

21.11 OPEN SPACE

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21.11-1 Overview

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Kingston is host to a great diversity of open space areas, which perform a range of recreational, tourism, environmental, ecological and educational functions.

Significant natural open space areas include Braeside Park, the Edithvale Seaford wetlands, and the Grange Reserve, which are managed and protected for their remnant woodlands, flora and fauna habitats, indigenous vegetation, and wetland areas. Whilst the tourism and educational experiences derived from these environments do contribute to community enjoyment of open spaces within Kingston, the protection of their intrinsic natural attributes should take precedence over the competing demands of recreational users.

The ability of our open space areas to meet the changing leisure and recreational needs of our population is becoming an increasingly important issue. Future changes in Kingston's population are likely to have significant implications for the provision of community infrastructure and services, including the location and type of recreation and open space facilities required by future populations.

21.11-2 Key issues

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- Impact of changes in population on the recreation and open space needs of current and future populations.
- Need for flexible, multi-functional open space areas which are able to be adapted to meet a variety of users as well as changes in demand and needs over time.
- Greater consideration of physical access issues required to ensure accessibility to open space areas.
- Need to balance the competing demands of recreation users with management of environmentally sensitive areas.
- Opportunities for the creation of a major north-south spine of regional open space through Sandbelt Open Space Strategy.

21.11-3 Objectives, strategies and implementation

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Objective 1

To provide fair and equitable access to a range of high quality open space areas located within Kingston's urban and non urban environments which aim to optimise community enjoyment of open space.

Strategies

Strategies to achieve this objective include:

- Promote the development of open space linkages including bicycle/pedestrian trails to connect residential, commercial and industrial areas to existing open space, recreational facilities and local and regional trail networks.
- Encourage the location of active open space facilities and in conjunction with schools, community centres and other activity centres to provide a focus for social interaction.
- Ensure that new development adjacent to existing public open space is responsive to the natural landscape features of the open space area.
- Ensure that the design and siting of open space maximises community safety and accessibility and provides opportunities for surveillance.
- Ensure that proposed open space areas (including open space contributions) are of appropriate size, shape, slope, drainage and vegetation to suit their proposed end use, and are not significantly affected by flooding or other natural environmental processes.

- Prevent any net reduction in public open space except where the quality of remaining open space is increased so as to be more useable. .

Objective 2

To promote a diverse range of social and recreational opportunities which provide for the changing leisure needs of the municipality's current and future populations.

Strategies

Strategies to achieve this objective include:

- Ensure that the location and development of existing and proposed open space:
 - Is appropriate to the current and projected recreational needs of the residential catchment it is intended to serve.
 - Fulfils an identified user need.
 - Is able to cater for a variety of lifecycle needs.
 - Enhances the existing mix of regional, district, local and neighbourhood level recreational facilities.
 - Has regard to the City of Kingston Open Space Strategy 2012.
- Encourage the development of 'multi-use' open space facilities to maximise flexibility in facility use and to assist in reducing development and operational costs of facilities.
- Maximise opportunities for co-location of appropriate community and cultural facilities with open space.
- Ensure that priority is given to open space acquisitions and location of new recreational facilities in areas of under-provision.
- Support the significant regional tourism/recreational role of golf courses in Kingston.

Objective 3

To protect significant natural landscapes and open space areas with an identified environmental significance from degradation as a result of community recreational demands.

Strategies

Strategies to achieve this objective include:

- Enhance the environmental value of open space areas by promoting the creation of flora and fauna habitats, open space links, planting of indigenous vegetation and improvements to water quality.
- Ensure that the use and development of environmentally significant open space areas is consistent with environmental management objectives and gives precedence to the protection of natural attributes over other forms of land use.
- Require high standards of open space design which respond to the natural, social, cultural and historic identity of areas.
- Ensure that future use and development of all open space areas seeks to:
 - Achieve high quality urban design outcomes compatible with the scale of the surrounding landscape.
 - Minimise the impact on natural eco-systems.
 - Maximise community enjoyment of the open space.

Objective 4

To promote the creation of a major regional north-south spine of open space within a predominantly non urban context.

Strategies

Strategies to achieve this objective include:

- Support regional initiatives to implement the Sandbelt Open Space Strategy through the acquisition of land by Parks Victoria.
- Support opportunities for the progressive remediation and redevelopment of disused landfill sites and other disturbed land in the non urban area for open space. Priority will be given to rehabilitation of those sites which form part of the designated core parkland areas on the Sandbelt Open Space Development Plan.
- Encourage the accommodation of compatible large scale recreational activities which are not generally catered for in local open space within and adjacent to the core parkland areas (ie: equestrian activities, outdoor adventure pursuits, etc).
- Preserve open space landscapes and vistas between urban and non urban areas.

Objective 5

To require appropriate and equitable public open space contributions at the time of subdivision.

Strategies

- Accept and use public open contributions (whether by financial payment or vesting of land) in accordance with the policy at Clause 22.19 of the Scheme.
- Require public open space contributions (whether by financial payment or vesting of land) for residential and commercial subdivision pursuant to Clause 52.01 of the Scheme.
- Require public open space contributions above the rate specified in the Schedule to Clause 52.01 for Strategic Redevelopment Sites where a higher contribution is warranted based on criteria set out at Clause 22.19 of the Scheme.

Implementation

These strategies will be implemented by:

Policy and exercise of discretion

- Using local policy to ensure the appropriate public open space contributions are made to Council when land is subdivided (*Public Open Space Contributions, Clause 22.19*).
- Using local policy to ensure that appropriate land is provided by all non-exempt residential, mixed use, commercial and industrial subdivisions in areas where land contributions are preferred (*Public Open Space Contributions, Clause 22.19*).
- Using local policy to realise opportunities for the conversion of redundant extraction and landfill sites for open space and the development of complementary open space networks within the non urban area (*Sandbelt Open Space Project Policy, Clause 22.03*).
- Using local policy to promote development in the non urban area which is compatible with the Sandbelt Open Space concept (*Sandbelt Open Space Project Policy, Clause 22.03*).

Zones and overlays

- Applying the Public Park and Recreation Zone to all major public open space areas.
- Applying the Public Conservation and Resource Zone to significant areas of remnant vegetation at the Grange Heathland Reserve, Rowan Woodland, Bradshaw Park, Caruana Woodland, Mordialloc Creek Reserve.
- Applying the Public Acquisition Overlay to land identified as core parkland within the Sandbelt Open Space Development Plan.

- Applying the Special Use Zone (schedule 1) to all golf courses to facilitate their appropriate use and development where either:
 - An appropriate combination of the other available zones, overlays and local policies could not give effect to the desired objectives or requirements; or
 - The site adjoins more than one zone and the strategic intent of the site, if it was to be redeveloped, is not known and it is therefore not possible to determine which zone is appropriate.

Future strategic work

- Preparation of a landscape masterplan for the Beauty Spot, Carrum, to enhance its significance as a gateway location and foreshore open space.

Other actions

Developing masterplans for all major open space reserves.

City of Kingston Open Space Framework Plan

