



Brimbank
City Council



Creating Better Parks Policy and Plan

November 2022 DRAFT

Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong Country

Acknowledgement of Country

Council respectfully acknowledges and recognises the Wurundjeri and Bunurong Peoples as the Traditional Owners of this land and waterways.

For the Traditional Owners, the lands in the City of Brimbank have always been a significant trading and meeting place.

Council honours elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom have ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices and pays respect to emerging leaders.

Council also acknowledges local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents of Brimbank and their Elders for their ongoing contribution to the diverse culture of our community.

The recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage and in particular, local Traditional Owners is critical to achieving meaningful reconciliation efforts. This includes a greater acceptance of historical injustices experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as well as recognising the ongoing contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait people and communities to culture and society.

There are two Aboriginal Groups who have cultural ties to Brimbank; the Wurundjeri and Bunurong who are the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP) for part of Brimbank the two main language groups, the Woiwurrung (Wurundjeri) and Boonwurrung (Bunurong Land Council). These groups are unique and have their own history, culture and role in Aboriginal heritage.



"The Five Elements" by Mandi Barton and Lee-Anne Clarke, Sunvale Community Park, Sunshine. Source: Emma Cross



Contents

Contents	1
Executive Summary	2
Glossary of Terms	3
Introduction	4
What We Have Heard	13
Vision and Goals	21
Guiding Principles	22
Challenges and Future Objectives	23
The Open Space Framework	39
Design and Development Guidelines	60
Implementation Framework	70
Distribution Analysis	84
Open Space and Playground Network	98
Appendix	120
Reference	123

Executive Summary

Council first adopted Creating Better Parks Policy & Plan (CBP) in 2008 with a subsequent update in 2016. This third iteration of CBP continues Council's commitment to caring for the open space network and the health and wellbeing of the community through investment in green infrastructure and parks facilities. The various places within the Brimbank network now support nature, people, liveability and the resilience of this municipality.

This 14 year commitment has resulted in 136 park upgrades with around \$44M invested. This investment over time has resulted in the community being well connected to parks physically and mentally. This commitment has also been recognised with nine industry awards from the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, Parks & Leisure Australia, Planning Institute of Australia and the International Association of Horticultural Producers.

The importance of this investment around community resilience became very clear during the COVID-19 restrictions where parks (and streets) became the places where people connected, exercised and sought relief from the impacts of the pandemic.

Brimbank's open space network provided critical support for the community during the COVID-19 pandemic offering local opportunities for outdoor recreation, exercise and social interaction, at a safe distance. This tough period has strengthened the relationship between the community and their local open spaces and further highlighted the need for all public space to be adaptable, resilient and people focused in order to support local community through difficult times.

The community told Council in a 2021 survey that their park experience had changed during COVID-19 restrictions, with a number of written responses highlighting how open space had supported their mental and physical health and provided them access to nature. One person wrote:

“I use parks a LOT more. I rely on the open space and beautiful surrounds to reinvigorate me.”

Through transforming the park network, Council initially sought to create destinations and a variety of experiences based on a hierarchical network. This network has now been refined through an analysis of open space typologies and various functions to ensure parks provide accessible active places that are green and that provide important mitigation from heatwaves that are likely to increase in severity in to this climate change century.

This version of CBP, subject to future budgets, will see the functions of the open space increase in diversity, be more equitable and in sense mature so that park facilities support the needs of the community. Ten Guiding Principles have been established that underpin CBP and have been developed to create a framework that guides decision making in managing Brimbank's open space network while aligning with Council's, Together We are Brimbank Plan Strategic Directions for:

Places and Spaces - Liveable and connected neighbourhoods that support healthy and sustainable futures.

Glossary of Terms

CBP	Creating Better Parks (Policy and Plan)
FP	Flagship Park
SP	Suburban Park
NP	Neighborhood Park
LP	Local Park
SUP	Shared User Path
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
BATSICC	Brimbank and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee
WSUD	Water Sensitive Urban Design



Introduction

Purpose of this policy

Creating Better Parks Open Space Policy and Plan provides a framework for the provision of parks, playgrounds and reserves to meet the needs of the community as well as to create an attractive, integrated, accessible and comprehensive open space network.

This revision of Creating Better Parks (CBP) seeks to;

- Guide Council in the embellishment of open space reflecting current community needs identified through recent community consultation;
- Guide community expectations around what Council will deliver in relation to open space planning, design and maintenance,
- Provide guidance on Brimbank's open space needs/ priorities to inform Council's capital works projects over the next four to six years;
- Forecast financial investment required to sustain a high quality open space network;
- Establish levels of service for the maintenance and renewal of open space; and
- Ensure that both the public and private sector property developers are informed of Council expectation in creating functional, high quality, and enjoyable open space by providing high-level design guidance for the design and management of parks.

Why a revision is important

Brimbank City Council adopted the CBP in 2008 as a vision and blueprint for transforming the existing park network. CPB provided a framework for upgrading low amenity reserves to a well-managed network of high quality open space. It focused on improving the quality of open spaces, equitable distribution of

spaces and improving active transport links to open spaces. Since implementation of CPB, Brimbank's open space network now provides the community with greater opportunities to exercise, play, relax and interact with their community.

Since 2008, 136 parks have been upgraded or newly created to the standards of quality as outlined in the CBP. Council is now nearing the end of the 'improvement' phase of the CPB where the focus was on improving low quality parks, and moving into a 'renewal' phase where the quality of parks must be maintained.

As part of this revision Council is also taking stock of what exists through distribution analysis of various functions, investigating accessibility gaps in the network and formalising processes to ensure ongoing equitable and sustainable management of our open spaces.

Regular revisions of the CBP ensure that the values of the policy reflect the needs of the community and align with contemporary challenges. There has been one revision in 2016 since the policy was adopted in 2008.

Ensuring equitable access of quality open space to all members of the community regardless of their age, gender, income, cultural background, ability or where they live is a key focus of this policy revision. As such, the revision also seeks to better reflect the principles of the Victorian Charter of Human Rights.

Commencement of the 'Renewal Phase'

The next four to six years of CBP delivery will focus on upgrades to the remaining existing parks yet to be upgraded in alignment with the policy. It will also enter into a 'renewal phase' of existing CBP aligned Flagship and Suburban Park sites. The renewal phase will be an ongoing requirement of CBP as previously upgraded parks will have been operational for 15 years or more and some of their assets, particularly playground assets, are nearing the end of their useful life cycle.

Creating Better Parks 2022 revision process



Policy context

The revision of CBP is guided by the Council Plan, *Together We are Brimbank* 2021-2025, the Victorian Government's Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 and Open Space Strategy for Metropolitan Melbourne 2021.

The strong commitment in Council's Plan to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for the community informs this policy review and recognises that physical and mental health is significantly impacted by environmental or living conditions in which a person is born, grows, lives, works, plays and ages in.

Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 identifies the need to strengthen the city's open space network to ensure that all Melbourne residents receive the social, health and wellbeing benefits of well-planned, designed

and managed open space. Its key principles influence how Brimbank develops its open space network with regard for the wider regional context. They include:

- Environmental resilience and sustainability
- Social and economic participation
- Strong and healthy communities
- Leadership and partnership

The table below illustrates how the revision of CBP is guided by a wide range of other Council Policies, Plans and Strategies.

Creating Better Parks Policy Context

Plan Melbourne 2017-2050

Open Space Strategy for Metropolitan Melbourne 2021

City of Brimbank Planning Scheme	Together We Are Brimbank, Council Plan 2021-2025
Brimbank Policies, Plans and Strategies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycling and Walking Strategy 2016 • Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy 2018-2023 • Reconciliation Action Plan 2019-2021 • Public Art Policy and Plan 2018-2023 • Community Engagement Policy 2021 • Climate Emergency Plan 2020-2025 • Cultural Strategy 2018-2022 • Safe and Inclusive Brimbank 2020 - 2024 • Mental Wellbeing Plan 2022-2024 • Experience Brimbank 2018-2023 • Festivals and Events Policy and Strategy 2022-2025 • Brimbank Social Justice Charter 2018 • Community Services and Infrastructure Plan 2018-2038 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat Connectivity Plan 2018 • Biodiversity Strategy 2018 • Youth Strategy 2020-2024 • Draft Disability Action Plan 2022 • Sustainable Water Management Strategy 2013-2023 • Physical Activity Strategy • Urban Forest Strategy 2016-2046 • Brimbank Tree Policy 2021 • Public Toilet Strategy 2018-2030 • Creating Streets for People Policy 2022 • Age Friendly City Plan 2018 - 2022 • Sports and Facilities Development Plan (2018) • Brimbank Settlement Action Plan 2019-23

Community Infrastructure and Open Space Gaps Analysis

As an addendum to the revision of CBP, Council is undertaking further analysis that will focus on future open space provisioning requirements for the entire municipality up until 2050, as well as future community infrastructure needs for the Sunshine

National Employment and Innovation Cluster (NEIC). This analysis will be based upon population and demographic forecasts and assist Council justify the inclusion of additional open space across the municipality up to year 2050. The Gaps Analysis will also provide guidance on the locational attributes and potential site selection for future open space within Brimbank.



Achievements to date

CBP has successfully guided the delivery of a resilient, attractive and diverse open space network in Brimbank. This network has been built on the principles of creating spaces which support community health and wellbeing, environmental sustainability and fostering play, development and socialisation.

By the end of 2021/2022 financial year Council has invested around \$44 million and upgraded 136 parks. This includes upgrades to:

- 6 Flagship Parks;
- 27 Suburban Parks;
- 91 Neighbourhood Parks, and
- 12 Local Parks

The transformation that CBP has achieved has been recognised with 10 industry awards from the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, Parks & Leisure Australia, Planning Institute of Australia and Keep Australia Beautiful. This includes Sunvale Community Park in Sunshine being nominated as a finalist in the 2022 inaugural AIPH World Green City Awards 2022 in the category of: Living Green for Health and Wellbeing, with two other global nominations.

The delivery of CBP has been recognised by the following industry awards:

- 2009** CBP won a Planning Award from the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, Victorian chapter;
- 2010** CBP won a Design Award for Ardeer Community Park & Playground at the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, Victorian chapter;
- 2014** CBP won an Award of Excellence for Play Space Award - Category B, for Alice's Playspace from Parks & Leisure Australia, Victorian Chapter;
- 2015** CBP won a Victorian Planning Excellence Award in the Category, From Plan to Place from Planning Institute of Australia, Victorian Chapter;
- 2016** CBP won a National Planning Excellence Award Commendation in the Category, From Plan to Place from Planning Institute of Australia;
- 2020** Sunvale Community Park won an Award of Excellence in the Park and Open Space category from the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, Victorian chapter;
- 2020** Sunvale Community Park won a National Landscape Architecture Award in the Park and Open Space category from the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects;
- 2020** Sunvale Community Park won an Award of Excellence in the Park of The Year category from Parks & Leisure Australia, Victorian chapter.
- 2022** Sunvale Community Park a finalist in the 'Living Green for Health and Well-being Category' for the inaugural AIPH World Green City Awards



What is open space?

Open space includes publically owned land within the urban environment, set aside for public use, providing outdoor recreation, leisure, environmental benefits and visual amenity. The Brimbank open space network includes, parks, gardens, reserves and waterway corridors. While conservation areas, schools with Community Joint Use Agreements (CJUA) and sporting reserves are incorporated into the open space network, and are significant contribution to it, they are guided by different strategies and policies. Collectively, these different types of open space provide a range of experiences and opportunities across the municipality.

Why is open space important?

Having access to quality open space has far reaching benefits and plays a significant role in urban life. Well designed and managed open space contributes to the physical and mental health of residents, creates better connected communities, makes a significant contribution to the character of neighbourhoods and helps protect natural environments and cultural heritage.

As the Brimbank community grows, open space will play an active role in providing respite from a denser urban environment. It is important that Council plan, design and upgrade in a way that ensures that our open space network will support future generations and the liveability of this municipality. Open space is important for the Brimbank community, for wide range of reasons, including;

Social connection and community pride

Quality open space builds on localised community sense of belonging by providing place for social gatherings, interaction with the broader community, engaging in sport and participating in community events. When communities are involved in the planning and design processes of open space and parks, they better reflect local community needs and priorities. This supports social capital, fosters community pride and perceptions of safety.

Health and wellbeing

Health and wellbeing is affected by the built and natural environment. Our open space network plays an important role in shaping the lived experience of local residents. It is widely recognised that a community's interaction with quality green space can have physical, psychological and overall health benefits.

Supports biodiversity

Healthy biodiversity in our environment is essential to supporting the health and well-being of current and future generations and plays an important role in reducing the impacts of climate change. Our open space network is critical to providing a diversity of plant species and habitat to support ecological resilience and sustainable landscape practices that ensures Council are conserving and improving our local biodiversity.

Natural and cultural heritage

Our open space network includes both Aboriginal and European cultural heritage which are of significance to the community.

Natural heritage of our landscape is intrinsically tied to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage that existed prior to European settlement. Protecting natural heritage in our open space network ensures that Council are respecting and acknowledging the living cultures of Traditional Owners within Brimbank.

Strengthens inclusion

The existence of open space reflects shared community and social values, as a public asset, used by all members of society. Creating welcoming and inclusive parks; provide safer places and comfort for everyone regardless of age, gender, sexuality, cultural background and ability is important to achieving better health outcomes for all residents. When people feel safe they have a greater ability to participate in community life and are able to freely access open space.

Climate change resilience

In June 2019 Brimbank Council declared a climate emergency acknowledging that urgent action is required to minimise the impacts of climatic disasters to the community. Open space plays a vital role in helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change through greening and cooling.

Brimbank's existing open space network

Brimbank City Council is one of the largest municipalities in metropolitan Melbourne, located 20 kilometres to the west and north-west of the CBD. It is made up of 25 new and established suburbs, extending from Sunshine in the south to Taylors Lakes in the North.

Brimbank lies within the Victorian Volcanic Plains (VVP) Bioregion. Prior to European settlement it was covered in highly productive grasslands, wetlands,



Green Gully Reserve Playground, Keilor Downs. Source: Proludic

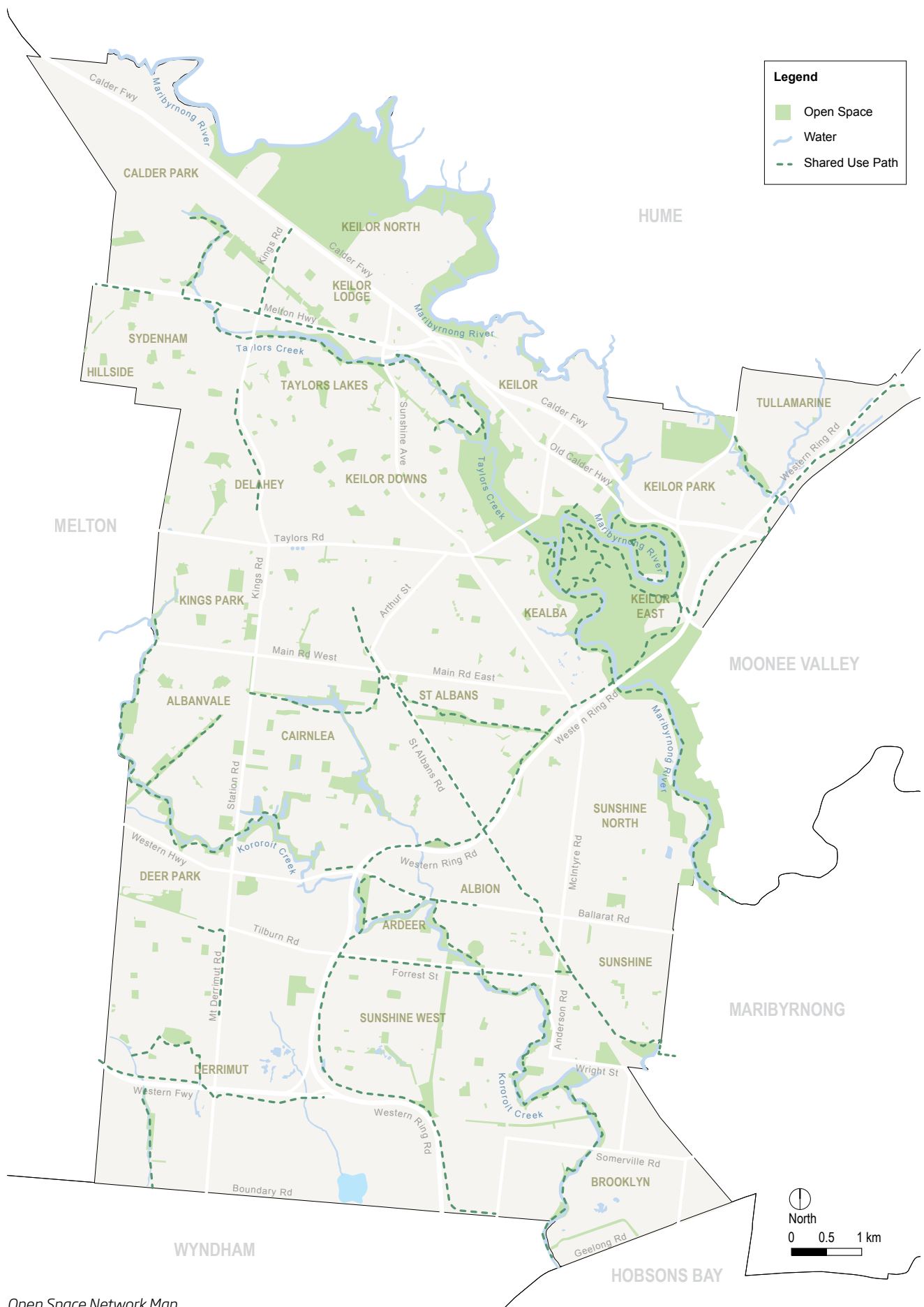
and woodlands. Although a large amount of the natural landscape in Brimbank has been modified and disturbed, the municipality still retains critical patches of remnant native grasslands which provide an important habitat for a range of flora and fauna. Grasslands in Brimbank are some of the most depleted bioregions in Australia, are listed as critically endangered and are protected under State and Federal legislation.

Council manages a large open space network, encompassing a total area of 1,204 hectares – the equivalent of 12 square kilometres. The network includes 157 parks with playgrounds, 2 heritage and memorial gardens and 10 enclosed dog off leash parks, which in combination with 110 local parks, several kilometres of linear easements and waterway reserves provide diverse experiences, active play, passive open space, access to nature and visual amenity.

The following table outlines the coverage and types of open space per ward:

Brimbank Wards					
Open Space	Taylors	Horseshoe Bend	Grasslands	Harvester	Total
Area (HA) ward	32,546,254	25,104,083	22,960,770	42,809,349	123,420,458
Area (HA) open space	278	481	226	218	1204
Heritage and Memorial Park	0	0	0	2	2
Flagship Park	1	2	2	2	7
Suburban Park	9	6	7	9	31
Neighbourhood Park	28	25	34	30	117
Local Park	46	23	28	13	110
Linear Reserves	various	various	various	various	N/A
Waterway reserves	Maribyrnong River, Taylors Creek and Kororoit Creek	Maribyrnong River and Steel Creek	Kororoit Creek and Jones Creek	Kororoit Creek, Upper Stony Creek and Jones Creek	6
Nature Reserves	(Sydenham Park - under development)	(Brimbank Park - Managed by Parks Victoria)			2

Park and Reserve Inventory



Open Space Network Map

Who are our parks for?

In 2021, Brimbank's Estimated Resident Population was 196,712. 0.4% of the population identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. Almost half of Brimbank residents were born overseas. 57.3% of residents speak a language other than English at home, compared with 34.1% in Greater Melbourne. The main languages spoken, other than English, include Vietnamese, Filipino/Tagalog, Greek, Punjabi, Arabic, Macedonian and Maltese. 13.6% of residents reported speaking another language and English not well or not at all, compared with 5.4% in Greater Melbourne. A higher number of women in Brimbank speak another language and speak English not well or not at all. (Brimbank Community Profile, .id (informed decisions), 2022)

Brimbank is home to a range of families and households, though couples with children continue to be the most significant household type. Brimbank has a higher percentage of one parent families (14.6%) than Greater Melbourne (10.2%). These lone parents are statistically more likely to be women. Between 2016 and 2021, there was an increase in household

types of lone persons (+1,723) and couples without children (+956). (Brimbank Community Profile, .id (informed decisions), 2022).

Currently children and young people between the ages of 0-17 make up 21.5% of the population. Empty nesters and retirees (60-69), seniors (70 to 84) and Elderly (85 and over) make up 22.1% of the population and are forecast to significantly increase in comparison with other age groups over the next fifteen years. (Brimbank Population Forecast, .id (informed decisions), 2022).

In 2021, 7.7% of people in Brimbank reported a need for assistance with core activities - which was significantly higher compared with Greater Melbourne (5.5%). A higher proportion of women (54.5%) reported requiring assistance than males (45.5%). The number of people requiring assistance is likely to increase as the population ages.

The design, management and activation of our parks should consider the particular needs of our diverse community at different life stages.



Civic Green Opening Event. Source: Nico Keenan

What We Have Heard

There are many reasons why local residents value and use open space in Brimbank, including for physical and mental wellbeing as well as feeling a sense of place and building a community identity.

To better understand the use and value of Brimbank's open space network Council held an online survey in 2021 on Council's Your Say page and received 120 online survey responses. Council also asked survey questions to a youth and gender diverse local online focus group that informed the Gender Impact Assessment of CBP, with eight participants present. The results of both engagement events are detailed below. Due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements and lock downs, no in-person engagement was possible.

Your Say survey

From this engagement, Council sought to understand the following:

- The importance of parks during COVID-19 pandemic
- What local residents currently enjoy about parks and what they would like to see in parks
- What were the important issues in relation to Brimbank's open space network
- How Council can better support the experience of diverse and in some instances vulnerable demographics in open spaces, including women, girls and gender diverse people, people with disabilities, people of diverse cultural backgrounds and varying age groups, and
- Ways to improve recognition and acknowledgement of First Nations living culture in the open space network

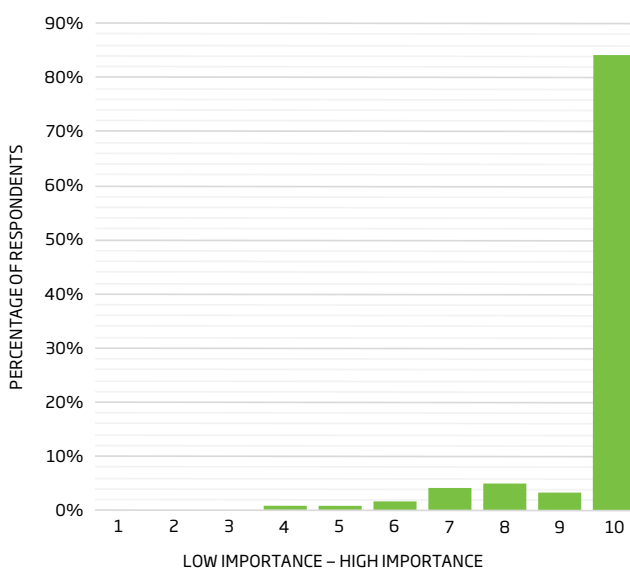


Consultation Event: Source Jorge de Araujo

Key questions and responses are summarised below;

The importance of parks for local community during the COVID-19 pandemic

How important were parks to you during COVID-19 restrictions?



How important were parks to you during COVID-19 restrictions?

With lockdowns in 2020 and 2021, open spaces were a place of respite that enabled local residents to leave their homes to exercise and connect with nature as well as experience social connection at a safe distance. Survey respondents reported an increase in frequency of visits during lockdown periods. 78% of respondents visited local parks more than twice a week during lockdowns, whereas outside of lockdown only 53% of respondents reported visiting parks this frequently.

71% of respondents agreed that their park experience had changed during COVID-19 restrictions, with a number of written responses highlighting how open space had supported their mental and physical health, allowed them access to nature and enabled social interactions at a safe distance.

In highlighting this change respondents told us that:

“The park is the only place to go so we go more frequently. Also find the river and trees are helpful to bring calm and perspective in difficult times”

“It is an open-air opportunity for both kids and adults to have an outlet to unwind and to maintain mental and physical health”

Understanding how the open space network has supported the community during the COVID-19 pandemic can guide future service delivery for parks to ensure they continue supporting the community in times of crisis, change and disruption.



Name your favourite park in Brimbank

Survey respondents identified their favourite parks in Brimbank. The top 10 listed open spaces include the following in order of popularity;

1. Brimbank Park
2. Taylors Lakes Linear Reserve
3. Selwyn Park
4. Buckingham Reserve
5. Green Gully Reserve
6. Sunvale Community Park
7. Cliff Harvey Lagoon Reserve
8. Kororoit Creek Trail
9. Ardeer Community Park
10. Matthews Hill Reserve

The timing of Council's community engagement for CBP with COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns and resulting park facility restrictions including the closure of playgrounds, may have influenced respondents to favour use of passive open spaces.

Commonly cited reasons for the selection of survey respondents favourite parks included;

- Being close to nature and biodiversity, wildlife, water and natural heritage
- Walking tracks and bike paths

“We use it much more frequently. Important place to see people we know from the community”

What local residents enjoy doing in parks

Residents seek a range of experiences in parks; the following table demonstrates the top 10 things that local residents enjoy about parks. The top three activities that local residents enjoyed doing in parks were socialising/ picnics, playing on equipment and walking.

Top 5 activities enjoyed doing in parks



Socialising/picnics

51 Responses



**Playing on equipment –
swings, climbing**

51 Responses



Walking

49 Responses



**Cycling/scooting
on paths**

34 Responses



**Observing or interaction
with flora and fauna**

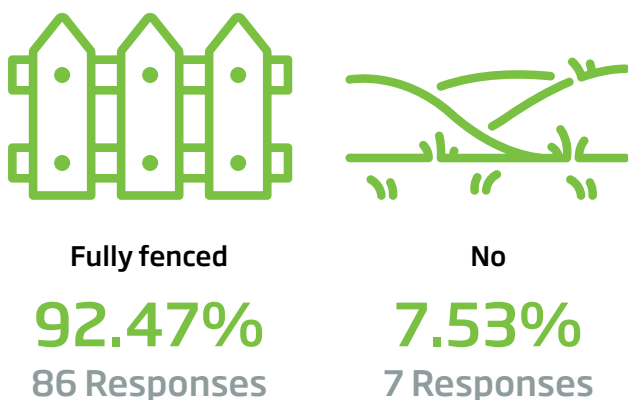
33 Responses

List all the things you or your family enjoy doing in the park(s)

Which type of dog off leash-park would you prefer to visit?

