, such as identifying the appropriate amount of open space, effectively utilising encumbered land for recreation, providing for all open space catchment levels (particularly District and Regional), preserving heritage and ecology and providing open space in non-residential areas.

A key aspect of this approach is a planning framework (see Appendix II) which has been developed to inform the open space decision making process. It outlines the process in which Council can respond to growth and infill development, as well as influence master planning and infrastructure provision within individual open space sites.

In the context of changing residential densities, land development issues and other pressures on open space, the planning framework is a key aspect of the Strategy to ensure fairness, equity and appropriate provision of open space for residents.

The planning framework is supported by the Strategy's standards (refer section 6. Open Space Standards) which provide strategic guidance on infrastructure and maintenance standards for each of the open space functions respective to their hierarchy (i.e. Local, District and Regional). These standards will ensure a coordinated approach is taken to the planning and development of open space, ensuring open space parcels are sized appropriately and include infrastructure which is fit for its intended purpose. These standards will be used to inform developers and Council staff in the master planning and development of open spaces.

The Strategy also includes a Land Acquisitions and Disposals framework (refer Appendix III) which outlines the process for considering land purchases or disposals for open space. This framework will seek to assist Council in delivering a quality network of open space across the City.

Fundamental to this Pillar is engagement with community and partners to guide the vision, planning and service delivery for open space in Casey. This will be supported by Council's Community Engagement Policy, Voice of the Child and deliberative engagement initiatives such as Shape Your City.

Key Pillar 2 – A Green City



The Green City key pillar supports the provision of a greater diversity of experiences and environmental elements in parks and across the open space network. This will contribute to a number of environmental objectives, including supporting biodiversity, mitigating urban heat, providing residents with better access to nature and environmental experiences in open space, enhancing civic pride, neighbourhood character and recreation amenity.

Council's existing environmental plans support the natural environment. There are numerous initiatives which contribute to enhanced environmental amenity for the City, through the provision of street trees to promote visual amenity, establishment of an urban forest to reduce the heat-island effect of urbanisation, provision of shade, provision of natural areas to promote environmental awareness and connection to nature.

The Strategy supports a focus on enhancing people's connection to nature through open spaces, maintaining and enhancing views onto open space and vegetation, supporting greater community engagement with open space, and enhancing the landscape settings of open spaces by providing for natural settings (such as treed parkland and bushland areas).

Key Pillar 3 - A City of Trails



The City of Trails key pillar seeks to provide a network of regional trails across the City, connecting to neighbouring municipalities. Off-road trails provide opportunities for extended forms of physical activity, a sense of escape and promote sustainable transportation in a city which is largely car dependent. Regional trails will be linked with localised trail connections which connect people with local destinations such as schools, shops, recreation reserves, parks and public transport. The Strategy's Open Space Standards also promote the creation of

perimeter park trails and off-road exercise circuits, particularly around waterways, to encourage physical activity.

Research and consultation of Casey's residents identified a significant demand for informal physical activity including walking, running, cycling, horse riding, skating and dog exercise. These activities can be accommodated through the provision of trails (including shared off-road trails and equestrian trails).

The Strategy recognises the importance of creating permeable residential areas through the

planning process to ensure people can easily move around and connect to open space and other desired destinations. This influences the likely participation of residents in active transportation and level of activity in open spaces, and contributes to the health of local communities.

The delivery of A City of Trails will be supported by Council's Walk and Ride in Casey and Equestrian strategies.

Key Pillar 4 - An Active City



An Active City key pillar recognises the importance of open spaces to facilitate physical activity, which is critical to the health and wellbeing of the community. Limited functional open space being provided through the land development process continues to present challenges to cater for the range of open space requirements to meet a large and growing population. This challenge is heightened as residents now have a greater

recognition of the importance of public open space as private backyard sizes continue to reduce in size.

This pillar seeks to maximise the benefits of open spaces to enhance levels of physical activity through a strategic and coordinated approach to planning, designing and management. A key component is the development of spaces to fulfil the role of destination spaces. The Strategy's Open Space Standards provide specific guidance on the appropriate size, distribution and infrastructure provision for sport, destination spaces and local parks. These standards seek to ensure open spaces are fit for purpose.

A key outcome of the Strategy will be the development of multifunctional destination parks that cater for all ages, abilities and backgrounds. These parks will seek to engage and get the community active to improve their health and wellbeing.

