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C97**OPEN SPACE****Overview**

Open space contributes significantly to the character of Hobsons Bay. It is a key contributor to the City's character and plays a significant role in distinguishing and defining its image. Open space can also play an important role in easing the impact of urbanisation. It enhances quality of life and encourages physical activity. As the population grows and housing density increases, private backyards are diminishing in size, leading to a more important role for public open spaces in community life. Having regard to the combination of typical physical barriers to pedestrian movement, the distances people are prepared to walk and what open space is nearby, some areas of the municipality are under supplied with local open space to meet residential leisure needs. People need parks to be accessible and offer a variety of quality experiences.

Objective 1

To provide adequate open space and continue to develop a variety of open spaces to provide for a range of experiences and leisure opportunities that are accessible for all people.

Strategies

- Provide open space generally in accordance with the following:
 - Local parks.
 - Sports grounds.
 - Regional parks.
- Protect and enhance the Hobsons Bay Coastal Park as the main park in the municipality which contains the Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail and provides the primary connections to waterways running to the coast.
- Protect and enhance the waterways parks which are the next most significant element of the open space system in terms of area and function to provide connections from northern areas in the municipality and from the Federation Trail to the coast.
- Protect and enhance the remaining 200 large and small parks dotted throughout residential areas including the five major non-coastal parks used mainly for sport, being Comben Reserve (on Skeleton Creek), Laverton Park (on Laverton Creek), Grant Reserve (on Cherry Creek and Lake), Paisley Park (on Paisley Drain) and Newport Lakes.
- Establish linear parks along Skeleton, Stony, Kororoit and Laverton Creeks, as well as drainage and other corridors to provide opportunities for cycling and walking and to enhance the environmental appeal of the municipality.
- Provide appropriate open space in each neighbourhood to serve a range of age and interest groups and provide a diversity of opportunities.
- Ensure effective open space assessments are undertaken in the process of changing uses, assessing development and subdivision proposals and the potential rationalisation of open space in the municipality.
- Allocate and spend the open space funds collected under the Subdivision Act in accordance with:
 - The open space needs of incoming residents.

- Opportunities for new facilities in existing adjacent or nearby open space.
- Opportunities to link with existing open space.
- Improving the usability and quality of open space.
- Provide open space in areas identified as having a deficiency, through shared use of facilities, identifying opportunities for new parks, enlarging existing parks and providing linkages to other open space areas.
- Enhance accessibility and useability of the trail network through development, safety, and linkages to other public uses and residential areas.
- Encourage landowners to set aside privately owned land along watercourses for public open space.
- Ensure the provision of appropriate open space to support new communities.
- Protect the cultural features of open space and where appropriate provide interpretation.

Objective 2

To enhance the quality of diverse leisure opportunities available in the open space system throughout the municipality.

Strategies

- Develop a range of active and passive open space throughout the municipality based on needs.
- Provide facilities to encourage greater usage by people of all age groups and abilities.
- Provide playground equipment in highly accessible locations for people with disabilities.

Objective 3

To develop the Kororoit Creek corridor as a major focus for recreation and community activities.

Strategies

- Create a continuous shared trail along the creek by completing gaps in the Kororoit Creek Trail.
- Improve connections between existing open spaces, community facilities and the creek.
- Protect landscapes which are representative of the Kororoit Creek corridor.
- Facilitate the provision of boardwalks to manage pedestrian and bicycle access to protect the salt marsh areas of the Altona Coastal Park.
- Discourage visible car parks within sight from the Altona Coastal Park and locate new infrastructure to the edges of the creek corridor or on adjacent access roads to maintain the landscape character of the Altona Coastal Park.

Implementation

These strategies will be implemented by:

Policy Guidance (criteria for the exercise of discretion)

- Use local policy at Clause 22.01 to ensure new development in heritage areas responds positively to special features such as views, vistas, significant vegetation and landmarks and enhances the historic cultural landscape character found in a street or precinct.
- Use local policy at Clause 22.11 to ensure that signs do not detract from the character of a locality or site.

Application of zones and overlays

- Apply the Public Park and Recreation Zone to public recreation facilities and areas of public open space.
- Apply a Heritage Overlay over places and precincts of identified heritage significance.
- Apply the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay and the Special Building Overlay to land identified as being flood prone.
- Apply the Environmental Significance Overlay along the Kororoit Creek corridor to facilitate recreational use and access and to enhance its environmental and landscape values.

Further Work

- Provide co-ordinated development of facilities by preparing master plans for significant open space areas.
- Review the Open Space Plan 2005.
- Develop a Play Space Strategy for the municipality.
- Undertake a Sports and Recreation Strategy to provide Council with a sound basis and direction from which it can plan, co-ordinate and make future decisions with regard to recreation and open space in a manner which best meets the community's needs.

Reference Documents

Kororoit Creek Regional Strategy 2005-2030

Hobsons Bay City Council Kororoit Creek Masterplan 2006

Point Gellibrand Park Coastal Heritage Park Master Plan (Revised 2003)

Williamstown Foreshore Strategic Plan 2010

Sustainable Tourism Strategy 2006-2012

Rehabilitation and Management Plan Sandy Point and Greenwich Bay Foreshore Newport 1998

Hobsons Bay Landscape Design Guidelines, 1999

Hobsons Bay Industrial Development Design Guidelines June 2008

Map 2

Open Space