92% of survey respondents preferred to visit enclosed Dog Off-leash Parks. Enclosed Dog Off-leash Parks were favoured because they ensure a higher level of safety for both animals, including wildlife and dogs as well as dog owners and other park visitors.

Which type of dog off-leash Park would you prefer to visit?

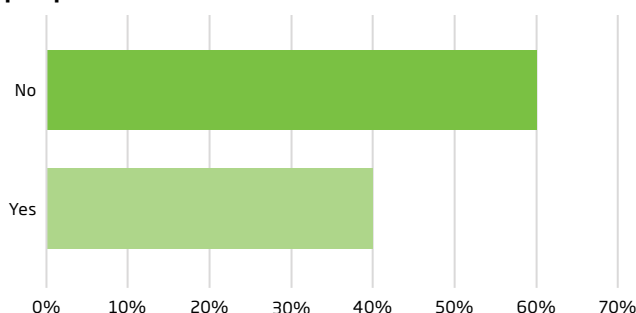


Which type of dog off leash-park would you prefer to visit?

Do you believe Brimbank parks currently cater for people of all-abilities?

Only 40% of respondents agreed that Brimbank parks catered to people of all abilities. The most commonly cited reason for believing that parks did not cater to all abilities was that play equipment and exercise equipment was seen as prioritising able bodied young people and that there was a need for greater variety in facilities and activities. Other key reasons included issues of accessibility with regard for infrastructure such as path width, surfacing and ramps, lack of maintenance and prioritisation of larger park facility upgrades over smaller local parks that were closer to home.

Do you believe Brimbank parks currently cater for people of all abilities?

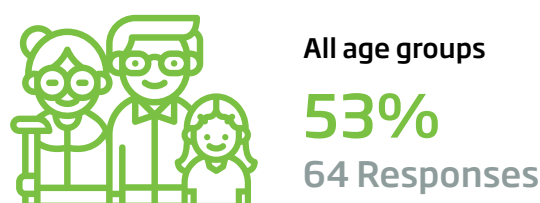


Do you believe Brimbank parks currently cater for people of all abilities?

Which age group do you believe Brimbank parks cater for mostly?

For 53% of respondents Brimbank's parks, catered for all ages. However when identifying a specific age group, only 0.83% of respondents believed that parks catered for people between the age of 12-22 compared with 32% for 5-12 years and 14% for Under 5 years of age. The response identifies a community perception of a lack of facilities available for youth.

What age group do you believe Brimbank parks cater for mostly?



12-22 years old

1%
1 Response



5-12 years old

32%
38 Responses



Under 5 years old

14%
17 Responses

Which age group do you believe Brimbank parks cater for mostly?

How do you think Brimbank parks could have more expression of culture and acknowledgement of Traditional Owners of the land?

Community suggestions included:

- Consulting with Traditional Owners of the land in open space projects, including consultation during the design phase to incorporate cultural representation,
- Providing park signage that recognises traditional owners and their languages used,
- Providing interpretive signage about indigenous knowledge and history, such as the aboriginal seasonal calendar uses of native vegetation names and uses, site history, etc.,
- Hosting of events celebrating First Nations heritage and culture - Inviting Elders to speak, perform smoking ceremonies, cooking classes, site tours and storytelling for children,
- Hosting an annual celebration of NAIDOC week as a 'day in the park' to celebrate First Nations culture,
- Recognising significant landscapes such as the Kororoit Creek and Maribyrnong River through signage,
- First Nations Artwork, sculptures and murals,
- Working with First Nations people, drawing on their knowledge and expertise to help look after our environment,
- Incorporate First Nations design into park elements, including integrated and engaging play e.g. - a brick wall with an outline of traditional art and kids could colour with chalk,
- Rename parks according indigenous lore, and
- Re-vegetation of open spaces with indigenous native species

Can you suggest improvements to parks that would make them more appealing and inclusive for people from culturally diverse backgrounds?

The most commonly cited suggestions for considering the needs of people from different cultural backgrounds in park improvements included:

- Improved signage and the inclusion of signage in different languages
- More sheltered areas and seating for social and family gatherings; including places to eat and cook
- Greater recognition and acknowledgement of Traditional Owners
- Variety of play areas that reflect cultural diversity: selection of equipment and games e.g. chess tables, bocce
- Culture focused community events
- Landscaping/ planting that is inclusive of other countries and community gardens, and
- Public art that is made by and reflects the diversity of the Brimbank community.

“I use parks a LOT more. I rely on the open space and beautiful surrounds to reinvigorate me”

Other opportunities for improvement

Themes that were regularly cited across the questionnaire that aren't covered in the topics above include the following;



Signage

- Better signage in parks to improve useability of open space



More shaded seating and play areas



Walkability and access to parks with good amenity



Landscaping considerations

- Inclusion of native vegetation, such as grasses to improve local biodiversity
- Shade Trees



The provision of youth oriented spaces



More spaces for social gatherings

- Picnic facilities including, BBQ, seating, tables, shelter



Maintenance considerations to improve community pride and safety when visiting local parks

- Need for better waste management in parks, including more bins, waste removal and educational signage that demonstrates the relationship between keeping our parks rubbish free to protect local wild life and waterways.
- Old and outdated play equipment- the need for playground upgrades/ renewals
- Keeping parks clean was also seen as important for respecting cultural heritage and natural habitats

Youth and Gender Participation and Engagement Webinar

In 2021, Council hosted a focus group with eight local young people between the ages of 14-25 years old, who identify as women, gender diverse or trans-men. The engagement focused on current use and experience of parks as well as seeking suggestions for future park development.

For participants parks were not only associated with nature, wildlife and shade but also spaces that provoked a sense of freedom. For respondents parks were used for a broad range of reasons including, exercise, gatherings, socialising, leisure, shelter and also when feeling lonely, in times of crisis, or having no place to live.

Main concerns and requests highlighted by participants in relation to parks have been categorised into the themes of safety, accessibility, participation and diversity;

Safety

- Lighting, not limited to proximity to streets
- Safety through the use of passive surveillance and also CCTV cameras
- Participation
- Facilities that would support learning new hobbies, for example, skating
- Informing and educating the public on native flora and fauna of the area
- Spaces should be family friendly as much as possible in order to make all users feel safer.

Accessibility

- More bathrooms and drink taps, more BBQs
- Facilities that would allow longer stay in parks such as seating, shelter and public toilets
- Providing lockers for young people to store belonging while they use the space
- Providing paid phones, and community boards with help line information, particularly as young people use these spaces when in crises

Diversity

- Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners of the land, both in the form of art work produced by First Nations people and also signage

Vision and Goals

Vision statement

Creating Better Parks will help to foster a sense of place, cultural knowledge, support liveability, wellbeing and climate resilience.

Goals

Equitable distribution of high amenity open space

Protected and enhanced local biodiversity health

Create accessible, inclusive facilities where communities can connect

Parks as a regional asset

Sustainable management, that ensures quality open space

Support positive community health and well-being outcomes

A climate adaptive open space network that supports urban liveability



Green Gully, Sculpture. Source: Proludic

Guiding principles

The following principles underpin CBP and have been developed to create a framework that guides decision making in managing Brimbank's open space network.

Health and Wellbeing	High quality open space is critical to the health and well-being of Brimbank residents. The open space network will provide opportunities for active and passive recreation, social interaction, connection with nature and cool spaces for respite during heatwaves.
Gender Equality	Planning and the design of open space will work to address barriers to women and gender diverse people's participation in open space.
Diverse and Inclusive	<p>Open space will be inclusive places where people feel safe, welcome, and respected and are able to participate in public life regardless of their age, ability, gender, sexuality and cultural background.</p> <p>A range of open space typologies and facilities that are locally relevant will support diversity of use, function and amenity across the municipality.</p> <p>Open space will reflect our diverse stories and histories that contribute to a local sense of place and civic pride.</p>
Participation	Open space brings people together and helps build resilient communities. Local community needs will guide the design, upgrades and functions of open space.
Climate Change Resilience	Open space will play a critical role in mitigating and adapting to rising temperatures and extreme weather events, cooling the urban environment and contributing to community heat wave health.
Biodiversity	A connected open space network will protect and support habitat and biodiversity connectivity in urban areas.
Safe, Accessible and Connected	<p>Open space will be accessible places for everyone.</p> <p>The design of parks will be guided by CPTED principles (crime prevention through environmental design) to create safer places for all.</p> <p>A connected open space network will provide safe, accessible and convenient connections between open space and home, and support active travel to activity centres, neighbourhoods and regional destinations.</p>
Equitable Distribution	The distribution of higher order park typologies and facilities will consider both equity and connectivity.
Quality Open Space	Open space will be designed, planned and managed to respond to contemporary challenges, environmental conditions, changing and emerging community needs and economic considerations and will remain viable in the long term.
Awareness and Promotion	Local community will be well informed of the diverse facilities and amenity that the open space network has to offer. Community events and festivals will be supported in higher order parks and will encourage greater diversity of use and support social cohesion.

Challenges and Future Objectives

The following challenges and objectives will guide the evolution of Brimbank's park network and have been driven by consultation and further informed through research. The outlined objectives are aligned to the Guiding Principles. Objectives respond to localised needs and have been considered in the context of the contemporary challenges and opportunities of amenity and facility provision within open space.

Strategies and Actions have been developed to deliver the objectives and the three terms are defined below;

- **Objectives** are outcomes Council want to achieve that align with the Guiding Principles
- **Strategies** are measurable approaches Council will take to achieve the objectives identified.
- **Actions** are the acts Council commit to, to enact change. Council have set time frames associated with Actions, which are outlined in the chapter *Implementation*.

COVID-19

Prolonged periods of isolation, restricted activity and limited social connection as a result of COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the mental health and well-being of many Brimbank residents. More than ever, local residents have appreciated the importance of having accessible open space, providing much needed respite.

Throughout the pandemic Council witnessed an increase in community reliance and use of open space. Open space has helped maintain community morale and stay physically and mentally strong through a very tough period.

Learning from the community's experience of how they valued and used open space during the pandemic can guide future service delivery for parks, be it design or maintenance to ensure that local parks continue supporting the community in times of crisis, change and disruption.



Basketball at The Lakes Reserve, Taylors Lakes. Source: Emma Cross

Community health and wellbeing

Quality open space can support active living and improve mental and physical health and wellbeing for all residents helping to prevent chronic illness such as heart disease and diabetes and depression. Increased access to open space improves opportunities for active and passive recreation. Parks that are easily accessible and multifunctional offer a range of benefits:

- Physical fitness through outdoor fitness equipment and other informal sports facilities such as circuit paths and multi-purpose courts
- Places to exercise dogs and that promote responsible dog ownership
- Places that support social connection through gathering and feeling part of a broader community
- Space for inclusive activities regardless of age, gender and ability
- Places the community feel safe to access
- Relaxing and unwinding in green space with high biodiversity supports positive mental health and deeper connections with the natural landscape.
- Broad canopy cover in open space cools the environment and contributes to improved heatwave health outcomes.

CBP will help guide the delivery of high quality open space in each neighbourhood so that local communities have good access to a diversity of spaces and facilities.

Objectives

- 0.1** Support increased physical activity in the community.
- 0.2** Support community mental health and wellbeing.
- 0.3** Create cooler parks through increased canopy cover to support community health through heatwaves.

Strategies

- S.1** Deliver a diversity of exercise facilities in Brimbank's open space network, such as circuit paths and multi-purpose courts as way to encourage exercise within the community.
- S.2** A more integrated path network connected to local open spaces that improves walkability and cycling across residential areas.
- S.3** Improve SUP network and supporting facilities connecting the park and street network to linear, waterway and nature reserves to increase the community's access to nature.
- S.4** Enhance biodiversity in our park network that supports mental health and well-being through access to nature.
- S.5** Improve heat wave health outcomes through greening and cooling measures.

Actions

- A.1** Undertake an audit of existing physical activity facilities within Brimbank to identify and resolve gaps in community access, and confirm quality, and suitability of facilities.
- A.2** Undertake an analysis of each suburb's Physical Activity Facilities to identify what types of facilities are located and where. Use this information to guide the provision of new physical activity facilities that increase diversity of types and support use by various members of the community.
- A.3** Review and update Cycling and Walking Strategy (2016) to assess opportunities to improve local connectivity to Brimbank's nature reserves, waterways and linear reserves which important access to nature.
- A.4** Continue to provide park amenity and foster events in open spaces that support social interaction and community participation, such as picnic and park facilities, bench seats and circuit paths.
- A.5** Where appropriate, increase tree canopy cover in parks, to ensure that there is at least 50% coverage.

Gender equality

For women, girls and gender-diverse people perceptions of safety and inclusiveness in local Brimbank parks are not homogenous and consequently they do not experience parks in the same way. While these experiences are shaped by an individual's identity, history and lived experience, this group is united through their shared experience of gender inequality.

Gender equality is a human right and prevents gender-based violence. The principles of gender equality are based on the idea that everyone has a right to the city and its open space.

Evidence shows that women are more likely to feel unsafe in public space compared with men and that women feel as though public space is often not designed them in mind (WHE, 2020). Experiences of exclusion or feeling unwelcome and unsafe reduce opportunities for women and gender diverse people to exercise, socialise and relax in public space that are afforded to men. Having the ability to access and occupy space safely can positively impact on social, mental and physical health.



Kororoit Creek Shared Use Path, Albion. Source: Mahin Shirazi

Safety is key to gender sensitive design in open space as perceptions of safety are intrinsically linked to use and participation. Research demonstrates that women and girls are more likely to engage in informal activities as opposed to recreational sports. The review of CBP has made recommendations to improve access, safety and functionality of public space for women, girls and gender diverse people through the consideration design and development processes that support gender equality in the open space network. Recognising lived experience of diverse communities of women and gender diverse people will be critical in this approach.

Objectives

- O.4** Improve gender equality outcomes in parks and open space.
- O.5** Improve access, safety and functionality of public open space for women, girls and gender diverse people.

Strategies

- S.6** Incorporate gender considerations into open space policy and open space design and delivery.
- S.7** Consider a variety of active recreation to support participation and accessibility.

Actions

- A.6** Develop Gender Sensitive Design Principles that are evidence informed and founded in lived experience to drive future policy and delivery.
- A.7** Undertake a 'diversity and inclusion' assessment as part of all capital works upgrades which will incorporate gender considerations in the delivery of open space projects.
- A.8** When consulting on open space projects, ask targeted questions to best understand experiences of accessibility, safety and functionality of spaces for girls, women and gender diverse people and incorporate feedback into the design.

Diverse and inclusive

Inclusive parks are places where everyone feels safe, welcome and able to participate in public life, regardless of their gender, age, sexuality, race, cultural background, socioeconomic status and ability. Improving inclusive outcomes in our park network helps to ensure that the benefits of green space are shared equitably throughout the community.

Consultation and survey results demonstrate that the community value the importance of achieving more inclusive outcomes for our open space network. It is important that Council acknowledges diverse cultural community experiences and use of open space and that this is included in practical spatial outcomes. In doing so, open space can offer greater opportunity for residents to gather with their community in a safe and welcoming environment as well as connect with the broader Brimbank community. Parks that better reflect cultural, physical and social diversity help to improve community perceptions of safety, social cohesion and can support higher use. The provision of a diverse range of facilities in Brimbank's higher order park typologies will better reflect the diversity of the community.

Open space and parks are well suited to reflect Brimbank's acknowledgement and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander living culture and ongoing connection to land and water within our urban fabric. Increasing awareness of Aboriginal places and reaffirming the traditional links with the land within Brimbank provides greater opportunity for broader community awareness, reflection and understanding.

Engagement regarding how parks and playgrounds are planned, designed and managed should seek to reach diverse groups of the community including but not limited to; young people, people living with disability, LGBTIQIA+ community, CALD communities, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to help shape spaces that are more accessible, inclusive and welcoming for the whole community. Additionally, understanding why people may not use space is equally important and will support and inform Council in increasing participation and use of parks for underrepresented groups.

In order for our parks and playgrounds to be inclusive, the design, development and upgrades must take into consideration the types of amenities such as signage, seating, shade and shelter, parking (bicycle and car), accessible toilets and inclusive play spaces that are provided and can be used by anyone.

Objectives

- 0.6** Provide open spaces that are welcoming and inclusive to the community.
- 0.7** Provide universally accessible play and recreation facilities in parks.
- 0.8** Improve cultural safety in open space.
- 0.9** Provide diversity in open space facilities that support all age groups, including children, young people, and the elderly.
- 0.10** Recognise and acknowledge First Nations living culture and ongoing connection to land and water in open space.
- 0.11** Diversify scope and provision of youth oriented spaces to welcome and support young people in open space.

Strategies

- S.8** Consider diverse community needs when upgrading, designing and developing open spaces.
- S.9** Engage meaningfully with the community to ensure that Council delivers projects that reflect diverse community needs and values.
- S.10** Engage meaningfully with Traditional Owners and other First Nations communities claiming traditional and/or familial links to Brimbank in the planning and design of open space.
- S.11** Ensure Traditional Owners and other First Nations communities' needs are understood in the design and delivery of open space projects.
- S.12** Engage with CALD communities on possible improvements and changes to open space that promote cultural inclusion and safety.
- S.13** Provide a balanced distribution of play/recreation facilities that respond to youth needs.
- S.14** Ensure that wayfinding signage is clear and presented in a way that is welcoming and functional to all.
- S.15** Work with disability groups, local communities and other visitors to inform planning and design of all-abilities play spaces and park amenities.
- S.16** Embed principles of Universal Design to improve accessibility and inclusion in open space projects.
- S.17** Incorporate cultural safety in design processes.



HV Mc Kay Garden Festival, Sunshine. Source: Friends of HV Mc Kay

Actions

- A.9** To support Council's goal of embedding the Social Justice Charter across organisational processes, prepare a 'diversity and inclusion' assessment as part of all capital works upgrades. This will incorporate age, culture, gender, sexuality and ability considerations in the delivery of open space projects.
- A.10** Develop an engagement plan for all major open space projects that engage the general community as well as harder to reach groups such as youth, CALD communities, LGBTQIA+ and people with disabilities.
- A.11** When consulting on open space projects, ensure consultation approach considers targeted questions to best understand experiences of accessibility, safety and functionality of spaces for people of various ages, cultures, gender, sexuality and abilities.
- A.12** Ensure that engagement collateral and listening posts for major open space projects are interpreted for any relevant dominant language groups other than English, where appropriate.
- A.13** Undertake community analysis of youth needs in open space in order to create a locally specific definition of 'youth focused spaces' via targeted consultation with young people aged 10-25 years.
- A.14** Incorporate youth purpose built spaces into the open space network, ensuring that they are accessible and inclusive to all youth regardless of age, gender, sexuality and ability.
- A.15** Prioritise youth focused consultation processes in upgrading open space to ensure delivery reflects user needs.
- A.16** Explore opportunities to create social gathering spaces for varying groups and sizes in parks.
- A.17** Engage early with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP) when creating strategies and master plans on culturally significant land. Continue engagement throughout the lifecycle of a project to ensure projects are respectfully articulating cultural knowledge and landscape values about place.
- A.18** Investigate an amendment to Council's standard park signage strategy to incorporate acknowledgement of Traditional Owners in all standard park name signs.
- A.19** Assess opportunities to incorporate new public space in Council owned community facilities in line with the Community Services and Infrastructure Plan 2018-2038
- A.20** Continue implementation of interpretive signage that acknowledges local Traditional Owners along waterway reserves and other culturally significant landscapes as per CBP 2016 and Brimbank Council Reconciliation Plan 2019-2021.
- A.21** Commence discussions with Brimbank Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation Action Plan Consultative Committee (BATSICC) and local RAPs to establish a bench mark for future consultation expectations for open space projects, in particular projects where consultation is not enacted under the Cultural Heritage Management Plan process.
- A.22** Seek opportunities to engage First Nations consultants in design and other consultancy services within open space projects.

Climate change resilience

Climate change will see Brimbank's climate getting hotter and drier, and with the likelihood of more intense storm events. In Brimbank the biggest risk to health from climate change are heatwaves. Brimbank's vulnerability to negative health impacts of heatwaves result from the area being highly susceptible to the Urban Heat Island effect, due to high levels of impervious surfaces, low levels of tree canopy cover, our reliance on cars and existing socio-economic inequalities.

Additionally, because Brimbank is located on the Volcanic Plains ecosystem, the rocky landscape is drier and hotter than other parts of Melbourne. Ensuring climate change resilience in our open space network will have far reaching benefits and address other challenges highlighted in this revised strategy.

There are a range of ways that our open space can play an effective role in contributing to the climate emergency and reducing urban heat temperatures.

Increasing tree canopy cover has been a primary response from Council to mitigating the impacts of heatwaves. Providing adequate shade is of great

importance to Council because it will ensure that parks can be safely used during periods of high temperature and be protected from sun exposure. Alongside CBP, this has been driven by the Urban Forest Strategy 2016-2046 and the Brimbank Tree Policy (2021). Trees are crucial to cooling our environment in periods of high temperatures. They not only provide a source of shade and protection from the sun and wind but also, as they grow, absorb and store carbon dioxide emissions from the air. Further development of Brimbank's urban forest within our open space network will support local liveability and the usability of open space facilities, and mitigate future climate shocks.

In addition to trees, and more vegetation, open space that includes water bodies, waterways or that are irrigated help to cool urbanised areas through evaporation. Incorporating Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) elements can improve water quality through the attenuation and retention of stormwater, while also providing passive watering to trees and vegetation on site.



The Lakes Reserve, Taylors Lakes. Source: Emma Cross

Objectives

- O.12** To mitigate the Urban Heat Island Effect in Brimbank's urban environment.
- O.13** To support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through the open space network.
- O.14** To provide community infrastructure that is resilient to current and future weather patterns such as increased rainfall, storm events, drought and heatwaves.
- O.15** To provide community infrastructure that is accessible and functional across all seasons.

Strategies

- S.18** Design and management of parks and playgrounds will be driven by environmentally sustainable principles.
- S.19** Further develop Brimbank's urban forest in line with the Urban Forest Strategy 2016-2046 within our open space network to support local liveability and the usability of open space facilities and mitigate future climate shocks.
- S.20** Increase integrated water management in our open space network through WSUD and Oasis Parks to manage stormwater and minimise/eliminate potable water use.
- S.21** Improve the selection of park and playground infrastructure/ materials to be resilient to future climate conditions that support use during all seasons.

Actions

- A.23** Undertake drainage assessments of open spaces with spatial properties that would support Oasis Park upgrades, to confirm site suitability and forecast program and budget considerations.
- A.24** Tree planting in open spaces to achieve at least 50% mature tree canopy coverage, where possible, to support reduction of the urban heat island effect.
- A.25** Develop a minimum standards/ best practice for car park designs in Flagship Parks and Nature Reserves that include provision of WSUD and tree canopy coverage.
- A.26** Implement passive drainage systems in all park upgrades for irrigating trees and garden beds, utilising rainwater runoff from impervious surfaces such as footpaths and shelters.
- A.27** Identify urgent sites for the implementation of shade adjacent and within playgrounds and along Shared User Paths (SUP) through semi mature tree plantings as part of the ongoing municipal tree planting program.
- A.28** Specify warm season grasses in all Flagship, Suburban and Neighbourhood Parks as upgraded.

Biodiversity

Our open space network is critical to providing a diversity of plant species and habitat to support ecological resilience and sustainable landscape practices that ensures Council are conserving and improving our local biodiversity. Protecting local ecosystems and increasing biodiversity values in our open space network will deliver multiple benefits from reducing the impacts of heatwaves and improving air quality to social, psychological and emotional benefits of liveability.

In Brimbank where there are only fragments of native vegetation and habitat that are still intact, the distribution of open space plays an important role in supporting remnant biodiversity, especially when these fragments can be connected through ecological links such as waterway corridors, nature reserves and linear reserves.

Brimbank has a vastly different landscape today which includes both introduced and indigenous flora and fauna species. With a growing population and highly urbanised environments, there is a need for contemporary landscape responses to improve liveability and which reflect urban conditions and microclimates. Increasing multilayered vegetation, including canopy cover and understorey planting improves shade, reduces temperatures, reduces air pollution, improves stormwater filtration and increases biodiversity values.

A holistic approach is required in facing the pressures of urbanisation to ensure the protection and longevity of our open space network. Landscape considerations must strike a balance in the integration of grasslands, trees and other vegetation without compromising each landscape type to ensure Council are protecting and enhancing our biodiversity values.



Ardeer Community Park Grassland. Source: Nellie Reinhard

Protecting our Native Grasslands

The protection and conservation of grasslands in Brimbank should be seen in the context of environmental sustainability as well as ensuring the ongoing protection of First Nations cultural practices and heritage, which are intrinsically tied to the natural landscape. In this context it is important that the retention of remnant patches of grasslands and native vegetation are considered in the design and upgrade of parks. By improving awareness of remnant vegetation and integrating it into designs Council is supporting stronger ecological links as well as acknowledging the cultural value of enhancing and protecting it throughout the municipality.

Objectives

- 0.16** Protect, maintain and improve Brimbank's biodiversity.
- 0.17** Maintain and enhance connectivity of Brimbank's habitat corridors.
- 0.18** Protect Brimbank's remnant ecosystems, including critically endangered native grasslands.
- 0.19** Increase community awareness of the presence and value of locally distinct indigenous landscapes such as plains grasslands, grassy woodlands and escarpment shrub lands.

Strategies

- S.22** Acknowledge and embrace the indigenous grassland character of the region and incorporate this distinct landscape character into the open space network.
- S.23** Assess presence of native grasses in our open spaces when undertaking upgrades to ensure significant patches can be retained wherever possible.

Actions

- A.29** Prepare a preferred plant species and design approach list that enhances biodiversity, adapts to climate change and the limitations of ongoing maintenance.
- A.30** Continue to roll out the 'Nature Places' program to increase community awareness of local grasslands and conservation assets.
- A.31** Implement in Local Parks the incorporation of native tree and shrub species to enhance biodiversity and support ecological/ habitat linkages in our open space network.
- A.32** Specify sterile grass/ lawn varieties in park upgrades adjacent to waterways, grasslands or other environmentally sensitive areas to support the protection of indigenous grasses.