The delivery of the Active City priority initiatives will be further guided and supported by key Council strategies including the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Sports Facilities Framework.

An Active City requires open spaces to be activated with programming and promotional initiatives in addition to support infrastructure provision. These initiatives will raise the community's awareness of available recreational opportunities and engage them in spaces through their design and range of facilities provided.

Key Pillars – Priority Initiatives

1. A PLANNED CITY

- a. Strengthen the open space policy provisions within the Local Planning Policy Framework of the Casey Planning Scheme (including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local policies) to support the key recommendations and policy directions of this Strategy.
- b. Utilise the planning framework in structure planning and subdivisions to provide a connected and diverse open space network.
- c. Utilise the Open Space Standards to inform the planning, infrastructure provision and maintenance standards for open spaces, ensuring they are fit for purpose.
- d. Advocate for quality open space outcomes in the planning of new development areas, including ensuring adequate open space is provided and that views onto local parks are maximised.
- e. Address gaps in the open space network through identifying opportunities with schools, and other statutory authorities (subject to land manager approval).
- f. Co-locate public open space with adjacent encumbered land, where the encumbered land is usable and can add value to the overall site for recreation.
- g. Seek to protect unique characteristics of a site or area (such as heritage and cultural significance) where appropriate and recognise/promote these (including but not limited to art, signage, language, social media).
- h. Minimise any loss of public open space and protect existing and future open spaces from encroachment by community buildings or other public functions.
- i. Utilise open space contributions from developers to embellish open spaces and purchase land to meet the needs of the community.
- j. Cash contributions from developers should be taken in lieu of provision of land, under the following circumstances:
 - Where the size of the subdivision does not allow sufficient land to be taken as open space.
 - Where a good range of open space functions are already available (that meet the specified distance thresholds from the development).
 - Where specific embellishments or enhanced quality open spaces are a priority.
 - Where resources are required to contribute to a regional recreational resource that serves the new residential development.

2. A GREEN CITY

- a. Continue to recognise and protect significant environmental open space areas in the City from urban development.
- b. Continue to implement Council's Environment Strategy.
- c. Increase the proportion of parks that have treed parkland or bushland settings to connect residents with nature.
- d. Enhance the tree canopy coverage across the City to respond to risks posed by climate change and to reduce the heat island effect. Canopy tree coverage within open space should be a minimum of 30% (excluding areas dedicated to biodiversity or native vegetation conservation).
- e. Support the retention of mature treed landscapes including Casey's significant trees (as per Council's Significant Tree Register).
- f. Implement a programmed maintenance schedule to enhance the quality of nature reserves throughout the City.
- g. Provide interpretative signage at nature reserves and along selected waterways to educate the community about Aboriginal, environmental values and threatened species.
- h. Diversify landscape settings across Casey's open space network.

3. A CITY OF TRAILS

- a. Develop a regional walking, cycling and riding trail network across the City, linking with neighbouring municipalities, in accordance with Council's Walk and Ride in Casey Strategy.
- b. Ensure consideration is given to potential sea level rises and environmental impacts in the planning of any coastal trails.
- c. Utilise closed roads, transport corridors, waterways and easements to create trail connections. Where required, work in conjunction with other state and local land owners and managers.

- d. Ensure off-road trails, trail circuits and perimeter paths around recreation reserves and parks are provided for (in addition to on-road bike routes) in structure and subdivision planning and existing recreation reserves.
- e. Promote the opportunities and benefits of Casey's open space network.

4. AN ACTIVE CITY

- a. Continue to develop and/or enhance open spaces in line with Council's Sports Facilities Framework, Walk and Ride in Casey, Sports Cycling, Equestrian, Dog Friendly Spaces Policy, Sport and Physical Activity Strategy and other relevant sport and recreation strategies to meet the demand for sport and recreation in the City.
- b. Progress the planning, design and delivery of Clyde Park Sports Precinct (interim name), south of the urban growth boundary.
- c. Advocate for regional park/s and funding to be provided in the City to complement the existing open space network.
- d. Partner with the Department of Education to provide additional sports facilities to meet demand.
- e. Facilitate informal physical activity through the development and/or enhancement of parks as destination spaces, and ensure that these spaces cater for all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds.
- f. Investigate the potential to create District Plus parks in the vicinity of the Western Port coast to serve local residents and visitors.
- g. Develop new and enhance existing parks in line with the Strategy's Open Space Standards, to ensure they cater for different age groups and abilities.
- h. Develop and maintain a number of dedicated dog friendly spaces within parks across the City, in accordance with Council's Dog Friendly Spaces Policy.
- i. Introduce programmed activities in selected parks to increase activation of these spaces.