Paramount Grassland. Source: Zoe Thompson

Safe, accessible and connected

Access to open space is central to community health and wellbeing outcomes. Accessibility in the context of open space refers to the physical ability of people to access a place or type of park infrastructure. Ease of access is critical in community being able to use and benefit from open space. Accessibility is not just about the distance, but also the barriers that may disadvantage some residents in easily reaching open space. These may include roads, waterways and railways. Improving connectivity to open space ensures that communities have greater access to a diverse range of open space and facilities.

Open space that offers a range of activities and experiences is more likely to be actively used and as a result attracts a more diverse range of people. Diversity of use and visitors can significantly contribute to actualised and perceived safety.

Accessibility and safety are key principles in designing and delivering an inclusive open space network. How Council plan, design and manage our open space can affect the use of open space and whether or not it is perceived to be safe and accessible. Safety is a top priority for Council as it relates to health and wellbeing of our community. In helping to reduce crime and enhancing community safety in our open space, Council can have the most impact through Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED). CPTED is a best practice urban design framework that aims to reduce the opportunity for crime and incidences of feeling unsafe. Council is guided by this framework through the consideration for increasing passive surveillance, sight lines, co-location of facilities, access to transport and lighting for access after dark.



Bikes. Source: Emma Cross

Objectives

- O.20** Ensure safe access and use of our open space network for all.

Strategies

- S.24** Parks will be designed and managed to create attractive and well-maintained spaces that increase community perceptions of safety.
- S.25** Council will utilise open space for activities and programs to activate spaces and increases perceptions of safety in parks.
- S.26** Encourage development of properties adjacent to open spaces to incorporate positive interfaces with built form and private open space.
- S.27** Support community groups in the stewardship of open space to foster community sense of place, ownership and pride that supports inclusive, safe and accessible open space.
- S.28** Increase access to parks with a variety of recreational opportunities through a more integrated walking and cycling network.
- S.29** Explore opportunities to increase safe crossing points at waterways, rail lines and main roads where required to facilitate more direct pedestrian and cycling access to open space.

Actions

- A.33** Develop a communications plan to increase public awareness on appropriate behaviour, rules and regulations within open space.
- A.34** Implement the CPTED principles to new and redeveloped spaces.
- A.35** Work with Council's safety partnership groups to identify issues that impact community perceptions of safety at specific parks and open spaces.
- A.36** Investigate accessibility and safety of park facilities, walking trails and circuit paths, through consultation and research to develop a framework for delivering lighting in open spaces in Brimbank.
- A.37** Directional, interpretive and distance signage and indicators will be placed on trails along creeks and waterways.

Equitable distribution

Improving the distribution of parks and facilities equitably across the municipality is a key focus of this policy in supporting accessibility objectives. Distribution focuses on the range of facilities and amenity and the hierarchical provision of open space typologies across the municipality.

This policy update has sought to identify parks that require further upgrades or additional facilities to ensure that all residents of Brimbank have good access to parks with high amenity.

Objectives

- O.21** Ensure the community has equitable access to Brimbank's diverse open spaces and facilities, supporting a range of community uses.

Strategies

- S.30** Ensure the placement of new park amenities and facilities responds to gaps in the network.
- S.31** Ensure the provision of facilities and amenity are reflective of local context and community needs.

Actions

- A.38** Assess the designation of open space typologies and distribution of open space amenities and facilities upon completion of Council's *Community Infrastructure and Open Space Gaps Analysis* (currently in development).
- A.39** Resolve gaps in community access to Flagship Parks. Refer to *Implementation Framework* for site specific detail.
- A.40** Resolve gaps in community access to Suburban Parks. Refer to *Implementation Framework* for site specific detail.
- A.41** Investigate opportunities within the local park and reserves network to improve community access to neighbourhood parks
- A.42** Investigate opportunities to provide an enclosed or unenclosed Dog Off-leash areas where identified gaps exist. Refer to *Implementation Framework* for suburb specific detail.
- A.43** To improve increased functionality for the community, investigate opportunities to enclose currently unenclosed Dog Off Leash areas where practical and affordable. Refer to *Implementation Framework* for site specific detail.
- A.44** Deliver one 'Destination Dog Park' in each ward. Refer to *Implementation Framework* for site specific detail.
- A.45** Investigate opportunities to provide skate/ scoot/ BMX facilities in suburbs where gaps exist. Refer to *Implementation Framework* for suburb specific detail.
- A.46** Consider all-abilities park and playground facilities in Flagship Parks as they arise in the park renewal program or as part of new developments. Refer to *Implementation Framework* for suburb specific detail.
- A.47** Investigate opportunities to fully enclose playgrounds. Refer to *Implementation Framework* for detail.

Quality open space

Quality of design and ongoing maintenance and management of the open space network is important to promoting their use.

Consultation and survey feedback demonstrates that access to clean, well-maintained, shaded and visually appealing open space is highly valued by the local community and these factors influence how they use and access open space within the municipality.

The quality and accessibility of parks in the open space network has significantly improved since the first iteration of CBP in 2008. To ensure that Council maintain a high standard of open space it is important to regularly take stock of the network and be responsive to the changing needs of the local population.

All open space require a level of maintenance to ensure that they are fulfilling their various roles and are safe environments for visitors, pets and wildlife. The implementation of new park design and upgrades should be aligned within the specification of the Open Space Framework and Council's financial resources.



Carey Street Reserve, Sunshine North. Source: Rasoul Rafat

Objectives

- O.22** Develop and maintain a sustainable open space network for current and future generations.
- O.23** Ensure that parks are well maintained that supports high use.

Strategies

- S.32** To foster sustainable maintenance practices and reduce life cycle costs, Council shall undertake upfront investment to ensure landscapes are high quality, well established and facilities are robust and durable.
- S.33** Focus maintenance resources according to open space framework and intensity of use.
- S.34** Work closely with other management authorities, such as Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria, in developing and managing a high quality open space network.

Actions

- A.48** Council will prepare landscape standard details to support the implementation of consistent, low maintenance and high quality infrastructure.
- A.49** Park design will be informed by the State Government's 'Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria'.
- A.50** Develop urban design guidelines for infill and larger developments incorporating minimum standards for space allocation and development guidelines to reflect the framework of CBP.
- A.51** In collaboration with City Strategy, develop Built Form Controls and Landscape Guidelines to be adopted into Council Planning Scheme to address development adjacent to open space, particularly sensitive ecological and culturally sensitive sites.

Awareness and promotion

Awareness

It is important that Council work to mobilise communities to use and access open space and park facilities. Strengthening community awareness can help to build connected communities and address specific local issues of accessibility through a place-based approach.

Working with community and Council partners to increase public awareness of parks and their facilities will ensure that residents are equipped with the information to be able to fully participate in the opportunities that Brimbank's open space network offers. This should also include the promotion of events and festivals in parks, which can support increased useability and activation.

Promotion

Parks with high quality, well-designed amenity attract wider visitor catchments that extend beyond the Brimbank Municipality and local resident catchment. Higher order parks including Nature Reserves, Flagship and some Suburban Parks should be recognised not only for their local value but also as a regional asset that offers tourism capabilities and economic potential.

One way this can be actioned is through the utilisation of open space for community festivals and events which would support a vibrant festivals and events program and promote Brimbank as a cultural destination.

The inclusion of event specific outdoor space in upgrades and future designs of higher order parks will ensure that diverse communities have greater access to local venues and will enable them to deliver inclusive, well managed and safe festivals and events in the long term. This aligns with key objectives of Brimbank's Festivals and Events Policy and Strategy 2022 – 2025. Providing fit for purpose space will require new park upgrades to consider how hardscapes, power and large areas can be incorporated into the design of parks. Open space that can support local opportunities for cultural and creative expression encourages diverse participation and reflect broader Council objectives of enhancing social inclusion and intercultural engagement.

Objectives

- 0.23** Improve local community knowledge of Brimbank's diverse open space network.
- 0.24** Higher order parks as a regional draw card through the provision of high quality amenity and diversity of facilities that support Brimbank's economy.
- 0.25** High order parks will support opportunities to provide space and quality amenity for festivals and community events.

Strategies

- S.35** Improve community awareness about the diverse range of open space, parks, and facilities available for local residents, promoting increased usage and a sense of community pride in the open space network.
- S.36** Promote parks and open spaces in the network as regional draw card, in particular Flagship Parks, Waterway Reserves and Nature Reserves.
- S.37** Partnership with other Council Departments and external stakeholders to deliver quality open space that are a regional asset, offering a diversity of function that fosters cultural and artistic exchange.
- S.38** Ensure that future designs of high order parks consider festival and events use.

Actions

- A.52** Update Council's website 'what's Near Me' regularly to ensure community can access accurate and up to date information about local and regional open spaces and facilities.
- A.53** Regularly promote the diverse open space network via Council's social media and print media platforms.
- A.54** In newly created or updated parks, host events to celebrate upgrades and promote the upgrades to a wider catchment of the community to highlight new facilities.
- A.55** Support ongoing activation of parks through a collaboration process with communities, Council Departments and service providers that strengthen accessibility and use.
- A.56** Investigate opportunities for regional promotion of key open spaces through media outlets.
- A.57** Revise and update audit of higher order parks that have appropriate facilities to stage festivals and community events, identifying ready to go site and sites to be further explored.
- A.58** Investigate new sites in the open space network for holding festivals and events.



Packard Street Reserve, Keilor Downs. Source: Nico Keenan



The Open Space Framework

Brimbank has a diverse network of open space; including park and playground facilities, a growing collection of niche recreational facilities and large areas of passive open spaces. In reviewing CBP, Council will enhance and sustainably manage Brimbank's network to provide Brimbank's community with high quality, accessible and diverse open space. Brimbank's framework of open space management is made up of two distinct categorisations outlined in the following pages – Open Space Typologies and Open Space Facilities.

2022 Open Space Framework

OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGIES									
PARKS				GARDENS	PASSIVE OPEN SPACE				
Flagship Park	Suburban Park	Neighbourhood Park (small and large)	Local Park	Heritage and Memorial Gardens	Linear Reserve	Waterway Reserve	Nature Reserves	Conservation Reserves	Sports Grounds
OPEN SPACE FACILITIES									
All Abilities Playgrounds									
Enclosed Playgrounds									
Physical Activity Facilities									
Oasis Parks									Oasis Parks
Skate, Scoot and BMX Facilities									
								Nature Places	
Enclosed Dog Off-Leash Space/ Destination Dog Parks					Enclosed Dog Off-Leash Space/DDPs				
Youth Oriented Space									

○ Although Conservation Reserves and Sport Fields are integrated into the open space network, CBP does not determine their functionality

Brimbank's park network

Brimbank's urban and suburban parks and playgrounds are organised through a park hierarchy categorisation, with associated policies and standards to successfully guide Council to develop and manage park and playground facilities. Each typology of open space fulfils different and complementary roles for the community.

Brimbank's Park network consists of the following;

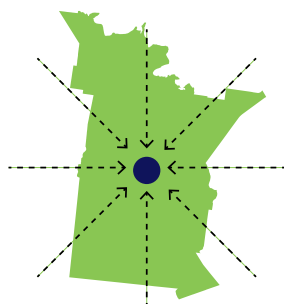
- Flagship Parks
- Suburban Parks
- Neighbourhood Parks
- Local Parks

The hierarchy is designed to support how people use open spaces for different purposes and at different times. During the week people might utilise their Neighbourhood Park to walk the dog or visit the playground for 15 minutes, while at the weekend may travel to a Flagship Park to socialise with friends and family. To ensure the Brimbank community have fair access to a diverse range of park and playground facilities within their neighbourhood and wider precinct, the hierarchy identifies a typical level of service of park amenity and maintenance expectations per classification, with a greater focus on infrastructure and maintenance within the higher order parks.

The framework intent of the park hierarchy works to provide a 500 m baseline catchment for resident access to playground and basic park facilities. Each park classification is attributed a 'distance radius'; identifying the preferred maximum distance each resident should have to travel, ideally by walking or cycling, to access each of the park typologies. This hierarchy is interpreted in conjunction with context specific considerations regarding access to diverse and high quality facilities. For example, if a residence is located within walking distance to a Flagship Park (which contains facilities at and above what is found in a Suburban Park) an exemption to also provide a Suburban Park within the preferred distance radius of said residence is appropriate.

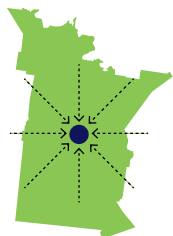
Brimbank has two historically important gardens that have their own typology, H.V McKay Memorial Garden and M.B Lynch Memorial Garden.

Visitor Catchment



Flagship Park

Parks are visited by residents from across Brimbank and from neighbouring municipalities. Parks have a 3km catchment.



Suburban Park

Parks are predominantly visited by residents who live in the area. Parks have a 1km catchment.



Neighbourhood Park

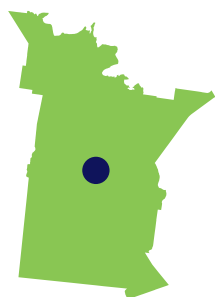
Parks primarily cater to local residents who live within 500m of the park.



Local Park

Parks are sometimes used by surrounding residents.

Level of amenity and maintenance



Flagship Park

Parks are a regional draw card and receive a high level of capital expenditure and maintenance. Flagship Parks have high amenity and include a range of facilities.



Suburban Park

Parks offer medium diversity of amenity and facilities and are maintained fortnightly.



Neighbourhood Park

Lower level of provision of amenity and facilities. Maintained monthly subject to park usage.



Local Park

Parks have minimal amenity and require the least amount of maintenance which is subject to seasonal change.

Open space typologies

Open space typologies are classified based on a hierarchical approach in the provision of amenity, their primary functions and maintenance requirements.

Flagship Parks



Sunvale Community Park, Sunshine. Source: Emma Cross

A municipal destination park and playground that provides a diverse range of recreational opportunities in an attractive landscape setting. These places are key destinations for families, events and key meeting places for the community.

Visitor catchment:

These parks will be visited by residents from across Brimbank and from neighbouring municipalities, with most visitors driving by car or cycling to the park via the trails network.

Approximate service radius:

3 kilometres via driving.

1 kilometre via walking and cycling.

Length of stay:

Park facilities will support visitors to stay for several hours, predominately on weekends.

Site selection:

Flagship Park sites are selected on the basis of contributing existing high quality visual amenity (or the potential to develop a high quality amenity) such as adjacent a natural or cultural feature or landmark. Flagship Park sites will have sufficient size to accommodate a diverse range of facilities including circuit paths, Sports Facilities and/ or Skate Scoot and BMX facilities. They are located on a principal trail network or with good main road and/ or public transport access.

Facilities may include:

- A large, highly developed park providing a tourism drawcard;
- A large, high quality 'feature playground' catering to all age groups and abilities;
- All abilities picnic facilities with several large shelters that support multiple or larger groups;
- Well-developed recreational spaces catering for the needs of young people;
- Physical activity facilities such as fitness equipment and sports courts;
- A range of facilities to support longer stays including DDA compliant car parking and public toilets;
- Public artwork;
- Large open areas to support large community/ Council events;
- An attractive landscaped parkland setting including garden beds, lawn and extensive tree planting;
- Passive recreation facilities such as pathway networks and open grassed areas for kick about and other passive recreation opportunities;

Suburban Parks



Balmoral Park, Derrimut. Source: Tim Clark

Suburban parks provide residents with convenient access to a diversity of well-developed recreation and play opportunities.

Visitor Catchment:

These parks will be predominantly used by residents who live within a 10-15 minute walk from the site, however are conveniently located for all residents within a suburb via driving or cycling routes.

Approximate service radius:

1 kilometre via driving, walking and cycling.

Length of Stay:

Suburban Park facilities will support visitors to spend one to two hours in the park. Public toilets are provided in some, but not all Suburban Parks, as per Brimbank's Public Toilet Strategy 2016.

Site selection:

Suburban Parks are located within a suburb so that most residents can walk or cycle locally to visit. Suburban Park sites will accommodate a diversity of infrastructure such as playgrounds, picnic facilities as well as open kick about spaces.

Facilities may include:

- A good quality playground catering for a range of age groups and abilities;
- Some recreational facilities for young people;
- Picnic facilities including a picnic shelter for small to medium sized groups that support gatherings;
- Good tree canopy and modest garden bed coverage to promote urban cooling and biodiversity;
- Physical activity facilities such as sports courts and/or fitness equipment;
- Passive recreation facilities such as circuit path networks and open grassed areas;

Neighbourhood Parks



Jackman Crescent Reserve, Keilor. Source: Mahin Photographer: Mahin Shirazi

Parks that are locally accessible and which provide a playground and areas for relaxation and access to greenery. The parks cater to residents who live within a 5-10 minute walking distance and offer basic but good quality facilities for use on a daily basis.

Visitor Catchment:

Neighbourhood Parks cater primarily to local residents who live within walking distance of the open space.

Approximate service radius:

500 metres via driving, walking and cycling.

Length of Stay:

Most visitors will spend less than one hour at Neighbourhood Parks but may visit the park daily.

Site selection:

Neighbourhood Parks are generally located away from busy roads and centrally accessible to the local catchment. They are generally modest in size to accommodate proposed equipment, although some older neighbourhood parks are larger in size. Most neighbourhood parks are approximately 0.5 hectares in size, however some may be as small as 0.1 hectares and some sit within open spaces as large as 2 hectares, including sites with sports ovals.

Facilities will include:

- A modest sized playground;
- Large canopy trees within and around the park to provide shade and amenity;
- Accessible pathway to primary facilities;
- A small shelter and picnic table.

Larger sized Neighbourhood Parks

In addition, larger sized Neighbourhood Parks (over 1 hectare) may accommodate other passive uses such as grassed kick-about spaces and path networks. A residence may have a larger or a smaller neighbourhood park within 500 metres, but not necessarily both. The larger neighbourhood parks may also include;

- Large open grassed kick-about spaces;
- A circuit path for pedestrians and cyclists;
- Physical activity facilities such as sports courts or fitness stations (with provision dependent on proximity to nearby similar facilities).



Bennet Reserve, Sunshine West. Source: Nellie Reinhard

Local Parks

Parks which provide green spaces for neighbourhood amenity and urban cooling and access to nature. Local parks vary in size and some may provide an informal kick-about space and provide a 'rest stop' along walking and cycling journeys. A number of existing local parks across the municipality include a small playground with limited facilities.

Visitor Catchment:

Local Parks cater primarily to local residents who live within walking distance.

Approximate service radius:

500 metres via driving, walking and cycling

Length of Stay:

Most visitors will spend a short amount of time at Local Parks.

Site selection:

Local Parks are scattered throughout suburbs and site selection varies. Local parks must have attributes that support the facilities listed below, including the provision of urban greening. The size of local parks varies considerably, from tiny parklets (less than 1,000 m²) to open spaces up to one hectare.

Facilities may include:

- Large canopy trees within the park to provide shade and amenity;
- Basic pathways;
- Bench seats;
- Post and rail or bollard fencing.

Gardens

Heritage and Memorial Gardens

Heritage and Memorial gardens in Brimbank are of social significance to local communities, reflecting both the area's industrial past, and other important moments in history since European settlement.

Heritage and Memorial gardens can be significant in their own right or as settings for heritage buildings. Gardens may include plantings of mature trees, garden beds, early garden elements such as buildings, walls, water features and paving that may define the original design and character of the site. Gardens may also include new features that reflect current community needs and values while also reflecting its rich historical past.

Heritage and Memorial gardens require a distinct typology due to their high landscape value, to ensure their preservation. For particularly significant gardens, such as HV McKay Memorial Gardens, which is heritage listed a Landscape Management Plan is used to guide processes of management and maintenance to ensure the conservation of its landscape value.

HV McKay Memorial Gardens, Sunshine

The HV McKay Memorial Gardens are the earliest example of an industrial garden in Victoria and the only heritage listed garden in Brimbank. The gardens were established in 1909 for the HV McKay workers, who lived in the surrounding areas and enjoyed it along with their families and other local residents. The Gardens have played a significant role in the social history, relating to manufacturing in Brimbank and in Australia and remain as a key remnant of the early years of Sunshine.

The Friends of McKay Gardens have been instrumental in bringing about the restoration of the gardens and take an active role today.

The landscape of the HV McKay Memorial Gardens are maintained to reflect their historical significance and will be managed according to the HV McKay Memorial Gardens Management Plan 2017.



HV McKay Gardens, Sunshine

MB Lynch Memorial Gardens, Sunshine

MB Lynch Memorial Gardens – named after a blacksmith, Martin Baird Lynch, who lived and worked opposite the gardens early last century – hold an important place in the hearts of the Sunshine community. In the 1920s, this land was set aside for a garden to support workers amidst the burgeoning Harvester Works Factory. However, over time the gardens were reduced to sparse rose beds and no path network. A recent upgrade has made the gardens accessible with 9,000 new plants, contemporary park structures and lighting that is inspired by fire associated with Traditional Owners and the blacksmith's forge. The park upgrade as sought to consider current community needs, while also acknowledging its past.

Facilities of Heritage and Memorial Gardens may include:

The design and management of Heritage and Memorial Gardens are context specific and respond to the particular needs of the site. However, generally these gardens may include;

- Well maintained and manicured garden and lawn areas including irrigation as required;
- Lighting;
- Path networks;
- Seating, picnic tables and shelters;
- Interpretive signage.



MB Lynch Memorial Gardens, Sunshine. Dianna Snape

Passive open space

Brimbank's open space network defines passive open spaces which provide high quality open space value to the community and enrich the diversity and experience of Brimbank. Generally these spaces are encumbered, meaning their primary form and function was not as public open space. These spaces may take the form of sites of ecological or cultural significance, drainage or electrical easements, and constructed waterways. These spaces often contribute valuable access to green space, visual aesthetics, flexible open spaces and regional and local connectivity to the community.

The purpose of their inclusion in this iteration of CBP is to guide Council on the development and management of these spaces, which encompass the following typologies;

- Nature Reserves
- Waterway Reserves
- Linear Reserves

Due to their primary functions, these spaces may be restricted in their opportunities for embellishment with typical park amenity or diverse open space functions. Due to their often linear nature and role within Brimbank's important biodiversity corridors, these spaces can provide significant biodiversity and habitat and therefore may be limited in their development opportunities.

Nature Reserves



Brimbank Park, Keilor East. Source: Parks Victoria

Nature reserves are landscapes of significant environmental, cultural and historical value and support Brimbank's tourism economy as regional drawcards to Brimbank. Nature Reserves in Brimbank are large expanses of land which hold distinct landscape features that support a variety of habitats. They offer greater opportunity for passive and active recreation and support the opportunity for deeper connection and interaction with the natural environment.

Environmental and cultural features that may be found in nature reserves include significant geological rock formations, waterways, Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, and European historical sites, regionally significant Grasslands and indigenous and native flora and fauna species.

There are currently two Nature Reserves in Brimbank; Brimbank Park, which is externally managed by Parks Victoria and Sydenham Park, which is a Council driven project currently under development. The two reserves are connected by the Maribyrnong River, which provides an unbroken ecological corridor for flora and fauna.

Brimbank Park, Keilor East

Brimbank Park is managed by Parks Victoria, includes a variety of landscaped and natural environments, catering to a broad range of activities, such as bushwalking, kayaking, bike riding and areas for picnicking.

The park has distinct geological character with the Maribyrnong River and its valley winding through it. The surrounding land includes rocky outcrop escarpments, the Kulin Wetlands and open plains that are covered by native grasslands. This landscape holds significant Aboriginal Cultural heritage for the Wurundjeri and Marin-bulluk people of the Kulin Nation. Archaeological studies have documented Aboriginal occupation of this area dating back over 40 000 years.

The park has an extensive network of trails, including the Maribyrnong River Trail that connects to Footscray and the City. Trails contain informative signage about native flora and fauna and also local Aboriginal and European history.

The park also includes an all-abilities playground that promotes creative play, designed to connect children to nature, an orienteering course, the Horseshoe Bend Children's Farm and a coffee shop.

Sydenham Park, Keilor North



Sydenham Park, Keilor North. Source: Rebecca Hordern

Following the Maribyrnong River North west from Brimbank Park, leads to Sydenham Park in Keilor North. Sydenham Park is a reserve and like Brimbank Park it holds environmental, cultural and geological significance.

The reserve has distinct topography, with a major feature of the site being the confluence of

Jacksons Creek and Deep Creek, creating the Maribyrnong River. Its dividing escarpment, river valleys and native grasslands are home to a number of important and critically endangered flora and fauna species.

In 2022 Council adopted the Sydenham Park Master Plan which will guide the future use and design of Sydenham Park. It is underpinned by strong environmental values to protect, enhance and conserve the parks natural environment and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage. In doing so it promotes a deeper engagement and increased awareness of natural and cultural heritage values of Sydenham Park and the surrounding region. In conjunction with this, climate responsive and sensitive land management strategies seek to future proof the parks longevity for generations to come. The park will also include active recreation facilities that will support and respond to the growing needs of the local community.

Linear Reserves



SEC Easement, Sunshine West. Source: Nellie Reinhard

Linear Reserves are minimally embellished forms of passive open space, occasionally providing connected linkages across parts of the municipality. Linear Reserves include drainage, rail, road and electrical easements, as well as linear walkways within estates.

Facilities may include:

- Concrete SUP;
- Bench seating along path;

Wayfinding signage may be installed to provide distances to key destinations connected to the path network.

Waterway Reserves



Kororoit Creek, Albion. Source: Bridê Blake

Local waterways, drainage lines and water bodies contribute to the network of open space within the Brimbank municipality and the surrounding region. Waterway Reserves are a highly valued amenity in the community that support passive recreation, active travel connections through the municipality and native flora and fauna habitat. The network of waterway corridors that traverse the municipality include the Maribyrnong River, Kororoit, Taylors, Jones, Jackson, Steele and Stony Creeks.

Waterways form a significant part of Brimbank's natural heritage providing the opportunity for local communities to connect and experience areas of intact indigenous flora and fauna. They also hold significant Aboriginal cultural heritage and are essential to not only cultural practices, but land management, food production, language and lore.

It is important that these natural and cultural values that are significant to all the community are protected. Ensuring the protection and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem health is critical to the long-term health of our waterways. This is supported through a number of key strategies including Brimbank's Climate Emergency Action Plan (2020-2025), Habitat Connectivity Strategy (2018-2023) and Biodiversity Strategy (2012-2022) and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy (2018-2023).