8. Open Space Delivery

Implementation

The Strategy will be implemented through the following activities:

- Development of an annual implementation plan of strategic initiatives that will influence Council's Capital Works Program, Land Acquisition Register, Public Open Space Contribution Reserves, strategies, policies and master plans.
- Reporting on the achievements and outcomes of the Strategy.
- Utilising the Strategy to guide and influence future planning and advocacy for open space development.
- Review of existing documentation such as precinct structure plans, local area plans and master plans against the Open Space Strategy's Open Space Standards.
- Assess the existing open space network to consider its adequacy in providing for the various open space functions and in delivering upon the Strategy's key pillars and Open Space Standards.
- Review the existing capital works program to consider prioritisation of projects and initiatives and over time develop new capital works submissions for Council's consideration.

Asset Management

Council maintains a variety of open space assets. Guiding documents such as the Asset Plan 2022-2032 and Open Space & Recreation Asset Management Plan 2021 (reference document) provide a blueprint of how these assets will be delivered and managed, and principles underpinning Council's asset management practice.

Implementation of the Strategy should consider a whole of lifecycle approach, to optimise the use of these assets by the community and provision of necessary services for an extended period of time. There should also be a focus on long term sustainability and adaptability to address the effects of climate change on assets.

Future Open Space

In addition to land vested in Council as identified in existing and future Precinct Structure Plans, planning has commenced for several long-term, major open space projects:

- Hampton Park landfill.
- Clyde Park Sports Precinct (interim name; adjacent to future Clyde Regional Park and Graham Road retarding basin, owned and managed by others)
- Regional aquatic and leisure facility in the Clyde urban growth area.
- Various quarry sites.