Environmental features of Waterway Reserves may include, planting of locally indigenous tree, shrub and groundcover planting where appropriate, remnant patches of native grasslands and scattered native vegetation.

Facilities may include:

- Concrete SUP along one side of the waterway,
- Bench seating along path;
- Indigenous tree, shrub, grass and groundcover plantings;
- Interpretative signage and landscaping may be located at specific points along waterways to celebrate First Nations and Post-Colonial histories or the natural features of the waterways. Wayfinding signage may be installed to provide distances to key destinations connected to the path network.



Value of other landscapes

Council acknowledges the role that other public landscapes within Brimbank contribute to open space values, however are not reserved for public use and are managed by other bodies or Council departments. As the purpose of this document is to guide the planning, design and management of publicly accessible open spaces, these landscapes are not incorporated into this strategy's open space framework. These spaces can include but are not limited to;

- Formal sporting grounds: Are areas that are primarily used for organised outdoor sport and are managed by Council's Leisure and Community Facilities Department. Sports grounds serve two functions, their main one being for formal sporting provision, which usually takes place after 4pm on week days and weekends between 9am to 5pm. Outside of this, they play an important role in providing active open space for the broader community and are generally co-located next to parks and playgrounds.
- Conservation areas: are set aside for the conservation and protection of local natural heritage. This land includes both Crown land and sometimes private land. Conservation reserves are accessible in some cases and can be used for informal activities in accordance with environmental management plans. These spaces are generally managed by Brimbank's Environment Department and their management is guided by the Brimbank Habitat Connectivity Plan 2018 and the Biodiversity Strategy 2018.

Open space facilities

Open space facilities provide niche opportunities for play, recreation and physical activity. These facilities are categorised distinctly from the open space 'typologies'. Open space facilities support diversity of activities within our open spaces and cater to diverse community needs and interests. They are generally co-located with other park amenity such as park and picnic facilities.

The following open space facilities represent a diversity of different activities and experiences available to the community. The purpose of categorising these facilities is to;

- Investigate and support equal distribution of these facilities across the municipality;
- Ensure they are located, designed and delivered to best practice standards;
- Acknowledge and support the needs of our community who want to use these facilities, and
- Ensure diversity/ flexibility within these facility categories is considered in the process of delivery.

All-abilities playgrounds



Alice's Playspace at Errington Reserve, St Albans. Source: TBC

Play is important to health and wellbeing of people of all ages and abilities and for children it is essential to their development; shaping how they interact with the world around them, allowing them to learn new skills, socialise and build self-confidence. Inclusive playgrounds are welcoming places where obstacles and barriers that prevent people with disability from playing, are removed. Inclusive playgrounds should offer challenge and involve people of all-abilities in a safe and comfortable environment.

There are currently three all abilities playgrounds in Brimbank; Alice's Play Space in Errington Reserve, St Albans, Packard Street Reserve, Keilor Downs and Brimbank Park in Keilor East that is managed by Parks Victoria.

Future design and development of all-abilities playgrounds should be guided by the goals of universal design (Steinfeld and Maisel, 2012):

- Body Fit
- Comfort
- Awareness
- Understanding
- Wellness
- Social integration
- Personalisation
- Cultural appropriateness

Consideration of new all abilities playgrounds will not only provide a diversity of facilities for children, young people and adults with a disability/ies, but will also cater to their carers, including parents, grandparents, siblings and other care givers. To support people of all abilities and their families and carers.

Full perimeter fencing to playgrounds can provide reassurance and improved experience for carers who are supervising more than one child, carers whose children may be prone to running away, or carers who have reduced mobility. The suitability of a site and the proposed fencing style and placement must consider the impacts of physical separation of children and carers, limitation of free or creative play to adjacent passive spaces, and ensuring fencing does not inadvertently preclude access to other members of the community such as people in wheelchairs, people with bikes or prams who are using the park.

For playground standards including all abilities facilities, refer to Design and Development Standards section of this document.

Site Considerations:

Access:

- Car parking is easily accessible and close to play space;
- DDA compliant car parking is provided or exists;
- There is a public transport connection close to the play space (bus stop or train station);
- Access point to play space can be easily used by pedestrians- limited barriers, such as main roads, intersections with no signals or limited pedestrian amenity;
- Site topography does not create an obstacle or barrier to play space access.

Safety

- Play space can be protected from adjacent potential risks such as main roads and water bodies through good surveillance or creation of barriers.

Co-location

- Play space is adjacent or in close proximity to supporting facilities such as public toilets, picnic facilities, rest facilities and food and beverage facilities, as well as community facilities such as schools and community spaces.

Enclosed playgrounds



Enclosed Playground. Source: Bridê Blake

The enclosure of a park or playground may increase its functionality and comfort for some members of the community. Full or partial fencing to playgrounds can provide reassurance and improved experience for carers who are supervising more than one child, carers whose children may be prone to running away, or carers who have reduced mobility. Enclosing parks may increase the perception of safety of playgrounds near potential hazards such as busy main roads. Council seeks to provide a diversity of play experiences and increase accessibility and functionality of facilities

for the community. To meet the needs of a diverse community, Council will investigate opportunities to increase the provision of enclosed playgrounds.

It is acknowledged that the enclosing of spaces such as parks and playgrounds may have unintended consequences such as inadvertently precluding access to other members of the community such as people in wheelchairs, people with bikes or prams who are using the park. It can also encourage community members to run dogs off leash in these areas when not designated or supported in this use by Council. Fencing may also impact the visual presentation of certain landscapes and can limit free or creative play opportunities of adjacent open spaces next to playgrounds. Therefore, the suitability of a site and the proposed fencing style and placement must be site and context appropriate, and will not be appropriate in all instances. The list below provides contextual considerations when making a decision about whether to enclose a park or playground.

Site Considerations:

Access

- Fencing is not supported in parks with SUP running through them.
- Preferably fencing of an area will occur adjacent/ outside key thoroughfare footpaths running across an open space.
- Gate sizes and mechanisms must support ease of access of use for people with wheelchairs and people with prams.

Safety

- Fencing must not separate playground users from their carer.
- Fencing may be beneficial to playgrounds located near busy roads, unfenced rail lines or water bodies where risk analysis outcomes supports the use of fencing, and if other contextual considerations support fencing.

User demographics

- Fencing may be beneficial to the functionality and comfort of all-abilities playgrounds for users and carers, if other contextual considerations support fencing.
- Fencing may be beneficial to the functionality and comfort of toddler / junior age focused play equipment, if other contextual considerations support fencing.

Landscape Value

- Fencing must be sensitively integrated into the wider landscape and use of materials such as timber can support and enhance landscape character of the site.

Physical activity facilities



Fitness Equipment, The Lakes Reserve. Source: Emma Cross

Physical activity facilities in open space are popular recreational activities for people of all ages within the municipality. They support community health and wellbeing and social interaction. The type of equipment is comparable to that found in a gym or sports facility, but is free for the public to access for the purpose of informal and social sport.

Multi-use courts to encourage greater diversity of use

There are a diverse range of sporting interests within the Brimbank community. In order to accommodate for this diversity, Council are implementing multi-purpose courts. Multi-purpose courts can maximise greater community participation in physical activity by providing space that is flexible and can be used for a wide range of informal sport and active and passive recreation. In the upgrade of existing basketball and netball courts or the incorporation of a new court in a park, Council will seek to consider opportunities to improve the diversity of use.

A best practice example within the municipality is the incorporation of a multi-use court at Errington Reserve, which can be adapted for netball, soccer and basketball providing alternative use that may be more relevant to particular group.

A range of physical activity facilities should be provided to support a diversity of users of varying age, ability and strength. A range of facilities which delivers different types of exercise (aerobic, strength, balance mobility) can provide a complete body workout. Community engagement is important during the planning and design process to meet the needs of the local community.

As part of the delivery of CBP to date, a significant amount of physical activity facilities have been installed across Brimbank. Assessment of the current distribution to identify opportunities for improved access and diversity of facilities.

Physical activity facilities include the following (but are not limited to);

- Circuit Paths
- Basketball/ netball courts (full or half courts)
- Exercise equipment
- Ping Pong tables
- Agility Courses or 'Ninja Warrior Courses'
- Rock climbing walls
- 'Hot Shot' Tennis Courts



Hot Shots Court, The Lakes Reserve. Source: Emma Cross

Skate, scoot and BMX facilities



Sunvale Community Park, Skate Park, Sunshine. Source: Emma Cross

Skate, scoot and BMX facilities are popular recreational activities for children, young people and also adults within the municipality. They provide opportunities for child, teenager and adult physical activity, social interaction, risk assessment. Facilities in high visibility areas offer greater community interaction and contribute to healthier social environments.

Skate, scoot and BMX facilities can include skate parks (generally concrete structures including ramps, bowls and grindable elements) dirt or concrete race or pump tracks.

Skate, scoot and BMX facilities should be centrally located so that users can access them by public transport or via the municipal cycling & walking network.

Landscape elements including, garden beds, plants, shrubs, trees are important features incorporated into the design of the skate park to improve visual amenity, reduce heat, provide shade and soft barriers.

Brimbank is growing its suite of skate, scoot and BMX facilities and the revision of CBP will assess current distribution to identify opportunities for improved access and diversity of facilities. New skate, scoot and BMX facilities will prioritise safety for all users and spectators at the park and also consider accessibility and safety issues with regard to the journey to and from the location as well as its proximity to local activity centres.

Skate and BMX facilities will be designed by an appropriately qualified designer and should be informed by the Victorian Government's Design for Everyone Guide, Skate Park design principles.

Site Considerations:

Locale

- Consider demographic distribution- where do children and young people live, particularly given that young people will likely travel via public or active transport within the municipality;
- Co-location of site with other park facilities including playgrounds to promote wider social interaction and another and passive surveillance.

Accessibility

- Proximity to activity centres, public transport, active transport network connections;
- Walkable distance from schools and other educational institutions;
- Access to public toilets and water.

Facilities may include:

- Shelter;
- Drink fountain;
- Hang out spaces;
- Additional active recreational facilities that support wider activation and use of site, including; ping pong tables, basketball court, parkour etc.

Shared-use space

There is scope to broaden our definition of a skate facility through the development of shared and multi-use spaces that offer an opportunity for a more integrated and flexible youth oriented active space. Multi-use courts have been identified as the most appropriate sites to trial a shared-use facility. By increasing the width of court boundaries, as well as the inclusion of seating and detailing Council can accommodate a suite of defined and unstructured activities. Shared-use spaces help to promote greater tolerance of different user groups that may not usually interact.

In response to the resurgence and growing popularity of roller-skating in the mainstream community, and traditionally seen as an inclusive sport for the LGBTQIA+ community, women and girls, Council will explore options for the integration of roller-skating areas in shared-use spaces, for example multi-use courts and also skate park facilities.

Oasis parks

The development of Oasis Parks is a collaborative partnership across the organisation that works to integrate water sensitive urban design through stormwater capture, treatment and reuse as irrigation for cooling and greening parks. This reduces the reliance on potable water for irrigating large open spaces and supports resilient water supplies that in turn benefit increased urban greening and enhances liveability.

As we face increasing heatwaves across our municipality, parks with 'oasis' features will play an important role in cooling open spaces and reducing the urban heat island effect.

Currently there is a primary focus on integrating larger stormwater harvesting features in sporting reserves that also offer adjacent recreational activity through playgrounds, outdoor gym equipment, circuit paths and extensive tree planting. Further, water sensitive urban design features, such as swales and raingardens have been installed in smaller parks as a way to reduce the amount of stormwater pollutants reaching our waterways.



Sunvale Community Park, Sunshine. Source Emma Cross

Brimbank is introducing a suite of 'Oasis Parks' into its open space network. This water sensitive infrastructure has already been introduced at the following locations;

- Sunvale Community Park, Sunshine
- Dempster Park, Sunshine North
- Balmoral Park, Derrimut
- Green Gully Reserve, Keilor Downs
- Keilor Park Recreation Reserve, Keilor Park

All of our open space projects assess opportunities for incorporating integrated water management on site. The form of integrated water management selected will be dependent on site requirements and opportunities, as well as capital budget and ongoing maintenance considerations.

Water sensitive features may include:

- Stormwater harvesting systems
- WSUD assets including raingardens, swales, tree pits and wetlands
- Irrigation systems connected to underground tanks

Nature places

'Nature Places' aims to showcase the beauty and value of endangered grasslands and integrate select areas of conservation land into the open space network (sort of like transitional/ hybrid/ interfacing spaces). Practice of implementing nature places

is informed by 'Start with the Grasslands' a multi-disciplinary publication which guides the design and management of native grasslands in urban environments.

The purpose of nature places within or adjacent conservation land is to support the following;

- Highlight the ecological, cultural and heritage value of these spaces and its reflection of the unique local environmental conditions of Brimbank's basalt plains, which is often misunderstood by the community to be 'undeveloped' or 'unmanaged' land;
- Allows an urban community to experience nature and wild spaces in a guided and safe way. It is widely accepted that experiencing and spending time in not only green spaces, but 'wild spaces' has positive impact on community mental health;
- Engender pride of place and discourage community behaviour that impacts the health of these landscapes (such as rubbish and green waste dumping, motorbike use and other anti-social behaviour) through improved community understanding, community ownership and increased passive surveillance; and
- Showcase clever design and planning, where community and conservation needs are not mutually exclusive - where biodiversity and ecology become part of urban settings, rather than areas 'set-aside'



Nature Places, Matthews Hill Reserve. Source Pollen Studios

Enclosed Dog Off Leash areas

Dog Off Leash (DOFL) areas support good dog ownership practices and animal welfare, but are also an important opportunity for social interaction between pet owners. Council supports the inclusion of DOFL areas within our municipality due to the benefits for dogs and their owners.

Significant dog-ownership in Brimbank has resulted in a greater need for the provision of more off-leash areas to accommodate the increase in numbers. Brimbank's open space network must accommodate both human and animal visitors at the park as well as protecting native fauna and flora. In further developing the municipality's DOFL network, the installation of enclosed areas will ensure that open space can be shared safely by humans, furry visitors and local wildlife.

It is a requirement that all dogs are kept on a leash in all public open space areas within Brimbank, unless clearly signed as a designated off-leash area. Dog must be on a leash;

- In conservation areas
- Within 30 metres of children's play areas
- Near barbecue and outdoor eating areas
- Near informal sports or social events
- During formal sports events
- Within 5 metres of a walking/ bike path
- In heavy pedestrian traffic, on a school route.

Site Considerations:

Consideration of DOFL areas site suitability includes walkability and drivability, such as providing good pathway connectivity and on street car parking opportunities. Good passive surveillance to improve safety, good drainage and resilience of ground cover to wear and minimising amenity impacts to neighbours are also important considerations in site selection.

To date, enclosed DOFL areas are often located within otherwise encumbered open spaces such as linear easements and waterways, due to their requirement for low embellishment of facilities which these spaces support. The size of dog off leash reserves in Brimbank varies considerably and are generally responsive to the space available, from smaller DOFL areas such as Balmoral Park (approximately 3,000 m²) to Kings Road DOFL in Taylors Lakes along the power line easement (approximately 38,000 m²).

Facilities may include:

- Open grass areas;
- Large canopy trees within and around the park to provide shade and amenity;
- Bench seats;
- Perimeter fencing and double gated entrances with hardstand;
- Segregated spaces for larger and small dogs;
- Bins and dog bag dispensers;
- Drink fountains with a dog bowl if potable water and drainage connections can be supported.



Enclosed Dog Off Leash Reserve. Source Nico Keenan

Destination dog parks



*Kevin Flint Memorial Reserve, Destination Dog Park.
Source Nico Keenan*

Council has recently delivered fenced DOFL areas that include additional embellishments to support a range of dog and owner needs. There is an intention for one destination dog-park to be included in each Ward

These reserves are a regional draw card for Brimbank that not only include the standard dog off leash reserve facilities but also additional features such as:

- Natural rummaging areas such as sand pits and dry creek for sensory play;
- Agility equipment;
- All weather shelters

Youth oriented space

Consultation and survey results identified a gap in the provision of youth oriented space. It is important to recognise youth as cohort that are different to adults and children. Too often policies and services absorb youth into settings for older and younger groups and as a result consideration for this group's needs in the design of public and open space is missed.

For young people open space can support an often difficult time in their life when they are transitioning into adulthood, through providing opportunities for connecting with friends, physical activity, community participation, expressing themselves and offering a sense of freedom. In particular, girls and gender diverse teens need to feel safe and welcome in our open space network to support mental and physical health.

Traditionally there has been a focus on the delivery of facilities such as skate parks and basketball courts or similar and these facilities tend to be dominated by young males. While this does not preclude girls or gender-diverse people's desire to participate in such activities it is not far reaching in capturing the diversity of youth needs.

Taking advantage of the knowledge and experience of youth that reflect a range of lived experiences, particularly girls, gender diverse, LGBTQIA+ and youth living with disability, will not only empower but drive better design outcomes that reflect the types of spaces young people want to inhabit. Youth oriented space will be informed by Brimbank wide and site specific engagement with young people between the ages of twelve to nineteen.

Youth oriented space may include (but are not limited to);

- Opportunities to socialise and express oneself
- Opportunities for unstructured physical activity
- Good access to public transport, activity centres and schools
- Spaces to retreat in open space and nature
- Share-use space that incorporates play features and hang out spaces, multi-purpose court

Case Study: Youth Oriented Space

Bredang Park, Stockholm



Nivå Landscape Architects in collaboration with a focus group of local girls living in the suburb of Bredäng. For Skärholmen City District Administration - Bredäng Park, Bredäng Stockholm, Sweden (images: Robin Hayes, 2020)

Bredang Park was designed in collaboration with a focus group of local girls living in the area. It was initiated in response to findings that Swedish children and youth did not engage in enough daily physical activity, in particular teenage girls. The process of collaboration sought to generate new and more inclusive opportunities for physical activity that would appeal to a greater diversity of users. Through a series of workshops the design was developed to promote unstructured physical activity.

The activity space includes both facilities and less defined elements, such as ground patterning to encourage movement. The park also features a shelter that runs around one corner and is integrated into the parks play space. It includes social seating, a stage, Bluetooth speakers and lighting so that the park can be accessed at all times of the year.

Design and Development Guidelines

Design and development standards for open space reflect best practice park design, statutory requirements, local experience and community expectations within Brimbank. These standards reinforce the hierarchy of open spaces within Brimbank and in conjunction with future assessments for any new parks, will support equitable access to the municipalities open space network and facilities across the community.

These standards should be considered with site and local community characteristics in designing and developing individual parks and playgrounds. Although these standards should guide open space development and management, all open spaces should be designed considering local site characteristics which may affect the development standards.

Designs will be guided by the requirements of the Building Code of Australia and relevant Australian Standards. These codes and standards will be complied with where required.

Open space matrix

The following open space matrix identifies minimum standards for park and playground as set out by the open space framework. The table can guide design decisions made by Council, Consultants and Developers in undertaking park upgrades and new park delivery.

This table should be used as a guide only as not every facility will be appropriate for different types of open space. Facilities and features should be considered in the context of individual sites, local community consultation, budgets, design, environmental and cultural values and other localised needs and values.

- Where noted in BCC Public Toilet strategy 2016
- * Subject to Litter Bin Policy Allocation Guidelines
- ** Where Park is the most convenient route to community infrastructure e.g. Public Transport, Supermarket, etc
- *** Subject to further investigations to determine criteria

Park Amenity	Flagship Park	Suburban Park	Neighbourhood Park		Local Park	Heritage and Memorial Gardens	Waterway Reserve	Linear Reserve
			S	L				
Off street car parking inc. DDA bays	●							
Public Toilets	●	●						
Picnic Tables	●	●	●	●		●		
Bench Seating	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
BBQ	●	●						
Small Shelter			●					
Medium Shelter		●		●				
Large shelter or multiple medium shelters	●							
Drink Fountain	●	●				●		
Rubbish Bins*	●	●	●	●		●		
Kickabout grass area	●	●		●	●			
Play								
Small Playground			●	●				
Medium Playground		●						
Large Playground	●							
All abilities play facilities	●	●						
Pathways								
Circuit Path	●	●		●				
Accessible pathway to key desire lines	●	●	●	●		●		
Accessible pathway to primary facilities	●	●	●	●		●	●	●
Bike Infrastructure								
Bike Parking	●	●	●	●		●		
Bike Repair Station	●						●	●
Lighting								
Task Lighting (primary pathways)	●					●		
Park Facility Lighting	●					●		
Essential thoroughfare**	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Circuit Path Lighting***	●	●		●				
Signage								
Wayfinding Signage	●						●	●
Behavioral Signage	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Interpretive Signage	●					●	●	
Park Name Signage	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Landscaping								
Garden Beds	●	●				●		
Manicured Lawn Areas	●	●				●		
Shade Trees	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
WSUD Features	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Public Art	●							
Future Proofing								
Event and hospitality opportunities through installation of water and power access	●					●		

Open Space Guidelines

Flagship Parks

Access

- Provision of DDA compliant access from primary park entrances connecting all key facilities including playground, picnic facilities, public toilets and car parks
- Public transport connections close to the play space (bus stop or train station)
- Access point to play space can be easily used by pedestrians - limited barriers, such as main roads, intersections with no signals or limited pedestrian amenity

Park Amenity

As per the Open Space matrix, with the following considerations;

- Ensure all park facilities and furniture supports universal access and use
- Provision of various and flexible open picnic areas to accommodate large and small groups
- Encourage the use of active transport visitation to the park through the provision of bicycle parking and repair station facilities
- Ensure public toilets are consistent with current DDA standards and strive to incorporate changing places facilities if budget permits
- Provision of on street or off street car parking that includes DDA compliant car parking spaces and clear and accessible movement networks to key facilities
- Shelter/s to accommodate at least 20 people. More than one shelter may be required depending on scale of site.
- Provide a diversity of seating/ gathering areas for multiple groups
- Future proof hospitality and event opportunities through installation of water and power access collocated with key facilities

Pathways

- Well defined all weather pathways with a minimum width of 2.5 metres
- A primary well defined all weather walking / jogging track of at least 2.5 metres width where spatial context permits, which is linked into adjacent pathways along waterways and secondary trails

Physical Activity Facilities

- Provide Informal sports facilities which may include specific or all-purpose play courts and fitness equipment
- Consider how courts may accommodate various interests/ uses and flexibility such as netball and basketball, skating and blading, etc.
- Support youth physical activity by co-locating physical activity facilities with spectator and gathering spaces

Signage

- Park name signage
- Directional signage/ mobility maps should be provided to all key entrances to aid wayfinding using easy to read infographics
- Interpretive signage should be provided to respond to local characteristics/ history, to support place making objectives
- Support connections to nearby public transport, shopping centres and walking and cycling trails through directional signage

Lighting

- Provide lighting to primary pathway where there is a clear desire line between essential facilities such as formal sports facilities, activity centres, public transport and education facilities, where convenient access is not provided by the streetscape network
- Provide lighting to primary pathway networks and circuit paths to support early evening use by the community
- Provide lighting to key picnic facilities, key recreational facilities and play facilities to support early evening use;
- Lighting should enhance the sense of security and minimise the floodlight effect by utilising lower level lighting

Landscape

- Provide a diversity of open grassed areas for picnics, kick about areas and retreats from activity
- Provide Irrigated lawn and feature garden beds using low maintenance species and incorporating treated stormwater wherever possible
- Provide broad canopy shade trees through park area and around and within playgrounds and picnic facilities to provide shade coverage of at least 50%

Suburban Parks

Access

- Provision of DDA compliant access from park entrances connecting all key facilities including playground and main picnic facilities
- Public transport connections close to the play space (bus stop or train station)
- Access point to play space can be easily used by pedestrians- limited barriers, such as main roads, intersections with no signals or limited pedestrian amenity

Park Amenity

As per the Open Space matrix, with the following considerations;

- Ensure all park facilities and furniture supports universal access and use
- Encourage the use of active transport visitation to the park through the provision of bicycle parking
- Shelter to accommodate at least 12 people
- Provide a diversity of seating/ gathering areas for multiple groups
- Public toilets only if designated in the Brimbank Public Toilet Strategy

Pathways

- Well defined all weather pathways with a minimum width of 2.5 metres
- A primary well defined all weather walking / jogging track of at least 2.5 metres width where spatial context permits, which is linked into adjacent pathways

Physical Activity Facilities

- Informal sports facilities may include specific or all-purpose play courts and fitness equipment
- Consider how courts may accommodate various interests/ uses and flexibility such as netball and basketball, skating and blading, etc.
- Support youth physical activity by co-locating physical activity facilities with spectator and gathering spaces

Signage

- Inclusion of Suburban Park sign that states name of park

Lighting

- Provide lighting to primary pathway where there is a clear desire line between essential facilities such as formal sports facilities, activity centres, public transport and education facilities, where convenient access is not provided by the streetscape network
- Lighting will be supported to circuit paths to support early/ or evening use
- Lighting to park facilities is not supported in Suburban Parks such as play grounds and picnic facilities

Landscape

- Non irrigated garden beds to feature locations
- Non irrigated open lawn areas
- Tall canopy shade trees scattered through park to shade coverage of at least 50%

Neighbourhood Parks

Access

- Provide safe and convenient access to all Neighbourhood Parks via the footpath network
- Provision of DDA compliant pathway to playground and picnic facilities

Park Amenity

As per the Open Space matrix, with the following considerations;

- Park furniture including bench seating and picnic table
- A large or small shelter as per Neighbourhood Park size.

Pathways

- Well defined all weather pathways with a minimum width of 2.0 metres leading to key facilities
- In larger Neighbourhood Parks, a primary well defined all weather walking / jogging track of at least 2.0 metres width where spatial context permits, which is linked into adjacent pathways

Physical Activity Facilities

- Inclusion of physical activities are generally not supported in smaller Neighbourhood Parks due to budget and spatial limitation
- In larger Neighbourhood Parks, physical activity facilities may include play courts and fitness stations that are suitable for a range of ages and abilities, located along the principle pathway network
- Consider how courts may accommodate various interests/ uses and flexibility such as netball and basketball, skating and blading, etc.

Lighting

- Provide lighting to primary pathway where there is a clear desire line between essential facilities such as formal sports facilities, activity centres, public transport and education facilities, where convenient access is not provided by the streetscape network
- Lighting will be supported to circuit paths to support early/ or evening use
- Lighting to park facilities is not supported in Neighbourhood Parks such as play grounds and picnic facilities

Signage

- Inclusion of Neighbourhood Park sign that states name of park

Landscape

- Non-irrigated grassed areas
- Tall canopy shade trees scattered through park area and around and within playgrounds to provide shade coverage of at least 50%
- Garden beds are not supported in Neighbourhood Parks

Local Parks

Access

- Provide safe and convenient access to all Neighbourhood and local parks along the footpath network

Park Amenity

As per the Open Space matrix, with the following considerations;

- Minimal park furniture may include bench seating and picnic table where appropriate

Pathways

- Well defined all weather pathways aligning with pedestrian desire lines

Landscape

- Non-irrigated grassed areas
- Tall canopy shade trees scattered through park to provide shade coverage of at least 50%.
- Native or indigenous shrub planting where appropriate

Lighting

- Provide lighting to primary pathway where there is a clear desire line between essential facilities such as formal sports facilities, activity centres, public transport and education facilities, where convenient access is not provided by the streetscape network

Playground Guidelines

A quality playground should be a place to play that is safe and accessible for a range of abilities offering a diverse range challenging and stimulating play experiences for children of all ages.

Playground design and upgrades must be compliant with Australian Safety Standards and should be considered with regard for community needs and the context of the site including;

- Provision of shade
- Access
- Landscaping
- Signage
- Fences/ barriers
- Play components for various ages and ability
- Associated park facilities; furniture, shelters, toilets and car parking
- Management of conflicts of other parks uses, such as Dog Off Leash Areas

The surrounding landscape setting and features are key to the level of comfort and recreation opportunity that playgrounds offer visitors.

Shade and sun protection in playgrounds

Survey responses and general requests demonstrate, strong community desire for more shaded areas as well as fabric shade sails to be placed over playground equipment to maintain usability of playgrounds during sun exposure. Providing adequate shade is of great importance to Council. While shade sails can provide effective shade, especially when the sail is low, they are also prone to vandalism and are expensive. The preference to date has been to use trees and shelters together. Trees are more effective in creating shade over time and grouped plantings of trees will shade a larger area during the day. Trees are economically more sustainable than shade sails and provide better shade in the long term. As part of Council's Urban Forest Strategy new shade provision for parks will continue to be primarily provided through significant tree planting.

At Flagship and Suburban Parks, picnic shelters are sited adjacent to playgrounds and other well used facilities to provide a shaded space which overlooks areas of high use. Picnic shelters are now proposed to be included in all Neighbourhood Parks.



Varna Place Reserve. Source: Summer Zhou

Flagship Park Playground

Siting

- Located in an easily accessible and visually prominent location and close to supporting park facilities such as public toilets, picnic facilities, rest facilities and food and beverage facilities
- Play space can be protected from adjacent potential risks such as main roads and water bodies through good surveillance or creation of barriers

Pathways

- Paths of travel leading to and throughout the playground to support all abilities movement

Play

- Large feature playground with key attractors and/or unique qualities – providing a visual point of interest
- Catering for a range of ages including toddlers, pre-school age children and school aged children
- Supporting communal play and sharing, as well as independent play
- Supporting physical play
- Supporting sensory, auditory and tactile play
- Installation of feature facilities such as large flying foxes and water play, etc.

Inclusive

- Play elements (especially central 'feature' elements) to be accessible and purposeful for people with disabilities to support meaningful play experiences
- All abilities equipment to cater for people with disabilities e.g. all abilities swings, floor level carousels, etc.
- Range of soft-fall surfaces to support access for users with disabilities
- Supporting facilities for carers including formal and informal seating and an easily traversable circulation network

Landscape

- Tall and broad canopy trees around and within playground to provide coverage of at least 50%
- Informal surfaces for imaginative play such as asphalt, sand and grass
- Hardy, durable plantings within playgrounds to increase access to nature
- Shade sails may be considered if insufficient natural shade available, as solution until surrounding trees grow.

Suburban Park Playground

Access

- Located in an easily accessible and visually prominent location and close to supporting park facilities

Pathways

- Paths of travel leading to and throughout the playground to support all abilities movement

Play

- A good quality playground catering to a range of ages including toddlers, pre-school age children and school aged children
- Supporting communal play and sharing, as well as independent play
- Supporting physical play
- Supporting sensory, auditory and/or tactile play

Inclusive

- Some playground facilities to cater for people with disabilities
- Range of soft-fall surfaces to support access for users with disabilities
- Supporting facilities for carers including formal and informal seating and a circulation network

Landscape

- Tall and broad canopy trees around and within playground to provide shade coverage of at least 50%
- Informal surfaces for imaginative play such as asphalt, sand and grass

Neighbourhood Park Playground

Access

- Located in a visually prominent location and close to supporting park facilities and points of access

Play

- Modest playground infrastructure as a minimum must include swings, a combination unit offering various play experiences and a slide
- Catering to a range of ages including toddlers, pre-school age children and school aged children

Landscape

- Tall and broad canopy trees around and within playground to provide shade coverage of at least 50%
- Predominant mulch playground surfacing with minimal amount of rubber soft fall



Maintenance

Maintenance was seen as an important issue for the community with a general concern for cleanliness and condition of open space. This was closely aligned with whether or not a park was regularly used. Concerns centred on litter and waste removal, graffiti, and maintenance of trees and grassed areas.

It is important to provide clear maintenance guidelines that align community expectations with Council budget and resources. Not all parks will be maintained to the same level and this is why we have an Open Space Typologies to provide guidance on the level of maintenance that reflects the range of amenity and level of use.

Vegetation

Weed Control

Brimbank Council has a weed control program that aims to efficiently and effectively manage the occurrence of weeds across Council-managed land in Brimbank. The program is guided by regulatory authorities Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority and WorkSafe.

Herbicides are used in a selective and targeted manner in accordance with instruction and health and safety guidelines. Spraying herbicides is avoided near childcare facilities, playgrounds, kindergartens and community facilities.

Open grassed areas

Well maintained grass areas support a range of uses in the open space network, including but not limited to, Dog Off-leash areas and kick-about areas for informal recreational activities. Open grassed areas also assist in regulating urban heat island effect through absorbing moisture and contributing to passive cooling.

Principal grassed areas in Flagship and Suburban Parks will be irrigated and actively managed including the use of fertiliser and weed eradication. Zoning of parks as part of sustainable practices will rationalise areas of grass maintained to a higher standard.

Litter

Litter and rubbish dumping in open space has been raised as a regular issue for local community in Brimbank. Litter has far reaching negative impacts on our open space network, from appearance, reduced perceptions of safety, environmental implications and health and safety issues. Survey results and general community feedback saw requests for better waste management in parks, including more bins, waste removal and educational signage that promotes responsible rubbish disposal to protect our local environment.

Brimbank's Waste, Recycling, and Litter Strategy (2018-2028) has a focus on education to lower incidences of careless or deliberate littering. Council has a rapid response service for the removal of dumped rubbish in public space, which is accessed by the 'Report It' function on Council's website.

Graffiti

Issues of graffiti on park facilities were highlighted as a maintenance issue in community feedback. The swift removal of graffiti in parks requires joint action between local residents and Council. Council has a quick response procedure for responding to community reports of graffiti on Council assets, public, private and commercial property in Brimbank. Council's approach to graffiti prevention and management is guided by the Graffiti Prevention and Management Policy (2019) and includes the following principles: Rapid response to removal; Environmental Design; Place Management; and Community support.

For more information refer to [Brimbank Council Graffiti Prevention and Management Policy](#)

The following matrix outlines the level of maintenance of open space as per the open space framework:

	Flagship Park	Suburban Park	Neighbourhood Park		Local Park	Heritage and Memorial Gardens	Waterway Reserve	Linear Reserve
Maintenance			S	L				
Maintained at least once per week, subject to park usage	●					●		
Maintained fortnightly, subject to park usage		●						
Maintained monthly subject to park usage			●	●				
Maintained regularly subject to seasonal conditions					●		●	●
Garden beds maintained to a healthy standard including regular mulching and feeding	●	●				●		
Plant replacement as required	●					●		
Shade trees maintained to a healthy standard with regular mulching and pruning	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Mulch bed top up and weed removal	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Grass and garden bed irrigation system utilising recycled water where possible	●					●		
Principal grass areas actively managed using fertiliser and weed eradication	●					●		
Consistent coverage of grass must be maintained and minimisation of grass burrs present		●	●	●	●			

Maintenance Matrix

Implementation framework

Actions

This section outlines how Council will address the contemporary challenges faced by Brimbank's open space network and provides further detail on where Council will address site or precinct specific initiatives.

The following actions are subject to future budgets but have set an indicative time frames associated as follows;

- Ongoing (ON - Immediate and/ or Ongoing)
- Short Term (ST: within 1-2 years)
- Medium Term (MT: 2-5 years), and
- Long Term (LT: - 5+ years).

Long term actions have been identified and should be seen as aspirational and due to budget and resourcing limitations are not anticipated to be delivered over the next 4-6 years of this iteration of CBP.

Health and Well-being						
			Ongoing	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
Actions	A.1	Undertake an audit of existing physical activity facilities within Brimbank to identify and resolve gaps in community access, and confirm quality, and suitability of facilities.				
	A.2	Undertake an analysis of each suburb's Physical Activity Facilities to identify what types of facilities are located and where. Use this information to guide the provision of new physical activity facilities that increase diversity of types and support use by various members of the community.				
	A.3	Review and update Cycling and Walking Strategy (2016) to assess opportunities to improve local connectivity to Brimbank's nature reserves, waterways and linear reserves which important access to nature.				
	A.4	Continue to provide park amenity and foster events in open spaces that support social interaction and community participation, such as picnic and park facilities, bench seats and circuit paths				
	A.5	Where appropriate, increase tree canopy cover in parks, to ensure that there is at least 50% coverage.				

Gender Equality						
			Ongoing	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
Actions	A.6	Develop Gender Sensitive Design Principles that are evidence informed and founded in lived experience to drive future policy and delivery.				
	A.7	Undertake a 'diversity and inclusion' assessment as part of all capital works upgrades which will incorporate gender considerations in the delivery of open space projects.				
	A.8	When consulting on open space projects, ask targeted questions to best understand experiences of accessibility, safety and functionality of spaces for girls, women and gender diverse people and incorporate feedback into the design.				

Diverse and Inclusive

			Ongoing	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
Actions	A.9	To support Council's goal of embedding the Social Justice Charter across organisational processes, prepare a 'diversity and inclusion' assessment as part of all capital works upgrades. This will incorporate age, culture, gender, sexuality and ability considerations in the delivery of open space projects.				
	A.10	Develop an engagement plan for all major open space projects that engage the general community as well as harder to reach groups such as youth, CALD communities, LGBTQIA+ and people with disabilities.				
	A.11	When consulting on open space projects, ensure consultation approach considers targeted questions to best understand experiences of accessibility, safety and functionality of spaces for people of various ages, cultures, gender, sexuality and abilities.				
	A.12	Ensure that engagement collateral and listening posts for major open space projects are interpreted for any relevant dominant language groups other than English, where appropriate.				
	A.13	Undertake community analysis of youth needs in open space in order to create a locally specific definition of 'youth focused spaces' via targeted consultation with young people aged 10-25 years.				
	A.14	Incorporate youth purpose built spaces into the open space network, ensuring that they are accessible and inclusive to all youth regardless of age, gender, sexuality and ability.				
	A.15	Prioritise youth focused consultation processes in upgrading open space to ensure delivery reflects user needs.				
	A.16	Explore opportunities to create social gathering spaces for varying groups and sizes in parks.				
	A.17	Engage early with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP) when creating strategies and master plans on culturally significant land. Continue engagement throughout the lifecycle of a project to ensure projects are respectfully articulating cultural knowledge and landscape values about place.				
	A.18	Investigate an amendment to Councils standard park signage strategy to incorporate acknowledgement of Traditional Owners in all standard park name signs.				
	A.19	Assess opportunities to incorporate new public space in Council owned community facilities in line with the Community Services and Infrastructure Plan 2018-2038				

Diverse and Inclusive						
			Ongoing	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
Actions	A.20	Continue implementation of interpretive signage that acknowledges local Traditional Owners along waterway reserves and other culturally significant landscapes as per CBP 2016 and Brimbank Council Reconciliation Plan 2019-2021.				
	A.21	Commence discussions with Brimbank Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation Action Plan Consultative Committee (BATSICC) and local RAPs to establish a bench mark for future consultation expectations for open space projects, in particular projects where consultation is not enacted under the Cultural Heritage Management Plan process.				
	A.22	Seek opportunities to engage First Nations consultants in design and other consultancy services within open space projects.				

Climate Change Resilience						
			Ongoing	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
Actions	A.23	Undertake drainage assessments of open spaces with spatial properties that would support Oasis Park upgrades, to confirm site suitability and forecast program and budget considerations.				
	A.24	Tree planting in open spaces to achieve at least 50% mature tree canopy coverage, where possible, to support reduction of the urban heat island effect.				
	A.25	Develop a minimum standards/ best practice for car park designs in Flagship Parks and Nature Reserves that include provision of WSUD and tree canopy coverage.				
	A.26	Implement passive drainage systems in all park upgrades for irrigating trees and garden beds, utilising rainwater runoff from impervious surfaces such as footpaths and shelters.				
	A.27	Identify urgent sites for the implementation of shade adjacent and within playgrounds and along Shared User Paths (SUP) through semi mature tree plantings as part of the ongoing municipal tree planting program.				
	A.28	Specify warm season grasses in all Flagship, Suburban and Neighbourhood Parks as upgraded.				

Biodiversity								
					Ongoing	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
Actions	A.29	Prepare a preferred plant species and design approach list that enhances biodiversity, adapts to climate change and the limitations of ongoing maintenance.						
	A.30	Continue to roll out the 'Nature Places' program to increase community awareness of local grasslands and conservation assets.						
	A.31	Implement in Local Parks the incorporation of native tree and shrub species to enhance biodiversity and support ecological/ habitat linkages in our open space network.						
	A.32	Specify sterile grass/ lawn varieties in park upgrades adjacent to waterways, grasslands or other environmentally sensitive areas to support the protection of indigenous grasses.						

Safe, Accessible and Connected								
					Ongoing	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
Actions	A.33	Develop a communications plan to increase public awareness on appropriate behaviour, rules and regulations within open space.						
	A.34	Implement the CPTED principles to new and redeveloped spaces.						
	A.35	Work with Council's safety partnership groups to identify issues that impact community perceptions of safety at specific parks and open spaces.						
	A.36	Investigate accessibility and safety of park facilities, walking trails and circuit paths, through consultation and research to develop a framework for delivering lighting in open spaces in Brimbank.						
	A.37	Directional, interpretive and distance signage and indicators will be placed on trails along creeks and waterways.						

Equitable Distribution			Ongoing	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
Actions	A.38	Assess the designation of open space typologies and distribution of open space amenities and facilities upon completion of Council's <i>Community Infrastructure and Open Space Gaps Analysis</i> (currently in development).				
	A.39	Resolve gaps in community access to Flagship Parks, including; Harvester/ Grasslands Ward <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hierarchical amendment to Balmoral Park, Derrimut to a Flagship Park. Acknowledging the spatial constraints of the Balmoral Park site, opportunities to increase the diversity of playground facilities, youth focused spaces and walking and cycling access improvements will be investigated.Future development of Sunshine Energy Park to include Flagship Park amenities while evolving to a regional park in line with the Sunshine Energy Park Vision Plan.				
	A.40	Resolve gaps in community access to Suburban Parks, including the following site specific investigations (delivery pending further investigations for suitability); Taylors Ward <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hierarchical amendment to Pioneer Park, Sydenham to a SP.Hierarchical amendment to Keilor Lodge Reserve, Taylors Lakes to a SP.Investigate the provision of a new SP within available open space (whether Council or Government owned) within residential area between Maribyrnong River/ Calder Freeway, and Sunshine Avenue/ Overnewton Road, Keilor. Horseshoe Bend Ward <ul style="list-style-type: none">Include SP level park and playground facilities to Alfreida Street as part of the Alfreida Street Master Plan. Grasslands Ward <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hierarchical amendment to Rita Street Reserve, St Albans to a SP.Hierarchical amendment to Glenmaggie Drive Reserve, St Albans to a SP.				

Equitable Distribution

			Ongoing	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
Actions	A.41	Harvester Ward				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hierarchical amendment to JR Parsons Reserve, Sunshine to a SP as guided by the JR Parsons Reserve Community Vision and Site Plan 2019. 				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a hierarchical amendment to Dempster Park, Sunshine North to a SP. 				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunity for Joint User Agreement with Sunshine College, North Campus to enhance recreational opportunities of Dempster Park. 				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the provision of a new SP within available open space (whether Council or Government owned) within residential area between Fitzgerald Road/ Andersons Road and VLine Rail Corridor/Glengala Road precinct, Sunshine West. 				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hierarchical amendment to Sunshine Reserve, Sunshine West to a SP. 				
	A.42	Investigate opportunities within the local park and reserves network to improve community access to neighbourhood parks				
	A.43	Investigate opportunities to provide an enclosed or unenclosed Dog Off-leash areas in the following suburb/precincts (delivery pending further investigations for suitability);				
		Horseshoe Bend Ward				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Albans North and Kealba precinct 				
		Grasslands Ward				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kings Park and Albanvale North precinct 				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cairnlea North precinct 				
	A.44	To improve increased functionality for the community, investigate opportunities to enclose currently unenclosed Dog Off Leash areas where practical and affordable, in the following locations (delivery pending further investigations for suitability);				
		Harvester Ward				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthews Hill Reserve (separation from SUP) 				
		Horseshoe Bend Ward				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keilor Park Recreational Reserve 				

Equitable Distribution			Ongoing	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
Actions	A.45	Deliver one 'destination dog park' in each ward through the investigation of the following sites (delivery pending further investigations for suitability); • Wahgunyah Reserve, St Albans. • Nancy Street Reserve, Sunshine West. • Goldsmith Avenue, Delahey				
	A.46	Investigate opportunities to provide Skate/ Scoot/ BMX facilities in the following suburb/ precincts (delivery pending further investigations for suitability); • Taylors Lakes • Keilor/ Keilor Park precinct • Sunshine North • Kings Park • Deer Park south/ Cairnlea precinct.				
	A.47	Consider all-abilities park and playground facilities in Flagship Parks as they arise in the park renewal program or as part of new developments, including the following sites; • Kevin Flint Memorial Reserve, Cairnlea • Buckingham Reserve, Sunshine West • Cliff Harvey Lagoon Reserve, Keilor Village • Isabella Williams Memorial Reserve, Albanvale • The Lakes Reserve, Taylors Lakes • Sunvale Community Park, Sunshine • Balmoral Park, Derrimut				
	A.48	Investigate opportunities to fully enclosed playgrounds in the following suburbs or precincts (this action will also be rolled, where opportunity arises, through the park upgrade program); • Taylors Lakes • Sydenham • Albanvale • Kings Park/ Albanvale precinct • Cairnlea • Derrimut • Deer Park • Albion/ Ardeer precinct • St Albans • Sunshine North				

Quality Open Space			Ongoing	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
Actions	A.49	Council will prepare landscape standard details to support the implementation of consistent, low maintenance and high quality infrastructure.				
	A.50	Park design will be informed by the State Government's 'Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria'.				
	A.51	Develop urban design guidelines for infill and larger developments incorporating minimum standards for space allocation and development guidelines to reflect the framework of CBP.				
	A.52	In collaboration with City Strategy, develop Built Form Controls and Landscape Guidelines to be adopted into Council Planning Scheme to address development adjacent to open space, particularly sensitive ecological and culturally sensitive sites.				

Awareness and Promotion			Ongoing	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
Actions	A.53	Update Council's website 'What's Near Me' regularly to ensure community can access accurate and up to date information about local and regional open spaces and facilities.				
	A.54	Regularly promote the diverse open space network via Council's social media and print media platforms.				
	A.55	In newly created or updated parks, host events to celebrate upgrades and promote the upgrades to a wider catchment of the community to highlight new facilities.				
	A.56	Support ongoing activation of parks through a collaboration process with communities, Council Departments and service providers that strengthen accessibility and use.				
	A.57	Investigate opportunities for regional promotion of key open spaces through media outlets.				
	A.58	Revise and update audit of Parks that have appropriate facilities to stage festivals and community events, identifying 'ready to go' sites and sites to be further developed for purpose.				
	A.59	Investigate new sites in the open space network for holding festivals and events.				

Financial Investment

Investment to date

CBP has supported accurate long term forecasting of capital works and asset management budgeting. By the end of the 2021/2022 financial year, the following investment has occurred through CBP guided upgrades to the open space network:

Park Type	Number of Parks	Approximate Investment
Flagship Parks (FP)	6	\$15,996,000
Suburban Parks (SP)	27	\$15,727,000
Neighbourhood Parks (NP)	89	\$11,714,000
Local Parks (LP)	12	\$800,000
Sports facilities in parks	various	\$400,000
TOTALS	136	\$44,737,000

Table 01 funding associated with CBP upgrades by June 2022

Future Capital Works Investment - CBP Upgrades

To complete the transformation of Brimbank's open space network as defined by the standards and policies of CBP 2016, the following investment is required:

Park Type	Number of Parks	Description	Nominal Cost
Flagship Parks	0	Flagship Parks now in renewal phase	\$0
Suburban Parks	0	Suburban Parks now in renewal phase	\$0
Neighbourhood Parks	21	Sites yet to be upgraded under CBP	\$4,200,000
Local Parks	95	Various sites	\$2,200,000
TOTAL			\$6,400,000

Table 02 Outstanding CBP upgrades. Costs are approximate and reflect projected costs in 2021.

Future Capital Works Investment - New Initiatives and Gap Resolution

These actions are the result of investigations and consultation of CBP 2022. To resolve gaps in access within the existing open space network and to action new initiatives outlined in CBP 2022, the following investment is required:

Park Type	Number of Parks	Description	Nominal Cost
Flagship Parks	1	Balmoral Park - Provision of additional park and playground facilities to a FP level	\$250,000
Suburban Parks	7	SP development to existing NPs - cost to vary dependent on level of existing infrastructure	\$500,000 per site
	3	Creation of new SPs on Council/ Government owned land	\$500,000 per site
Skate, Scoot and BMX facilities	5	Creation of new facilities within existing open space	\$500,000 per site
All abilities play spaces and park amenity	7	To be incorporated into FP renewal upgrades - budget allocated to all abilities infrastructure	\$250,000 per site
New enclosed Dog Off Leash Reserves	2	Fencing and associated infrastructure	\$200,000 per site
Destination Dog Parks	3	Fencing and associated infrastructure	\$400,000 per site
Enclosing playgrounds where gaps exist	10	Fence and gate installation to existing playgrounds	\$60,000 per site
Physical Activity Facilities - Fitness Stations	As reqd.	Fitness stations as required through provisional analysis	\$100,000 per site
Physical Activity Facilities - Courts	As reqd.	Court installation as required through provisional analysis	150,000
Physical Activity Facilities - Circuit Paths	As reqd.	Circuit path installation as required through provisional analysis	\$250,000

Table 03 Open spaces and facilities to be delivered in response to gaps. Costs are approximate and reflect projected cost in 2022.

Amendments to the open space network

Creation of new parks

Council has previously supported the creation of new parks to accommodate community access to open space. Due to the high cost associated with acquiring land to create new public open spaces, alternative methods which are cost effective will be explored as a priority where gaps exist, include the following;

- Negotiate for new parks of an appropriate hierarchy classification within new residential developments to provide facilities to the immediate and surrounding community;
- Repurposing of existing Council or Government owned land for open space, including the following scenarios;
 - Partnering with utility land managers for installation of new park, playground and reserve infrastructure within easements
 - Reconfiguration of underutilised road space for park facilities as part of Council's road rehabilitation program- e.g. Glengala Pocket Park, Sunshine West
- Repurposing of car parks for temporary or permanent open space - e.g. Sunshine Transport Activation Project at Sun Crescent, Sunshine, in partnership with Department of Transport
- Investigating suitability of conversion of former landfill sites to public open space, e.g. Sunshine Energy Park, Albion
- Advocacy to State Government and the Department of Education for allocation of now closed school sites as public open space - e.g. Sunvale Community Park, Sunshine
- Joint User Agreement with schools to provide open space to local communities outside of school hours.



Glengala Pocket Park, Sunshine West Photographer: Bridê Blake

Hierarchical amendment to existing parks

As suburbs evolve, become denser and more populated it will be necessary to modify existing parks' classification through a hierarchical amendment as a way to increase the functionality and amenity. This will provide improved access and ensure greater diversity of recreational opportunities for the community.

The 2022 iteration of CBP has identified gaps in community access to various types of park infrastructure. Hierarchical amendments and the delivery of new parks will be guided by functionality and amenity gap analysis and also the Community Infrastructure and Open Space Gaps Provision. Hierarchical amendments may occur with consideration of the following circumstances;

- **Reflected in distribution analysis -** A hierarchical amendment to an open space is supported by the CBP 2022 distribution analysis and is responsive to a demonstrated need.
- **Evolving urban densities -** significant increase in population density of a residential catchment warrants a hierarchical amendment to a nearby open space to support anticipated increase in usage of open space.
- **Health indicators -** from the Australian Health Policy Collaboration Report identify localised poor health indicators that may be supported by a hierarchical amendment to offer increased opportunities for physical activity, social interaction and relaxation for the community.

Selection of the most appropriate site for a hierarchical amendment

In assessing a precinct's existing open spaces for suitability of a site for a hierarchical amendment, the following, in addition to CBP objectives, should include;

- **Functionality and fit for purpose -** The open space must support the specific functional and spatial requirements of the proposed hierarchical amendment.
- **Walkability and accessibility -** Council recognises infrastructure barriers such as arterial roads and freeways, waterways, train lines and commercial/ industrial zones may create physical and/ or psychological severance between a residential area and its nearby open spaces. When assessing the suitability of a site, limitations on access and walkability are considered.
- **Distribution and variety -** At a precinct scale, an assessment of diversity of existing park amenity (play types, open space, facilities, furniture and other park embellishments) is provided through this hierarchical amendment.
- **Community demand -** Consideration of local sentiment, ideas, and requests for change over a period of time may influence the preferred park selection for a hierarchical amendment.