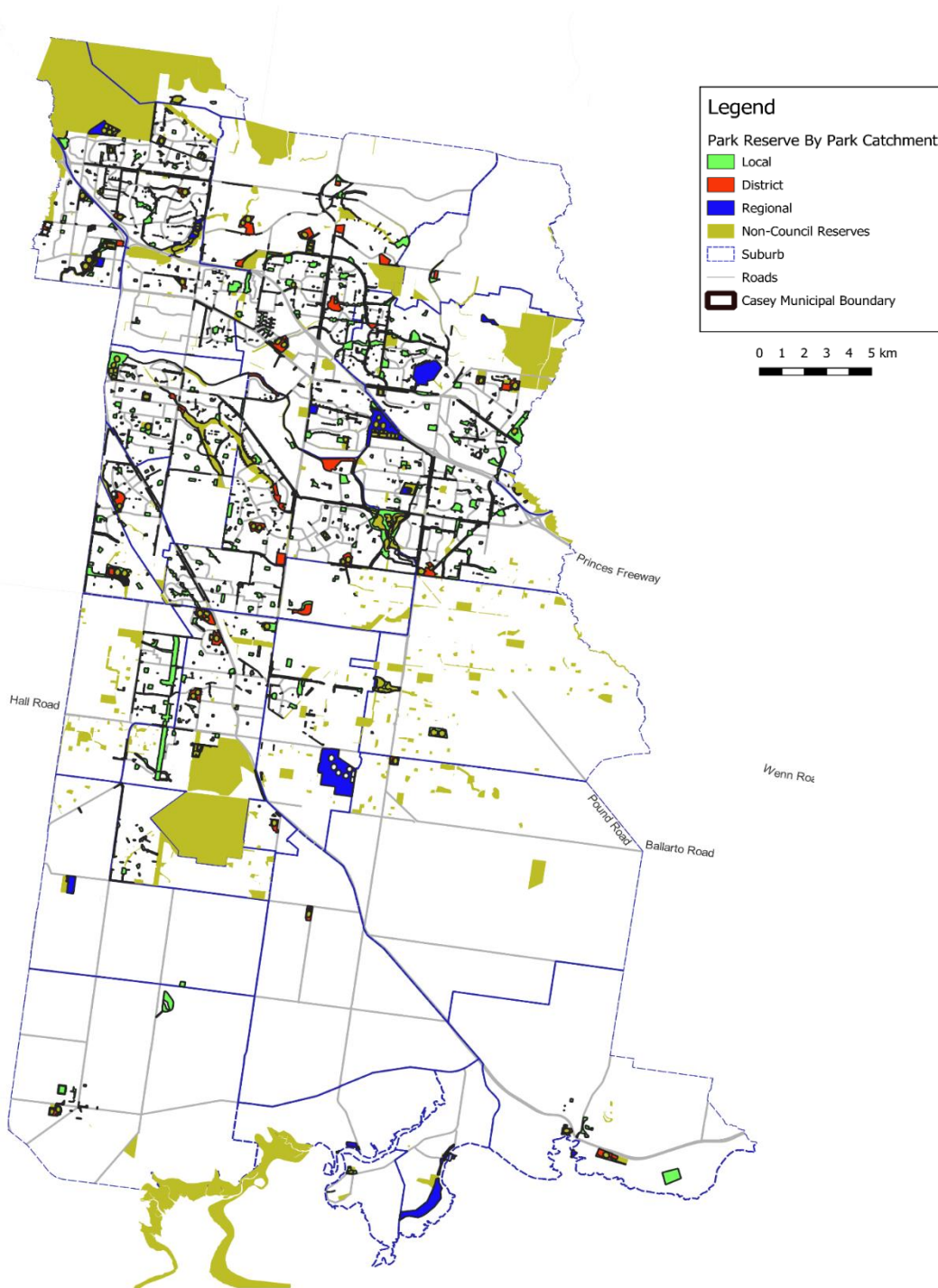
Open Space Contributions

Generally, open space contributions are governed by the Subdivision Act 1988, and Clause 53.01 of the Casey Planning Scheme.

Where contributions are to be provided in the form of land, land must be unencumbered to be considered as creditable open space except where accepted by Council as providing net community benefit. The attributes of the land should be generally in accordance with the Open Space Standards outlined in this Strategy.

9. Open Space Map

This map outlines the City of Casey's existing open space network by its defined catchment. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure timeliness and accuracy, this map may contain inaccurate or incomplete information due to the passage of time, changing circumstances, sources used and the nature of collecting comprehensive geographic data. Furthermore, open space in the growth areas will change ownership once commissioned and formally handed over to Council.



Appendix I – Strategic Connection

The Open Space Strategy complements the objectives of Council's key strategic plans including the Council Plan 2021-25, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-25, and Integrated Strategic Planning Framework, and has linkages with a number of State and Federal Government strategies and policies. These linkages recognise that high quality open space networks contribute to:

- Services for the community, enhancing health and wellbeing.
- Economic benefits by making the City attractive for businesses to establish within the City.
- Responsible planning for the current and future growth of Casey's diverse community and recognition of the importance of cultural and heritage significance.
- The built environment through development of parks, trails, sports grounds and nature reserves.
- Increased physical activity levels of the City's residents, through provision of environments and facilities that support exercise and socialisation to deliver enhanced health and wellbeing outcomes.

Casey's Planning Scheme provides the statutory requirements for open space, supported by other documents (i.e. the *Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines* provide the broader framework for provision of open space in Casey's growth areas). Council continues to work within the context of this broader planning framework in its efforts to provide a quality open space network that will meet the diverse range of needs of its community.

The following list outlines the documents that have influenced the development of Casey's Open Space Strategy.

Council

Council-wide strategies:

- Long-Term Community Vision 2031
- Council Plan 2021-25
- Infrastructure Strategy 2021-25
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-25
- Environment Strategy 2021-25
- Economic Development Strategy 2021-25
- Transformation Strategy 2021-25
- Community Insights and Outputs from Shape Your City
- Climate Action Plan
- Safe and Equal Casey 2022-2032
- Safe in Her City Gender Audit Tool
- Child Safe Policy
- Living and Ageing Well Action Plan 2023-2025
- Community Engagement Policy.

Land use and infrastructure planning:

- Casey Planning Scheme
- Development Plans (various)
- Asset Plan 2022-2032
- Open Space & Recreation Asset Management Plan 2021 (reference document)
- Property Strategy
- Integrated Water Management Plan.

Recreation, Open Space and Leisure:

- Sports Facilities Framework
- Walk and Ride in Casey Strategy
- Aquatic Facilities Strategy
- Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2021-2025
- Dog Friendly Spaces Policy
- Skate Strategy
- Sport Cycling Strategy
- Playground Strategy
- Equestrian Strategy
- Community Gardens Policy.