Measuring and reporting

CBP has considered how ongoing success will be measured with key indicators reported on either annually or every 2-3 years in relation to the seven Goals proposed in CBP. The following table documents the Indicators, Measure and Timeframes.

Creating Better Parks Policy and Plan Goals	Indicator	How Council will measure	Reporting Timeframe
Equitable distribution of high amenity open space	Facilities and amenity delivered	Summary of gaps addressed Summary of facilities delivered per ward	Annually
Support positive community health and well-being outcomes	Active open space	Report on physical activity facilities delivered	Annual
		Community survey on level of participation of physical activity in parks (passive and active).	2-3 years
Create accessible, inclusive facilities where communities can connect	Level of engagement for Capital Works Project	A report on highlights of community engagement processes	Annual
		Summary of engagement processes used in each Capital Works Projects	Annual
		Metric of respondents for Your Say page	
Sustainable management, that ensures quality open space	Walkability to playgrounds and parks	Community survey on functionality and accessibility	Every 2-3 Years
	Use and quality of open space network	Report on annual Playground Audit-metrics	Annually
Protected and enhanced local biodiversity health	Summary of actions in strategy that have been achieved each year	Review Actions	Annually
	Species diversity in parks	Report on projects that incorporate diversity and species appropriate planting design	Annually
A climate adaptive open space network that supports urban liveability	Canopy cover	Gather LIDAR percentage of tree canopy cover increase of open space network and report findings - to align with the Urban Forest Strategy	Every 3-5 years
Parks as a regional asset	Park openings	Report on number of park openings and Festivals and Events	Annually
	Festivals and events in parks		



Distribution Analysis

The following maps highlight existing conditions and serve to identify gaps in provision to these open space typologies and facilities. The findings of these mappings can inform decision making in relation to future capital works investment, acquisition of new land for open space** or hierarchical amendments to existing open spaces to improve community access to diverse facilities. The opportunities flagged as part of these spatial investigations are long term aspirations and due to budget and resourcing limitations, are not expected to be delivered over the next 4-6 years of this iteration of CBP.

*** Actioning the provision of open space will be dependent on the delivery of the Community Infrastructure and Gaps Analysis Provision document that is currently being undertaken.*

Park catchments by ward

Municipal and Ward Catchment maps illustrate walkable and accessible distance to Flagship, Suburban and Neighbourhood parks, which take into consideration barriers including rail lines, waterways, freeways and major roads.

Catchment Indicators

At a municipal wide level a 500m base catchment indicator has been applied to highlight gaps in the provision of park typologies with medium to high functionality. These include Flagship, Suburban and Neighbourhood Parks.

At the Ward level catchment indicators are as follows:

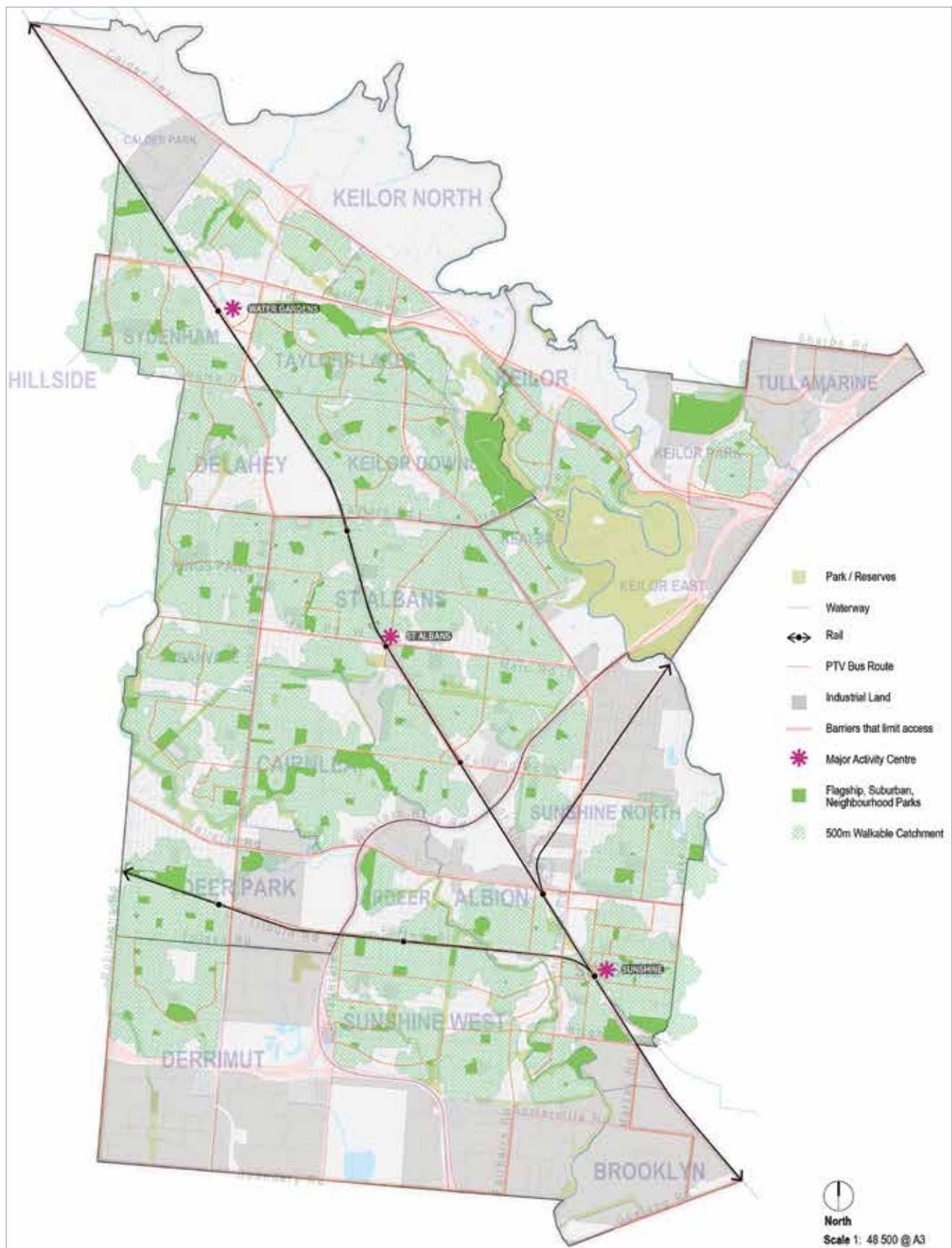
Flagship Parks: Have two catchment distances which recognises the park status as both a regional/ municipal wide draw card and also an asset at the local precinct level providing Suburban Park equivalent facilities.

Regional role: 3km driveable catchment

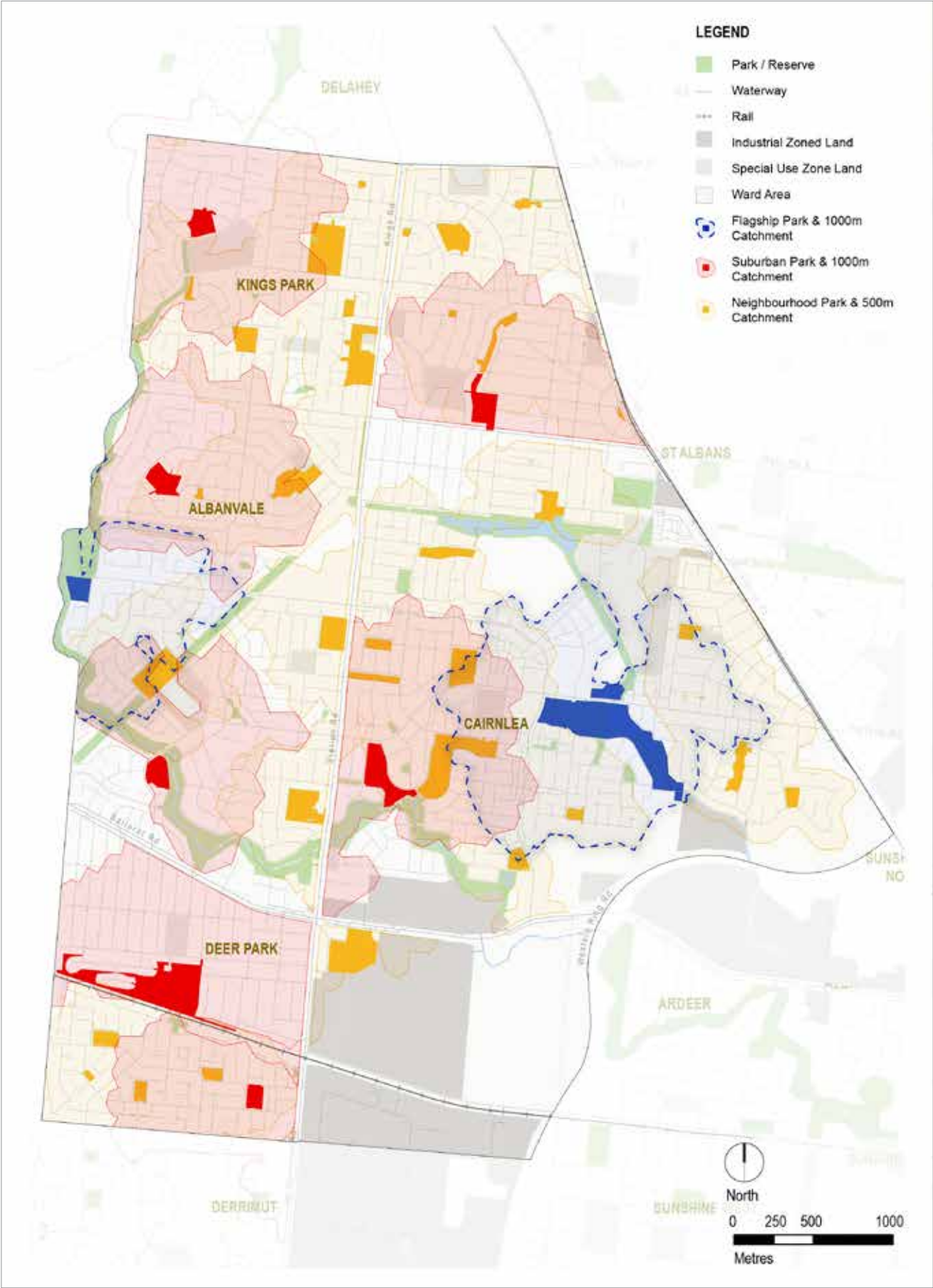
Local role: 1km walkable catchment

Suburban Parks: 1km walkable catchment

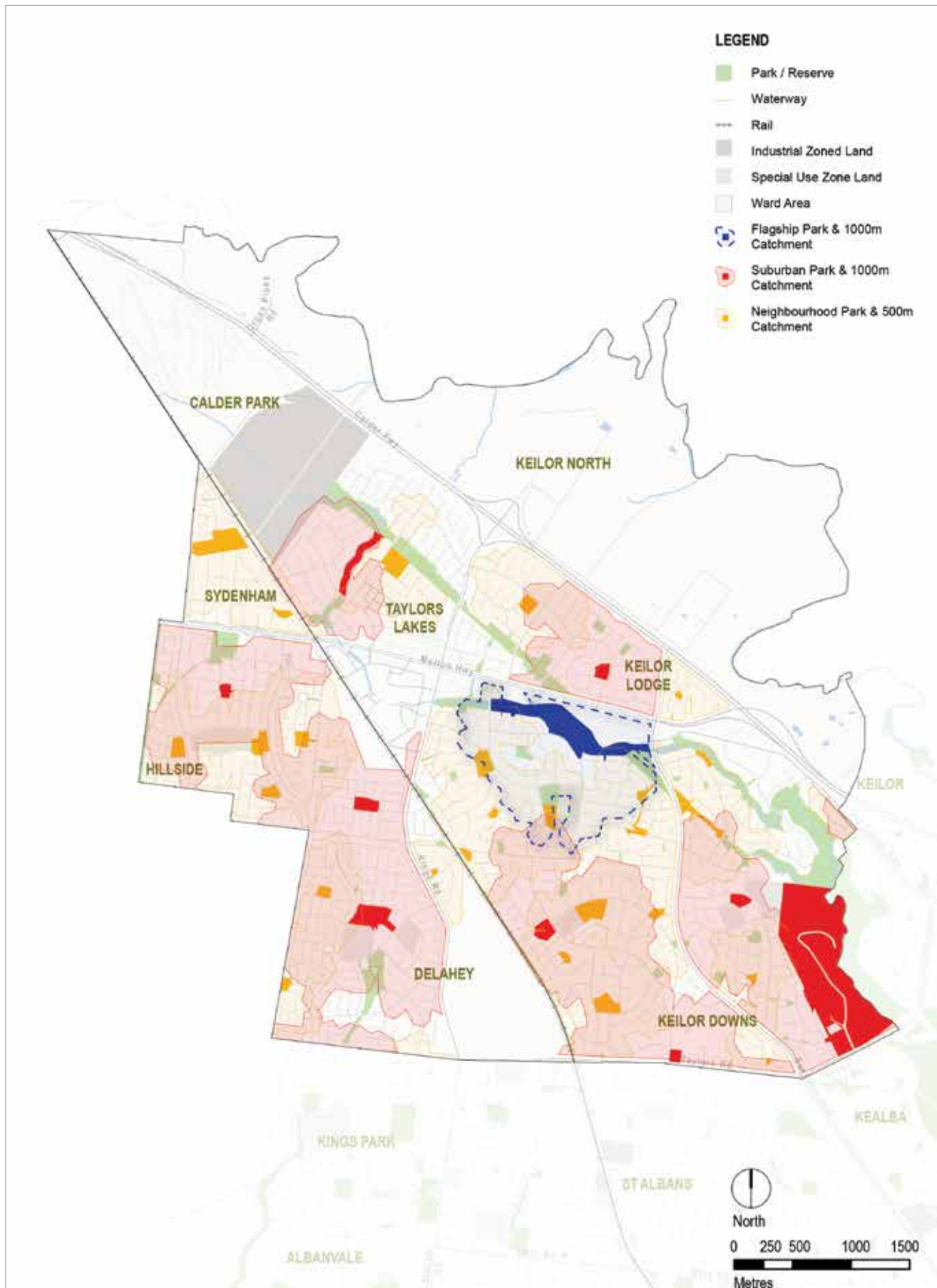
Neighbourhood Parks: 500m walkable catchment



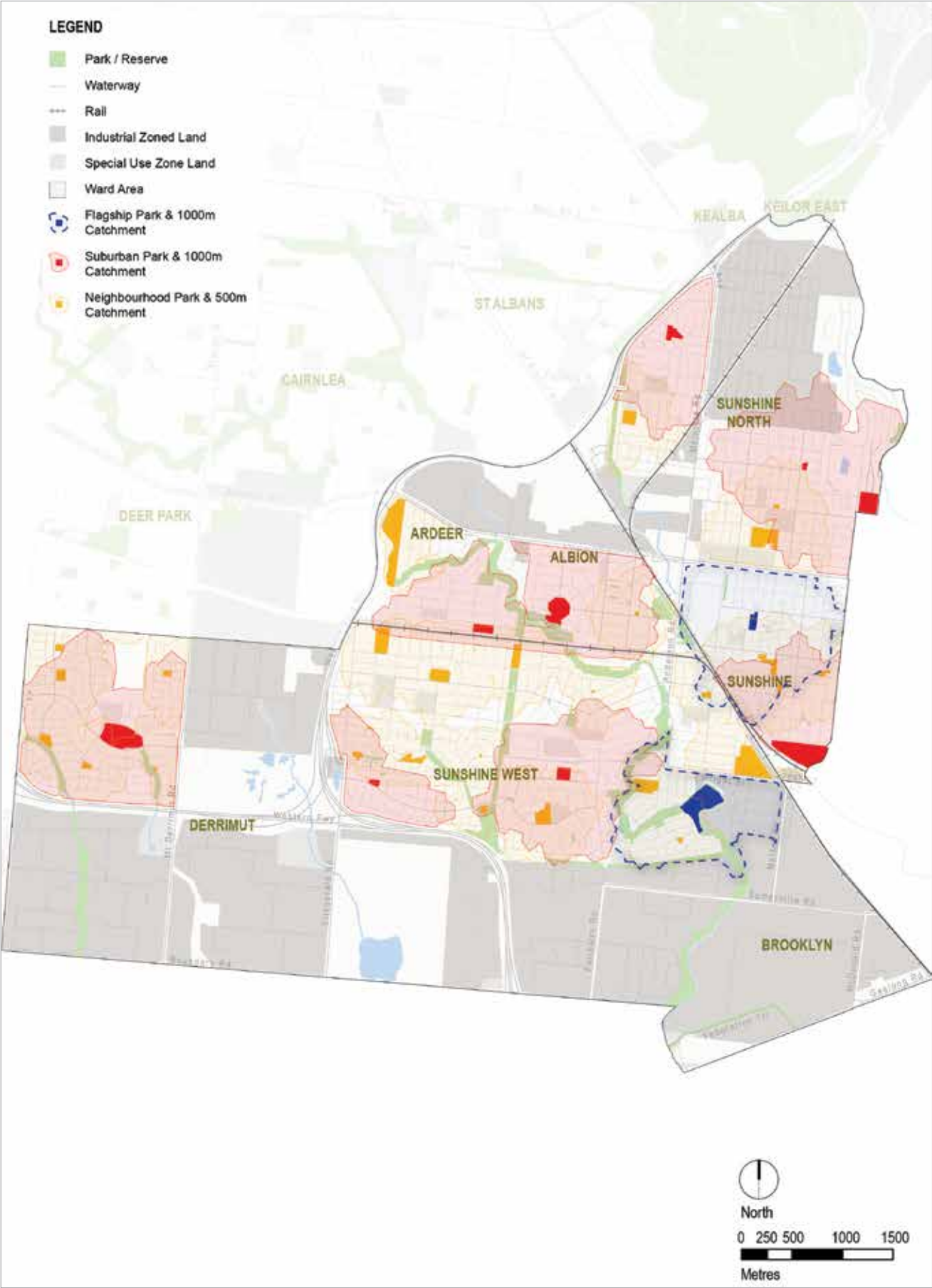
Grasslands Ward



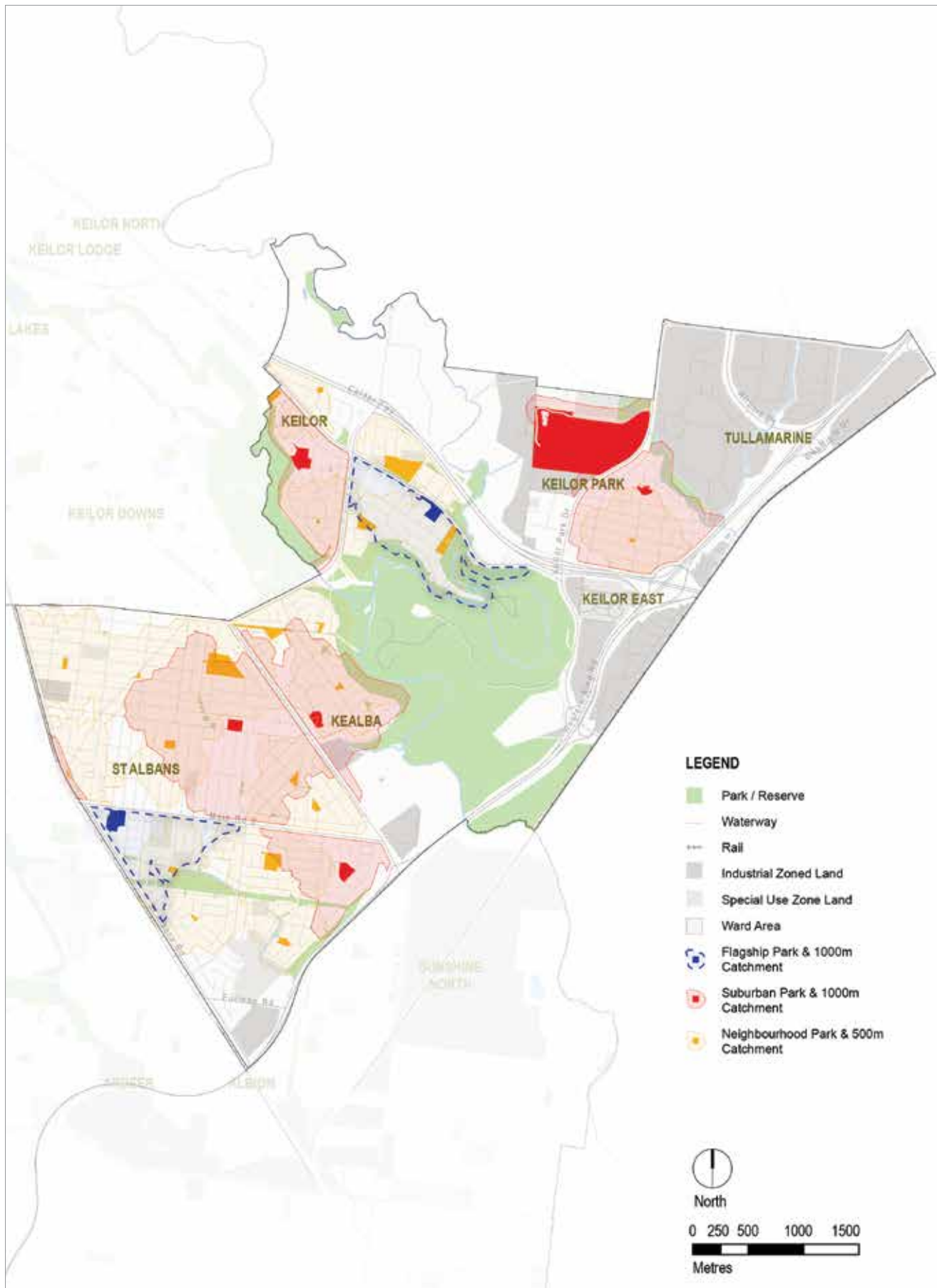
Taylors Ward



Harvester Ward

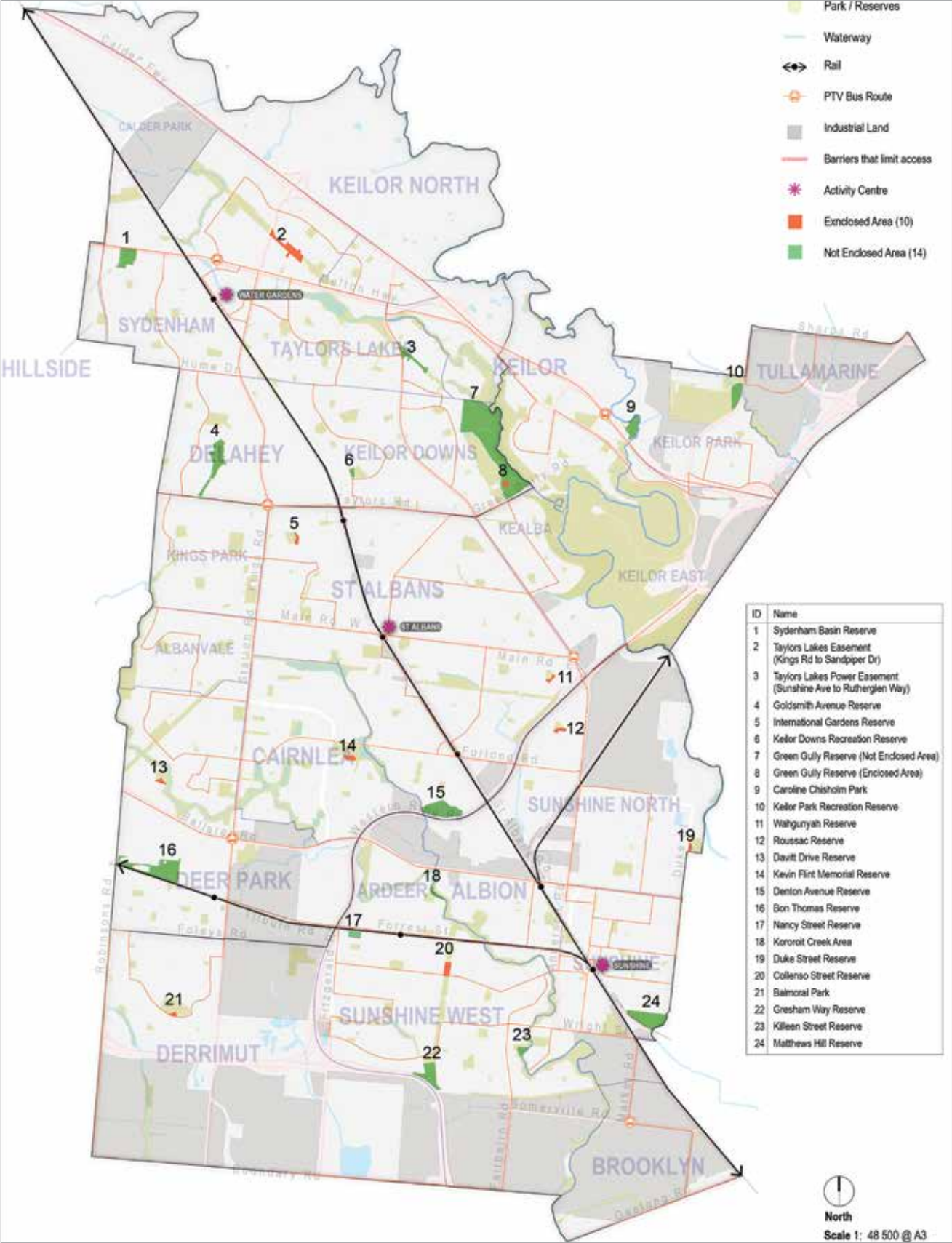


Horseshoe Bend Ward



Facilities distribution

Dog off leash areas



Improving the design and provision of off-leash dog parks

Improving the design and provision of off-leash dog park facilities within Brimbank was an important issue for the community. Just over 50 percent of survey respondents stated that they were dog owners and there was a strong desire for dog parks. Feedback demonstrates that there is significant support for fenced off-leash dog parks compared with unfenced parks for both dog owners and non-dog owners. Support for fenced off-leash dog parks centred on an acknowledgement of other park users and the importance of making sure that all people and animals were able to collectively use and access park facilities safely.