State

- Plan Melbourne (former Department of Transport and Planning)
- Open Space for Everyone - Open Space Strategy for Metropolitan Melbourne 2021 (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action)
- Precinct Structure Plans (various) (Victorian Planning Authority)
- Cardinia Creek Parklands Regional Directions Plan (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action)
- Land Management Strategy (Parks Victoria)
- Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines (Victorian Planning Authority)
- Fair Access Policy Road Map (Office for Women in Sport and Recreation, Sport and Recreation Victoria, VicHealth)
- Your Ground (CrowdSpot; Monash University's XYX Lab).

National

- Everyone Can Play (NSW Government).

International

- Age Friendly Cities Framework (Outdoor Spaces and Buildings), World Health Organisation.

*some operational strategies excluded from list i.e. Liquor Licensing at Council Recreation Reserves Policy

Appendix II – Open Space Planning Framework

To achieve the Strategy's goals, an open space planning framework has been developed to guide the planning and design of open space.

The planning framework is a four step process that assesses the adequacy of the proposed open space provision to meet the demands for various open space functions. The framework gives consideration to the environmental context where the open space is being considered such as its settlement context, as well as site specific contextual considerations. These processes are used to inform the appropriate size and distribution of spaces to meet the intended vision of ensuring a connected network of quality and diverse open spaces are delivered.

This framework will seek to achieve the following objectives:

1. **Quality** – providing open spaces that are fit for their intended purpose and are designed to meet their designated function.
2. **Equity** – providing a range of spaces across the City to ensure equitable access to and use of open space, as well as service specific needs such as people with disabilities and older people.
3. **Accessibility** – providing the priority types of open space needed in different settlements within a specified catchment distance.
4. **Diversity** – varying the function, catchment and landscape setting of the open space network to provide a diversity of experiences and settings.
5. **Connectivity** – providing linkages across the open space network to connect people with places and destinations.

The planning framework will be a key tool for Council staff to inform their planning of open space and to advise developers on Casey's requirements for its open spaces. It will also provide the State Government and the development sector with greater direction and certainty on open space provision and design in the City of Casey.

The planning framework includes a four-step process for practitioners that prompt consideration of the context in which the open space is being planned, the needs of the people that will be living and visiting the local area and the opportunities available to enhance the quality of the open space network. These considerations seek to ensure the open space is of a sufficient quantity and is fit for its intended purpose.

Application of the framework will determine the quantum, size, layout, distribution and design of open spaces. This useful tool will apply to established and growth areas and can be applied to broader precinct structure planning processes or individual open space considerations.

Open space planning framework steps

1. **Settlement Type:** Consider the settlement type of the area i.e. urban or rural.
2. **Supply/Demand Assessment:** Consider the open space supply and demands for the area and any opportunities to provide complementary open spaces from other sources which may include school sites, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, utility or private

land.

3. **Open Space Network:** Determine the layout, distribution, function and hierarchy of open spaces for the area investigated.
4. **Site Context:** Consider the context in which the site is situated to influence the location, dimensions and design of a particular open space parcel. Context may include a town centre, waterway, utility easement, existence of heritage, topography, community hub or school.

Step 1 – Settlement Type

The table below outlines settlement types and implications for open space planning within these settlement areas. Consideration should also be given to the broader environment in which these spaces exist. This may include the existing conditions of the area including vegetation, cultural heritage, hydrology and geotechnical information. For example, a park within the foothills will have a considerably different context to one in the urban area, including different population densities, access to private open space (i.e. backyards), existence of environmental and landscape features.

Settlement type assessment guide

SETTLEMENT TYPE	DESCRIPTION AND ASSUMPTIONS	OPEN SPACE DISTRIBUTION AND PROVISION GUIDANCE
Suburban	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing in these areas is generally limited to two storeys and has some form of private open space (e.g. Doveton, Eumemmerring, Endeavour Hills, Narre Warren South, Hampton Park, Lynbrook, Lyndhurst, Cranbourne, Hallam, Berwick). Residents will have access to at least a small area of private open space. For both suburban and mixed use/medium-high density areas, there may be limited opportunities for food production, trees, space for pets and physical activities and social gathering at home and there may be limited access to incidental landscape amenity or immediate contact with nature. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to distribute key open space types within cycling and walking distances across the network based on distance thresholds in the Open Space Standards. Look at co-locating opportunities for sport to be provided at school sites. Local parks and destination spaces can also be co-located with sports facilities and provided adjacent to employment areas and hospitals. Indoor recreation facilities may be incorporated into nearby activity centres to provide localised opportunities for residents to participate in sport.

SETTLEMENT TYPE	DESCRIPTION AND ASSUMPTIONS	OPEN SPACE DISTRIBUTION AND PROVISION GUIDANCE
Mixed use/ medium-high density	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas that typically do not have any, or very limited, private open space. These areas are often multistorey and may be located in activity areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of accessible public open space nearby mixed use or higher density residential housing is critical to provide opportunities for residents in these areas that may have limited or no private open space. • The size of the open space should reflect the high population living in the area and to minimize the potential for conflicts between users and disturbance to residents.
Rural (including foothills, coastal areas/bays, low density/rural living/rural hamlets, and farm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents have access to private open space for physical and social activity, food production/ gardening, and can accommodate pets and recreational vehicles, at home. • Residential dwellings are low density and hence are impacted less by urban sights and sounds. Privacy and solar access are high. • Residents are likely to have high landscape amenity and considerable access to nature and restorative values though incidental open space, on their property or in their surrounds. • Coastal Areas: will generally have good access to water-based recreation, and beaches or foreshore for walking or relaxation. They also include expansive conservation areas. However parts of these areas may have limited access to destination parks, due to constraints on public land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In coastal areas, the foothills and farm land, public open space would be primarily reserved for local parks, destination spaces or sport functions in or near the local community hub. • Conservation-based open space including regional parks which provide for biodiversity and habitat may be also located in rural or coastal areas. • Accessway/trail open space should be provided along the foreshore (with adequate buffers between conservation sites) and to the nearest community hub. • Rural areas may accommodate sports that encompass considerable noise or require large tracts of land such as shooting, motor sports, mountain biking, orienteering, golf and equestrian.

SETTLEMENT TYPE	DESCRIPTION AND ASSUMPTIONS	OPEN SPACE DISTRIBUTION AND PROVISION GUIDANCE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foothills: include large residential blocks of one hectare or greater (rather than working farms) where access is likely to large areas of incidental open space and/or the natural environment (e.g. Junction Village, Narre Warren North, Harkaway, Pearcedale). • Residents may have access to considerable private open space, and therefore opportunities for food production/gardening, physical activity and space for pets, as well as incidental space in their surrounds that enhances landscape amenity. • Farm land: people living in rural or farming areas including agricultural areas, typically serviced by public open space only at the nearest village, community service hub or urban area (e.g. Devon Meadows, Pearcedale). 	

Step 2 – Supply/Demand Assessment

Determining the appropriate provision of open space from a development proposal requires an assessment of the proposed supply and analysing this against the demands of the area to meet the needs of the population for each of the open space functions. Council's technical documents (such as the Sports Facilities Framework and Walk and Ride in Casey Strategy) may be used as a guide to determine the demand.

An analysis of other opportunities should also be undertaken to consider available land for open space at school sites or land owned or managed by Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, other public authorities (i.e. power/gas) and/or private land. These spaces may complement Council's provision and add value to the overall network of open space. Where these opportunities exist, Council may seek agreement or partner with these organisations/agencies to ensure access, provide infrastructure or determine appropriate maintenance arrangements.

Council may also consider the broader context of open space provision such as larger open space land parcels located in adjacent municipalities to determine its impact on open space provision within Casey.

The State Government's Metropolitan Open Space Strategy has an objective to identify

opportunities for new open space and connections as well as making better use of the existing network. The supply of open space in the City of Casey is also guided by the Casey Planning Scheme, Victorian Planning Authority Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines (for growth areas), local development plans or through the *Subdivision Act 1988*. These documents will also contribute to the future provision of open space within the City.

Step 3 – Open Space Network

Open space planning requires consideration of the City's overall network of open spaces, including linkages, gaps and functions to ensure an equitable distribution. This broader network planning can then be used to inform localised open space network planning which may occur during structure plan and subdivision processes. Considerations for local open space network planning include:

- The distribution of spaces within the development area.
- Proposed linkages in the network and how access can be facilitated/enhanced through the location or trails.
- Linkages to the broader open space network and the complementary elements/destination places.
- The size and catchment of open spaces as well as where particular functions of open space should be located.

The Strategy's Open Space Standards define a hierarchy of open spaces across each of the four functions. This hierarchy is based on the catchment of the spaces (i.e. Local, District or Regional) and the appropriate infrastructure and maintenance levels for each. The catchment is based on the sphere of influence of the open space as defined by where the users will originate from and how long they may utilise/stay at the open space. The size, scale and proximity of the open space to nearby populations will influence the catchment.