“Dogs need a dedicated area to run around to not pose a threat to other people that frequent the park”

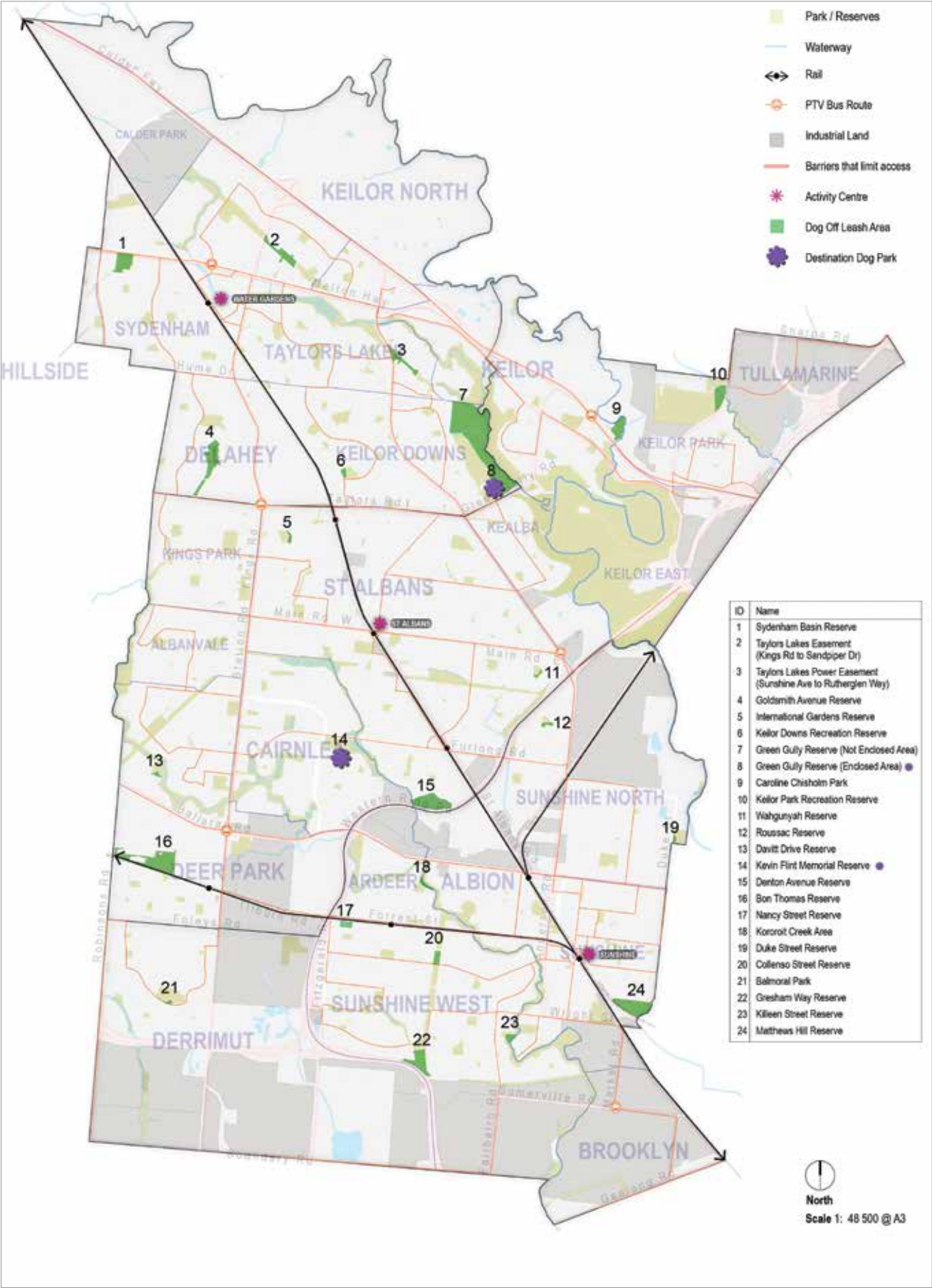
Concern over untrained or aggressive dogs and the potential risk posed to other dogs in fenced off-leash dog parks was significant. A commonly cited solution to mitigate this issue was the suggestion of including sectioned off areas that would cater to smaller and more vulnerable dogs.

Council will focus on providing one dog off-leash reserve within an easily walkable suburban precinct.

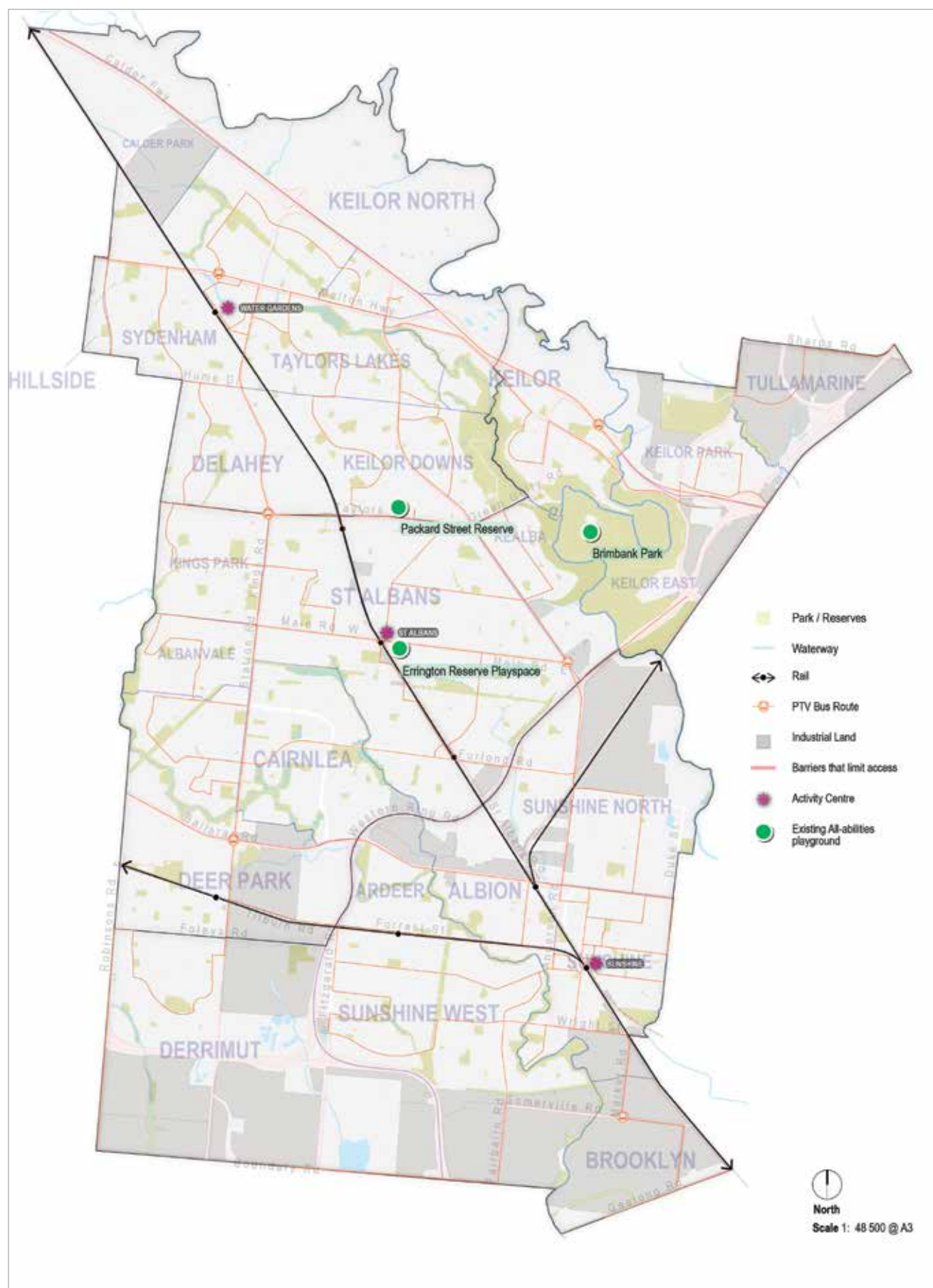


Dog-Off Leash, Matthews Hill Reserve. Source: Nellie Reinhard

Destination dog park



All abilities playgrounds



Increase the provision of inclusive play

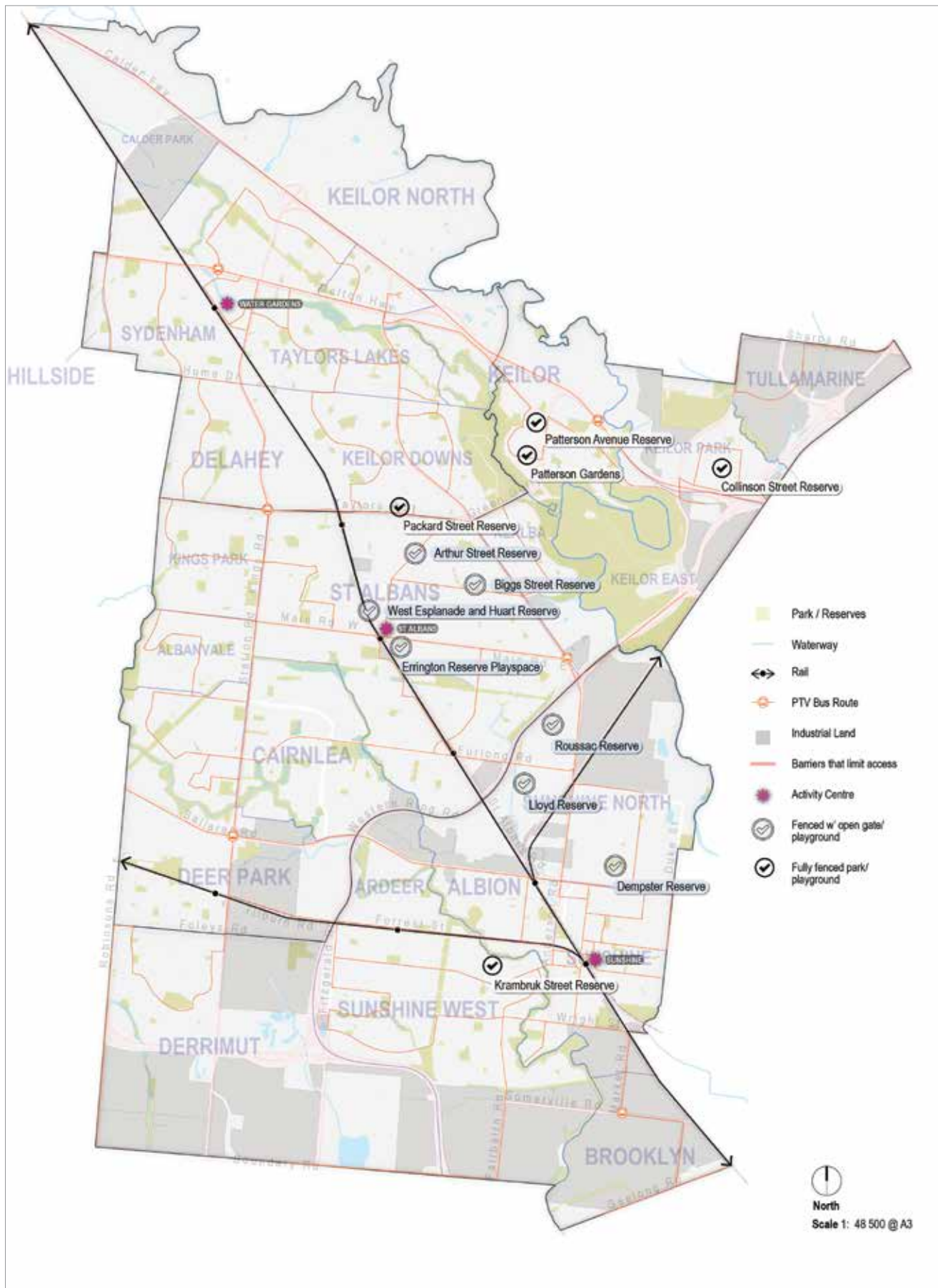
The inclusion of more diverse play equipment for all-abilities was seen to be important, with 60% of respondents believing that Brimbank parks did not currently cater to people with disability. Some standard play infrastructure and playground layouts may not meet the particular needs of children with disabilities (whether developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities including movement, sight or hearing impairment) or their families and carer, limiting opportunities for the child's development through playground usage.

Community feedback also identified a preference for full perimeter fencing to playgrounds to provide reassurance and improved experience for carers who are supervising more than one child, carers whose children may be prone to running away, or carers who have reduced mobility.

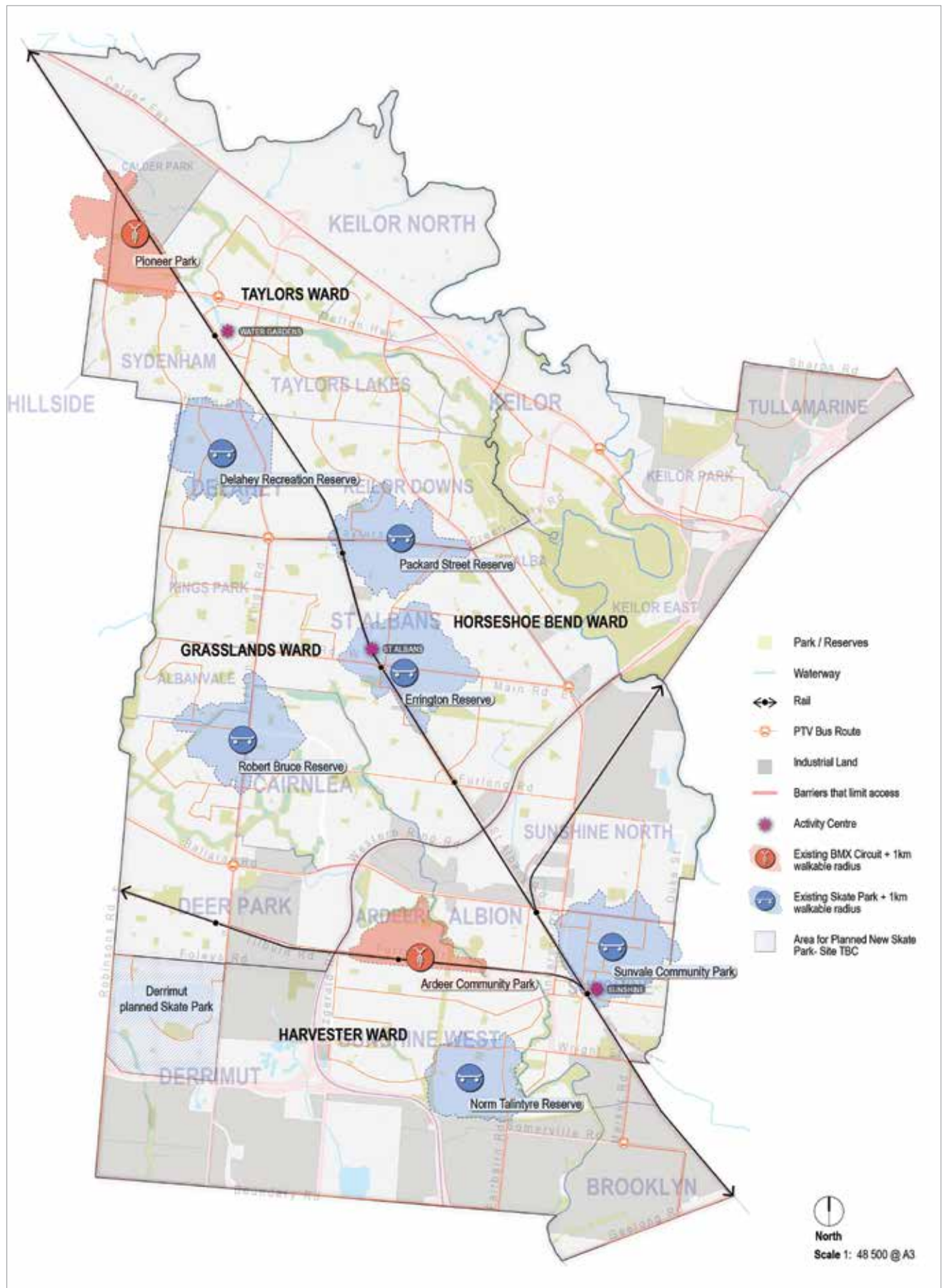


Alice's Play Space. Source: See More

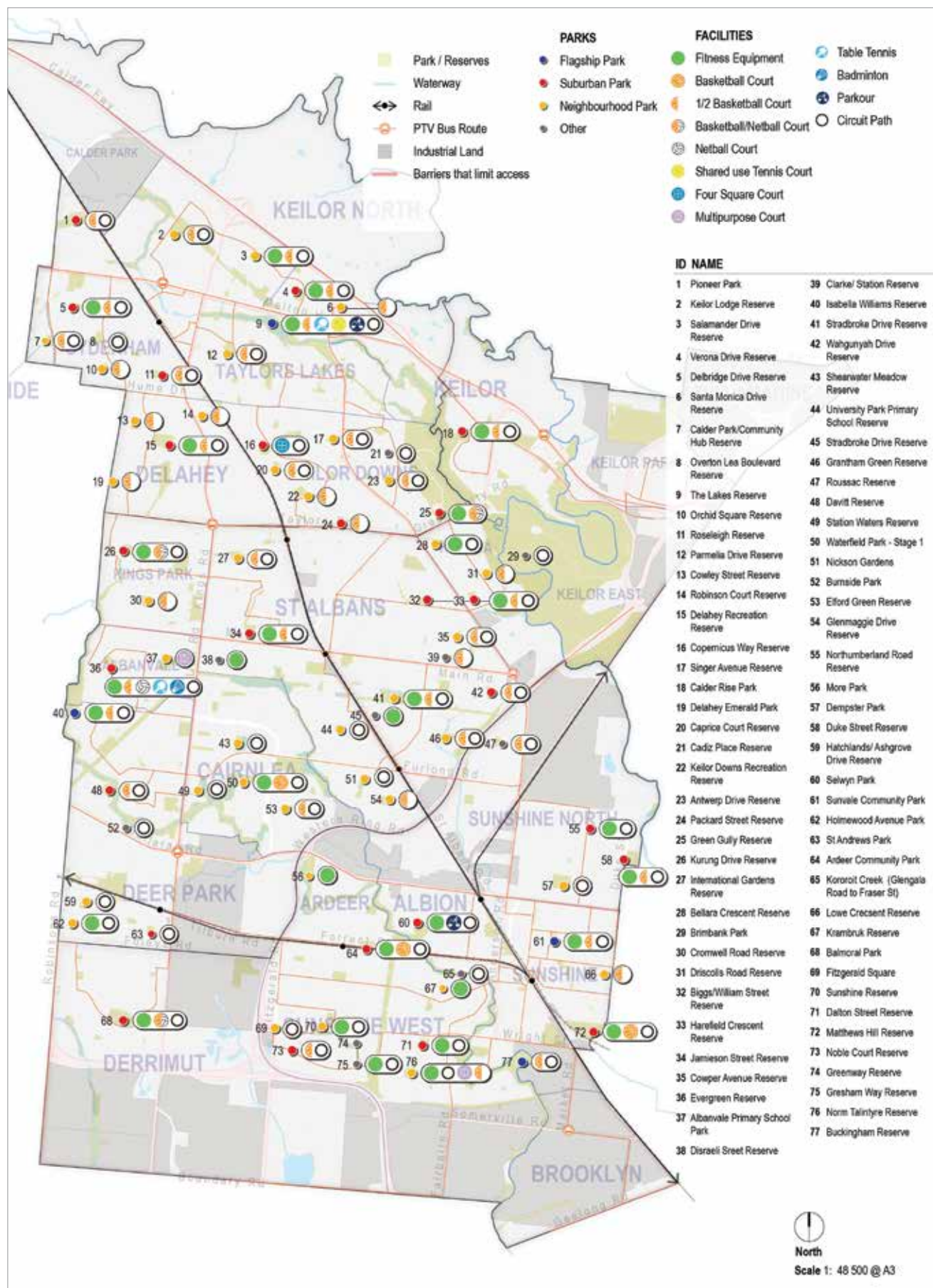
Enclosed play spaces



Skate, scooter and BMX facilities

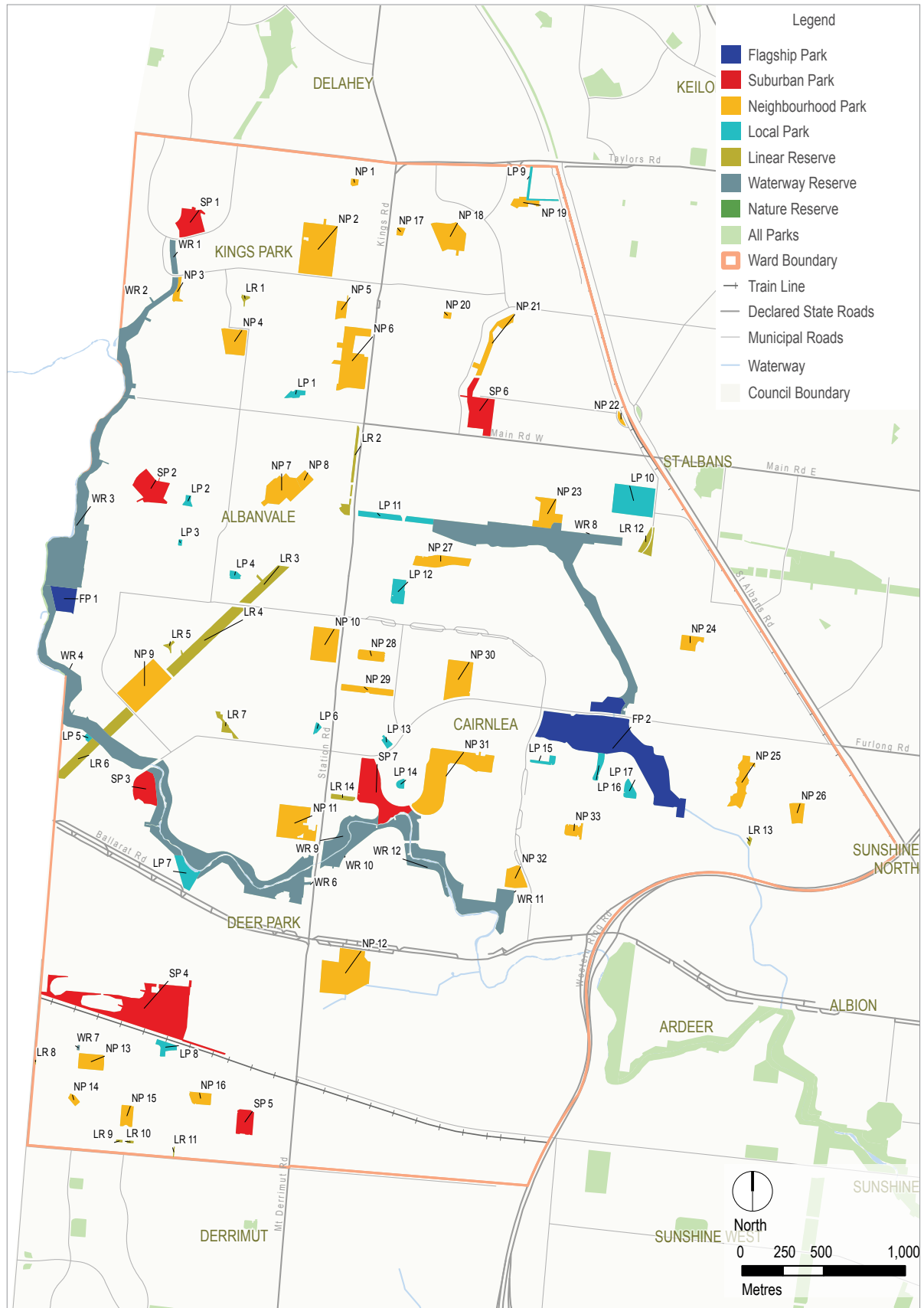


Physical activity facilities



Open Space and Playground Network

Grasslands Ward - Open space

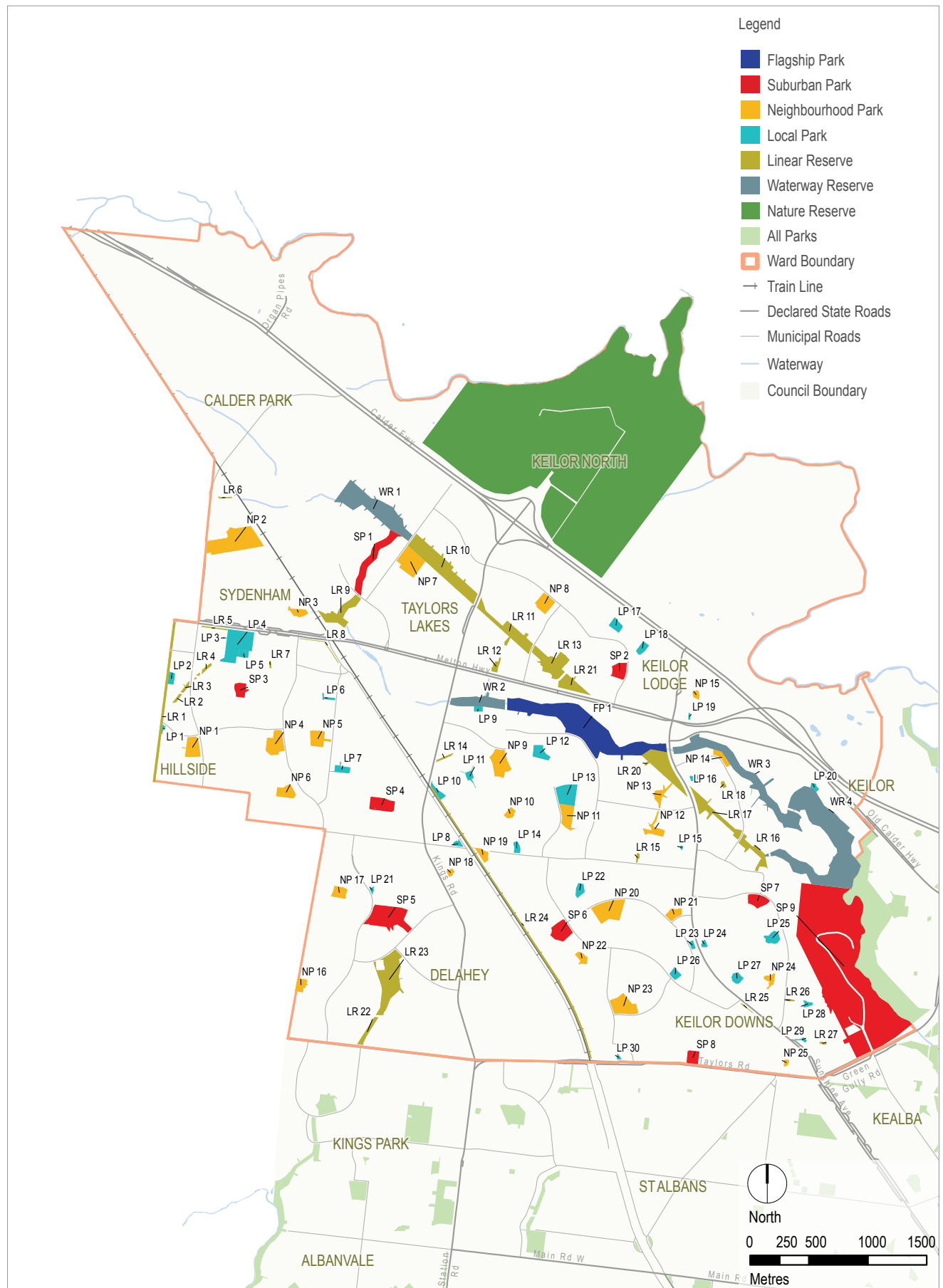


Open Space/ Park Location

Flagship Parks		
FP1	Isabella Williams Memorial Reserve	Deer Park
FP2	Kevin Flint Memorial Reserve	Cairnlea
Suburban Parks		
SP1	Kurung Drive Reserve	Kings Park
SP2	Evergreen Reserve	Albanvale
SP3	Davitt Reserve	Deer Park
SP4	Bon Thomas Reserve	Deer Park
SP5	St Andrews Park	Deer Park
SP6	Jamieson Street Reserve	St Albans
SP7	Station Waters Reserve	Cairnlea
Neighbourhood Parks		
NP1	Lillypilly Crescent Reserve	Kings Park
NP2	Kings Park Reserve	Kings Park
NP3	Yale Walk Reserve	Kings Park
NP4	Cromwell Road Reserve	Kings Park
NP5	Myuna Drive Reserve	Kings Park
NP6	Cyril Clements Reserve	Kings Park
NP8	Diamond Avenue Reserve	Albanvale
NP10	Albanvale Primary School Park	Albanvale
NP11	Tamar Drive Reserve	Deer Park
NP12	Robert Bruce Reserve	Deer Park
NP13	Sassella Park	Deer Park
NP14	John McLeod Reserve	Deer Park
NP15	Hatchlands Drive/Ashgrove Drive Reserve	Deer Park
NP16	Holmewood Avenue Park	Deer Park
NP17	Bentley Dr/Duncombe Park Way Res No 1	Deer Park
NP18	International Gardens Reserve	St Albans
NP19	Highcombe Crescent Reserve	St Albans
NP20	McLeod/Stevens Reserve	St Albans
NP21	Shirley Street Reserve	St Albans
NP22	West Esplanade Reserve	St Albans
NP23	Rita Street Reserve	St Albans
NP24	University Park Primary School Reserve	St Albans
NP25	Nickson Gardens	St Albans
NP26	Glenmaggie Drive Reserve	St Albans
NP27	Moorland Park	Cairnlea
NP28	O'Connors Paddock	Cairnlea
NP29	Stockton Run Reserve	Cairnlea
NP30	Shearwater Meadow Reserve	Cairnlea
NP31	Waterfield Park	Cairnlea
NP32	Clarian Street Reserve	Cairnlea
NP33	Elford Green Reserve	Cairnlea