The selection of functions for the Council owned individual open spaces will be determined by Council's Recreation and Open Space Planning team.

Step 4 – Site Context

The site context is used by planners and designers to consider the surrounding context in which the open space sits, and any opportunities that this may provide. For example, planning a local park within close proximity to a town centre may influence its infrastructure and design as opportunities such as nearby cafés, toilets, car parking and higher concentration of populations may exist. Surrounding site features provide an opportunity to add to the strengths of the nearby character through the design of the park.

The completion of step four will provide direction regarding the appropriate provision and design of the open space. This process may culminate in the preparation of a site matrix, which can be used to confirm the size and design elements of the open space network.

Appendix III - Land Acquisitions and Disposals

To assist in the delivery of an appropriate distribution of quality open space throughout the City, Council may consider acquiring and disposing of selected land parcels.

Open Space Land Acquisitions

Council can acquire land to add to or fill gaps in the open space network to create additional recreation opportunities for the community. Land purchases may be identified through technical strategies or master plans, or determined by Council to meet a specific need in the community.

Land purchases follow a statutory process as defined in the *Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986*. Land can be purchased through a negotiation process with the property owner or through compulsory acquisition.

Council's process for purchasing land includes the following steps:

1. Strategic identification of land required to meet a need in the community.
2. Preliminary determination of the cost of land acquisition and identification of available budget.
3. Report to Council to gain support for the proposal.
4. Inclusion of the land parcel in Council's Property Services Land Acquisition Register and subsequent listing in Council's capital works program for the endorsement of Council.
5. Purchase of land parcel through either negotiated or compulsory acquisition process. If compulsorily acquiring the land, this requires an amendment to the Planning Scheme to apply a Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO) to the land.

Open Space Land Disposals

Council may elect to dispose of open space land parcels where they are deemed to be surplus to Council's needs and have limited benefit to the community if retained. Factors that influence the consideration of benefit of an open space parcel may include:

- The location and proximity to populations.
- Ease of access.
- Size.
- Site characteristics and constraints (topography).
- Suitability for use.

The disposal of land is an important consideration as there is a limited supply of existing open space to fulfil the needs of the community. Clause 19 of the Casey Planning Scheme states for the overall network of open space within the City to be protected and that where there is a reduction in open space, it should be offset through the replacement of parkland of equal or greater size and quality (i.e. no net loss). Whilst not specified in the Planning Scheme, replacement parkland should service the same location and catchment.

The process to dispose of land may include (but is not limited to):

1. Strategic identification of land deemed to be surplus to Council's needs. This may include specific identification of the area/land in a strategy or plan.
2. Preliminary determination of the cost of land disposal (i.e. Windfall Gains Tax).
3. Report to Council to gain support for the disposal.
4. Inclusion of the land parcel in relevant Council register/s.
5. If disposing of land, this may require rezoning of the land and/or an amendment to the Planning Scheme.
6. Consider the need for replacement land if required.

Section 20(2) of the *Subdivision Act 1988* states that Council must use any proceeds from the sale of public open space to:

- (a) Buy land for use for public recreation or public resort, as parklands or for similar purposes; or
- (b) Improve land already set aside, zoned or reserved (by the Council, the Crown, a planning scheme or otherwise) for use for public recreation or public resort, as parklands or for similar purposes; or
- (c) With the approval of the Minister administering the Local Government Act 2020, improve land (whether set aside on a plan or not) used for public recreation or public resort, as parklands or for similar purposes.
- (d) Public open space can be used for municipal purposes in accordance with the planning scheme, or sold only if the Council has provided for replacement public open space.

Case Study

Council has previously attempted to dispose of the land at 78-92I Heatherton Road Endeavour Hills. The land sale was contested at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). VCAT advised that the sale of land could not proceed at that point as the sale had not been identified in an endorsed Council strategy.

The Property in question is considered to have limited recreation value and is considered appropriate for sale on the basis of the following factors:

- The location and proximity to populations.
- The site is located adjacent to Heatherton Road in Endeavour Hills and is not central to the local population which it is intended to service.
- Ease of access.
- N/A.
- Size.
- N/A.
- Site characteristics and constraints (topography).
- The land has a considerable slope which makes it difficult to utilise for numerous recreation functions.
- The slope of land provides considerable access challenges for people with disabilities, older adults and young children.
- Suitability for use.
- The site has very limited existing infrastructure at present to accommodate any recreational/social activity.
- Other

- There are nearby parks and reserves which provide considerably greater recreational benefit to the local community, such as Singleton Reserve, James Alexander Reserve and Sydney Parkinson Reserve. These spaces are generally linked by a local recreational path network.
- Council has prepared a master plan for the Endeavour Hills Town Centre which proposes staged upgrades to the town centre including upgrades to the recreation infrastructure and establishment of new community facilities. The proposed upgrades to the Town Centre will enhance the precinct as a focal point for the local community and complement existing recreation and community facilities (such as the Leisure Centre and Library). Funds generated from the sale of the property could be utilised to contribute to the implementation of the Town Centre Master Plan.

These factors demonstrate that the topography of the site makes it difficult to utilise and provide easy access to any proposed facilities. There are a number of alternative open space options which better serve the needs of the community. Any funds derived from a sale of land could be utilised to provide recreational benefits for the Endeavour Hills area through investment in the implementation of the Endeavour Hills Town Centre project.

Appendix IV – Strategy Background and Research

The Strategy has been informed by considerable research and analysis. The research was current at the time of development, however may now be superseded.

The research phase for the development of the Open Space Strategy highlighted the myriad of social, mental, physical, environmental and economic benefits that open space can provide, as listed in the table below:

Open Space Benefits

PHYSICAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing children with an opportunity to play and learn.• Providing opportunities for physical exercise.
SOCIAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing affordable places for social gatherings.
ENVIRONMENTAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conserving biodiversity.• Connecting us with the natural world.• Enhancing neighbourhood character.• Contributing significantly to a sense of civic pride in a place.• Mitigating urban heat.
MENTAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offering restorative qualities and thereby reducing stress and improving a sense of wellbeing.• Providing pleasant places to be outdoors.
ECONOMIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offering economic benefits (e.g. increased property values, employment opportunities, tourism development and the support of major industries such as sport, personal fitness, and landscape products and services).

Considerable research and consultation occurred as part of the development of the Strategy, including:

- Community and stakeholder consultation (telephone and mail out surveys and workshops with community and key stakeholders).
- Assessment of the impact of population growth projections and residential settlement patterns.
- A locality analysis of open space distribution and condition.
- An open space demand assessment across the City and by local area.
- Community and stakeholder feedback on the issues paper.

This research highlighted, despite the well documented benefits of open space, there are a number of significant challenges to be considered in the development of Casey's open space network, as outlined below:

Open Space Challenges

These elements were considered in the formulation of the Strategy's key pillars which underpin the directions and actions of the Strategy.

ENVIRONMENTAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change and impacts such as sea level rises, particularly in the coastal townships. • Continued urban development impacting on the perception of available open space and the urban heat island effect on the City. • Challenges in providing appropriate natural environments for Casey's habitat particularly within the growth areas. • Challenges in meeting biodiversity objectives such as tree canopy coverage across the City to mitigate the heat island effect.
URBAN DEVELOPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth and development of Casey's population impacting on the demand for open space and specific interests. • Urbanisation of the City and shrinking of private household space, raising the importance of public spaces for improved health and liveability (i.e. incidental exercise, social gathering, relaxation and exercising pets). • Increasing residential densities and less access to nature, placing greater emphasis on the importance of open space. • Increasing residential densities in the growth areas which are not being matched with commensurate increases in open space. • The preference of many property developers to provide more smaller sized open space parcels within the residential development area rather than large parcels. Larger parks are considered to provide more functional benefit to local communities and can accommodate a broader range of infrastructure which promotes longer usage periods.
PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PROVISION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing cost of land to set aside for parks and sporting reserves. • The continued increase in demand for community sport and physical activity, driving demand for additional sports facilities to be provided. • Significant challenges in providing a diversity of sporting facilities for the community as land provided through the growth area development process is limited to a small number of sports. • The increasing demand for a broader range of community services and activities (i.e. Men's Sheds, scout halls, community gardens, community facilities etc.) and the desire to locate these on open space land. • Increasing value placed on open space by residents, contributing numerous social, economic and environmental benefits to the City.
PLANNING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contested environment that is in place for the planning of open space in new growth areas. • A need for strategic direction on the appropriate infrastructure provision within various open space types. • Need for a fair and equitable distribution of open space through the City to service all residents.