Local Parks		
LP1	Bridget/Gum Reserve	Kings Park
LP2	Bloomingdale/Witchwood/Woodland Reserve	Albanvale
LP3	Isabella Court Reserve	Albanvale
LP4	April/Trevoise Reserve	Albanvale
LP5	Abercairn Court Reserve	Deer Park
LP6	Capri/Porter Reserve	Deer Park
LP7	Burnside Park	Deer Park
LP8	O'Connor Road Reserve	Deer Park
LP9	Easement along 197 Taylors Road	St Albans
LP10	McKechie Reserve	St Albans
LP11	Reserve side of Gladstone St., Cairnlea	Cairnlea
LP12	Longwood Green Reserve	Cairnlea
LP13	Flowerdale Road Reserve	Cairnlea
LP14	Rangeview Reserve	Cairnlea
LP15	Lavender Park	Cairnlea
LP16	Linear Park	Cairnlea
LP17	Peppermint Grove Reserve	Cairnlea
Linear Reserves		
LR1	Rushdale/Trelawny Reserve	Kings Park
LR2	Station Road Peace Walk	Albanvale
LR3	Neale/Station Road Easement	Deer Park
LR4	Deer Park Urban Forest North	Deer Park
LR5	Hemel/Keynes/Stevenage Reserve	Deer Park
LR6	Deer Park Urban Forest South	Deer Park
LR7	Billingham/Birchwood Reserve	Deer Park
LR8	Hatchlands Drive Tree Reserve.	Deer Park
LR9	Central Park Bvd - Reserve No 2	Deer Park
LR10	Central Park Bvd - Reserve No 3	Deer Park
LR11	Lanark PI Reserve	Deer Park
LR12	Andrea Street Reserve	Albanvale
LR13	Denton Hills Access Way	Deer Park
LR14	Drainage Easement at Grassy Point Road	Cairnlea
Waterway Reserves		
WR1	Kurung/Gillespie Easement	Kings Park
WR2	Gillespie/Main Road West Easement	Kings Park
WR3	Stephen Calleja Reserve	Albanvale
WR4	Kororoit Creek- Billingham to Neale Road	Deer Park
WR5	Kororoit Creek (NS Station - Billingham)	Deer Park
WR6	Kororoit Creek (SS Station - Davitt)	Deer Park
WR7	Erin Square Reserve	Deer Park
WR8	Jones Creek Wetlands	Cairnlea
WR9	Kororoit Creek (Next To Powder Mill) - Parkl	Cairnlea
WR10	Kororoit Creek (Gurnung Drive North)	Cairnlea
WR11	Kororoit Crk. (Waterview to Eaglehawk)	Cairnlea
WR12	Kororoit Creek (Gurnung Drive South)	Cairnlea

Taylors Ward - Open space



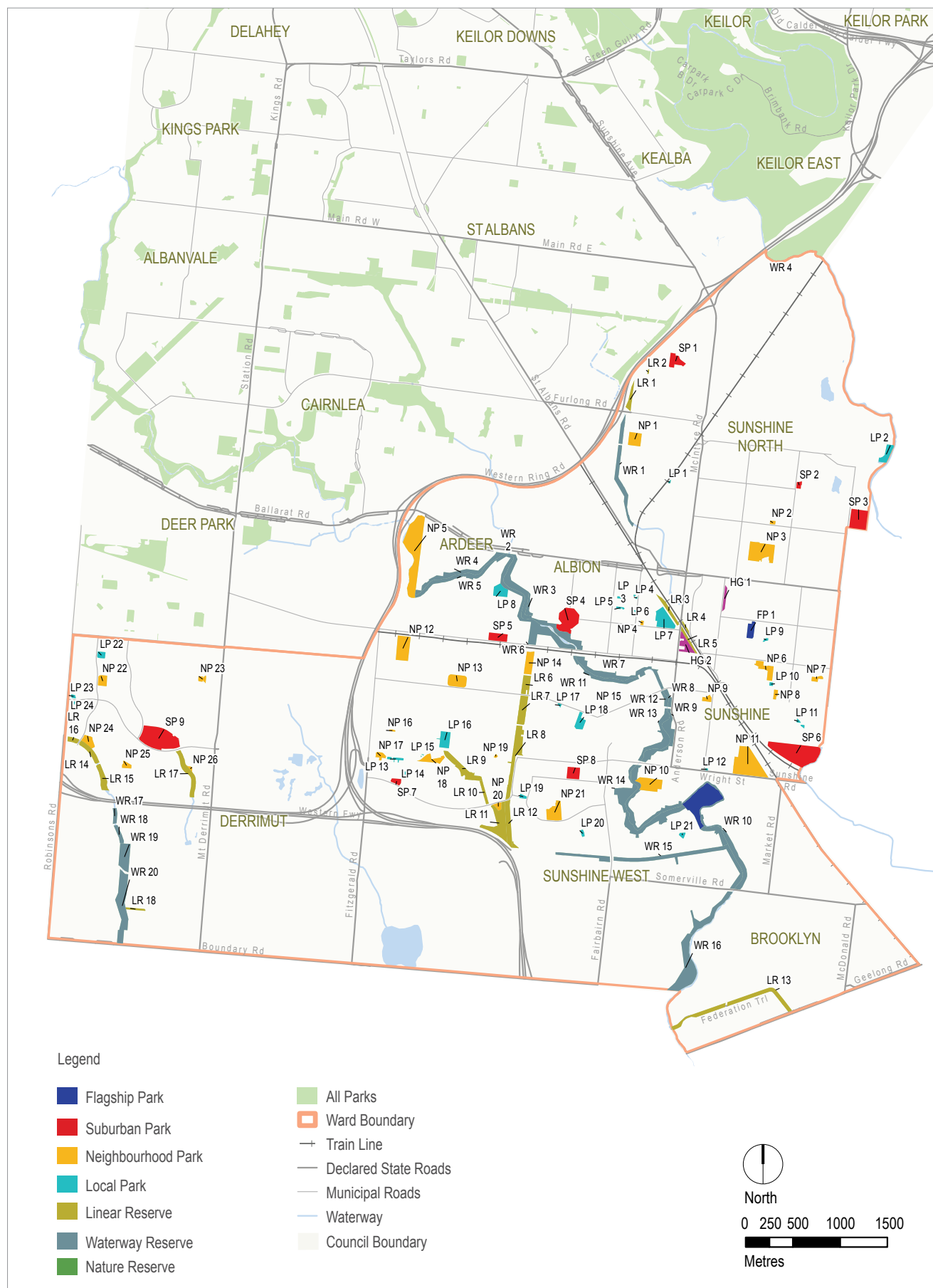
Open Space/ Park Location

Flagship Parks		
FP1	Taylors Creek Linear Park. (Parmelia to Sunshine Avenue)	Taylors Lakes
Suburban Parks		
SP1	Whiteley Parade Reserve	Taylors Lakes
SP2	Verona Drive Reserve	Keilor Lodge
SP3	Delbridge Drive Reserve	Sydenham
SP 4	Roseleigh Reserve	Sydenham
SP5	Delahey Recreation Reserve	Delahey
SP6	Copernicus Way Reserve	Keilor Downs
SP7	Odessa Avenue Reserve	Keilor Downs
SP8	Packard Street Reserve	Keilor Downs
SP9	Green Gully Reserve	Keilor Downs
Neighbourhood Parks		
NP1	Calder Park/Community Hub Reserve	Hillside
NP2	Pioneer Park	Sydenham
NP3	Esplanade Reserve	Sydenham
NP4	Overton Lea Blvd Reserve	Sydenham
NP5	Stagecoach Reserve	Sydenham
NP6	Orchid Square Reserve	Sydenham
NP7	Keilor Lodge Reserve	Taylors Lakes
NP8	Salamander Drive Reserve	Taylors Lakes
NP9	Parmelia Drive Reserve	Taylors Lakes
NP10	Solent Crescent Reserve	Taylors Lakes
NP11	Lionheart Reserve (BCC)	Taylors Lakes
NP12	Cocoparra Crescent Reserve	Taylors Lakes
NP13	Eurora/Koroit Place Reserve	Taylors Lakes
NP14	Rutherglen Way Reserve	Taylors Lakes
NP15	Santa Monica Drive Reserve	Keilor Lodge
NP16	Delahey Emerald Park	Delahey
NP17	Cowley Street Reserve	Delahey
NP18	Robinson Court Reserve	Delahey
NP19	Proctor Cres Reserve	Keilor Downs
NP20	Wilys Avenue Reserve	Keilor Downs
NP21	Singer Avenue Reserve	Keilor Downs
NP22	Caprice Court Reserve	Keilor Downs
NP23	Keilor Downs Recreation Reserve	Keilor Downs
NP24	Antwerp Drive Reserve	Keilor Downs
NP25	Dongola Road Reserve	Keilor Downs
Local Parks		
LP 1	Community Hub/Hannah Access Way	Hillside
LP 2	Terrye Court Reserve	Hillside
LP 3	Dundee/The Basin Reserve Drainage Easeme	Sydenham
LP 4	Sydenham Basin Reserve	Sydenham
LP 5	Sydenham Basin Reserve BBQ Area	Sydenham

LP 6	Cobb/Stockyard/Pecks Access Way	Sydenham
LP 7	Profita Reserve	Sydenham
LP 8	Hume Drive Retarding Basin	Sydenham
LP 9	Reed Crescent Reserve	Taylors Lakes
LP 10	Thorogood Reserve	Taylors Lakes
LP 11	Mitchell Court Reserve	Taylors Lakes
LP 12	Queen Victoria/Prince Albert Reserve	Taylors Lakes
LP 13	Lionheart Reserve (EDU)	Taylors Lakes
LP 14	Lipton Street Reserve	Taylors Lakes
LP 15	Sherbrooke Crescent Reserve	Taylors Lakes
LP 16	Piangel Place Reserve	Taylors Lakes
LP 17	Nordic/Penrhyn Reserve	Keilor Lodge
LP 18	Nordic/Vasa Reserve	Keilor Lodge
LP 19	Malibu Grove Easement	Keilor Lodge
LP 20	Burrowye Crescent Reserve	Keilor
LP 21	Copperfield/ Birchwood Way Reserve	Delahey
LP 22	Darebin/Stockwell Reserve	Keilor Downs
LP 23	Willys/Sunshine Avenue Reserve	Keilor Downs
LP 24	Burton Close Reserve	Keilor Downs
LP 25	Cadiz Place Reserve	Keilor Downs
LP 26	Copernicus/Morris Reserve	Keilor Downs
LP 27	Varna Place Reserve	Keilor Downs
LP 28	Tarella Drive Reserve	Keilor Downs
LP 29	Ulmara Place Reserve and Access Way	Keilor Downs
LP30	Carbine Way Reserve	Keilor Downs
Linear Reserve		
LR 1	Melton/Allenby Easement	Hillside
LR 2	Chris Court to Hannah Avenue Drainage Easement	Hillside
LR 3	Calder Park Dr - Chris Ct Easement	Hillside
LR 4	Benjamin/Calder Park Drive Drainage Ease	Sydenham
LR 5	Melton Highway Tree Reserve and Road Verge	Sydenham
LR 6	Calder Park Drive/Victoria Easement	Sydenham
LR 7	Access Jolly Place	Sydenham
LR 8	Melton Highway/Sydenham Road Tree Reserve	Sydenham
LR 9	McCubbin/Robertson Easement	Taylors Lakes
LR 10	Kings/Robertsons Road - SEC Easement	Taylors Lakes
LR 11	Access to easement/ Honeyeater Crescent	Taylors Lakes
LR 12	Bellbird Avenue Drainage Easement	Taylors Lakes
LR 13	Pintail Park	Taylors Lakes
LR 14	Booth Way/Kings Road Easement (entrance)	Taylors Lakes
LR 15	Access - Lady Nelson Way/ Angourie Crescent	Taylors Lakes
LR 16	Access - Easement/ Wanaka Drive	Taylors Lakes
LR 17	SEC Easement - Sunshine Avenue to Rutherglen Way	Taylors Lakes
LR 18	Murrabit Grove	Taylors Lakes
LR 19	Taylors Lakes SEC Easement (Sunshine Ave)	Taylors Lakes

Linear Reserve		
LR 20	Taylors Creek/ Pindari Avenue Reserve	Taylors Lakes
LR 21	Keilor - Melton Road/Pintail Easement	Keilor Lodge
LR 22	Frost/Taylors Road Easement	Delahey
LR 23	Frost/ Goldsmith Easement	Delahey
LR 24	Railway Reserve Easement	Keilor Downs
LR 25	Copernicus Way/Sunshine Avenue Reserve	Keilor Downs
LR 26	Odessa/Wimmera Linear Reserve	Keilor Downs
LR 27	Wirilda Place reserve	Keilor Downs
Waterway Reserve		
WR 1	Taylors Creek/ West of Robertsons Road	Taylors Lakes
WR 2	Taylors Creek Linear Park Kings Road to Drive	Taylors Lakes
WR 3	Taylors Creek Linear Park. Sunshine Avenue	Taylors Lakes
WR 4	Taylors Creek Linear Park. Burrowye to Green Gully Road	Keilor
Nature Reserve		
NR 1	Sydenham Park	Keilor North

Harvester Ward - Open space

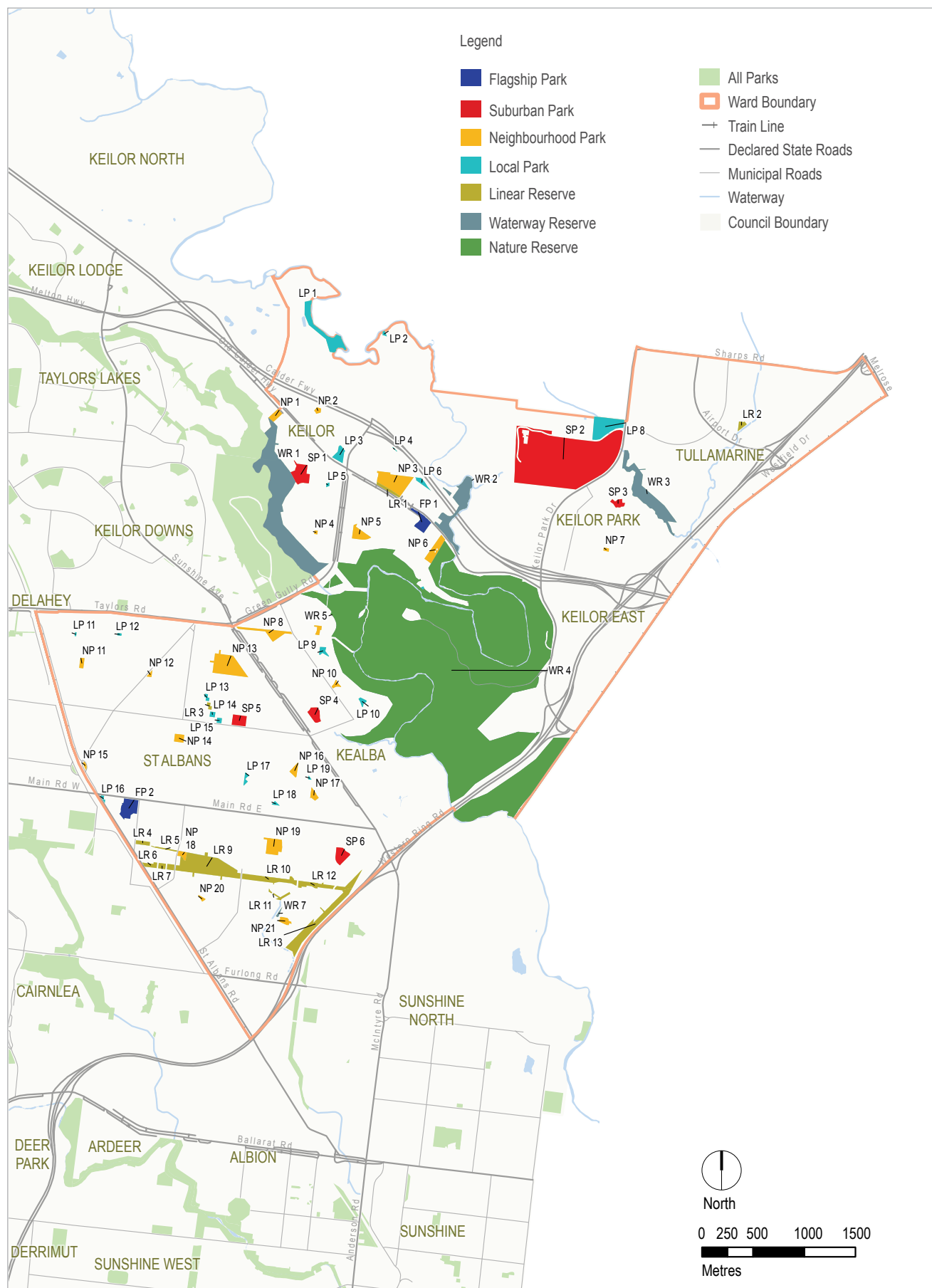


Heritage and Memorial Gardens		
HG 1	M.B Lynch Memorial Gardens	Sunshine
HG 2	HV McKay Gardens	Sunshine
Flagship Parks		
FP 1	Sunvale Community Park	Sunshine
FP 2	Buckingham Reserve	Sunshine West
Suburban Parks		
SP 1	Roussac Reserve	Sunshine North
SP 2	Northumberland Road Reserve	Sunshine North
SP 3	Duke Street Reserve	Sunshine North
SP 4	Selwyn Park	Albion
SP 5	Ardeer Community Park	Ardeer
SP 6	Matthews Hill Reserve	Sunshine
SP 7	Noble Court Reserve	Sunshine West
SP 8	Dalton Street Reserve	Sunshine West
SP 9	Balmoral Park	Derrimut
Neighbourhood Parks		
NP 1	Lloyd Reserve	Sunshine North
NP 2	Suffolk Road Reserve	Sunshine North
NP 3	Dempster Park	Sunshine North
NP 4	King Edward Avenue Reserve	Albion
NP 5	More Park	Ardeer
NP 6	Kevin Wheelahan Gardens	Sunshine
NP 7	Lowe Crescent Reserve	Sunshine
NP 8	Monash/Pizzey Reserve	Sunshine
NP 9	R T Pollard Gardens	Sunshine
NP 10	Arthur Beachley Reserve	Sunshine
NP 11	JR Parsons Reserve	Sunshine
NP 12	Nancy Street Reserve	Sunshine West
NP 13	Ainsworth Reserve	Sunshine West
NP 14	Collenso Street Park	Sunshine West
NP 15	Krambruk Street Reserve	Sunshine West
NP 16	Empress/Harwood Reserve	Sunshine West
NP 17	Fitzgerald Square Reserve	Sunshine West
NP 18	Sunshine Reserve	Sunshine West
NP 19	Austral/Sheldon Reserve	Sunshine West
NP 20	Gresham Way Reserve	Sunshine West
NP 21	Norm Talintyre Reserve	Sunshine West
NP 22	Haddon Grn/Queensberry St Reserve	Derrimut
NP 23	Hammerwood Avenue Reserve	Derrimut
NP 24	Bothwell Green Reserve	Derrimut
NP 25	Capesthorne Drive Reserve	Derrimut
NP 26	Kenwood Green Reserve	Derrimut
Local Parks		
LP 1	Cranbourne Avenue Reserve	Sunshine North
LP 2	Redgum Drive Reserve	Sunshine North

LP 3	Coolamon Street Heritage Reserve	Albion
LP 4	Bazentin Street Reserves	Albion
LP 5	Kamarooka Street Heritage Reserve	Albion
LP 6	Hamel Street Reserves	Albion
LP 7	Barclay Reserve	Albion
LP 8	Ardeer Reserve	Ardeer
LP 9	Open Space area in front of Sunshine Municipal Old Building	Sunshine
LP 10	Dickson/Pizzey Street Reserve	Sunshine
LP 11	Parsons Street Blocks	Sunshine
LP 12	Michael Laffan Reserve	Sunshine
LP 13	The Grove Reserve	Sunshine West
LP 14	Kosa Avenue Reserve	Sunshine West
LP 15	Pelister PI/Callaway Blvd Reserve	Sunshine West
LP 16	Ralph Reserve	Sunshine West
LP 17	Glengala Road Pocket Park	Sunshine West
LP 18	Castley Reserve	Sunshine West
LP 19	Nicholson/Talintyre Reserve	Sunshine West
LP 20	Bennett/Roberts Reserve	Sunshine West
LP 21	Bickley/Mc Coubrrie Reserve	Sunshine West
LP 22	Westminster Pkwy/Bowmont Dr Reserve	Derrimut
NP 23	Windsor Blvd/Robinsons Rd. Reserve 1	Derrimut
LP 24	Windsor Blvd/Robinsons Rd. Reserve 2	Derrimut
Linear Reserve		
LR 1	Meadowbank Drive Easement	Sunshine North
LR 2	Henley/Meadowbank Reserve	Sunshine North
LR 3	Talmage Street Reserve	Albion
LR 4	Rail land north of line at rear of McKay Street	Sunshine
LR 5	Rail land south of line at rear of McKay Street	Sunshine
LR 6	SEC Easement - Whitesides to Glengala Road	Sunshine West
LR 7	SEC Easement - Hall Street to Glengala Road	Sunshine West
LR 8	SEC Easement - The Avenue to Hall Street	Sunshine West
LR 9	The Greenway Reserve	Sunshine West
LR 10	Gresham Way - Drainage Easement The Avenue	Sunshine West
LR 11	The Avenue/West Ring Road Easement	Sunshine West
LR 12	SEC Easement - Cawood Drive to The Avenue	Sunshine West
LR 13	Federation Bike Trail	Brooklyn
LR 14	Hermitage Parade North Side Reserve 1	Derrimut
LR 15	Hermitage Parade South Side Reserve 2	Derrimut
LR 16	Hermitage Parade North Side Reserve 3	Derrimut
LR 17	Windsor/Middle Easement	Derrimut
LR 18	Foxley Court Reserve No1	Derrimut
Waterway Reserve		
WR 1	Stony Creek Reserve	Sunshine North
WR 2	Kororoit Creek (Selwyn Park/Esmond Street)	Albion
WR 3	Kororoit Creek East Side (south Wasley Street)	Albion
WR 4	Kororoit Creek (Esmond/Ballarat Road North)	Ardeer

Waterway Reserve		
WR 5	Kororoit Creek (Esmond/Ballarat Road South)	Ardeer
WR 6	Kororoit Creek (Forrest St. to Western Highway)	Ardeer
WR 7	Kororoit Creek (Glengala Road to Fraser Street)	Sunshine
WR 8	Kororoit Creek East Side (Glengala Road to Derby Road)	Sunshine
WR 9	Kororoit Creek East Side (Derby Road to Wright Street)	Sunshine
WR 10	Kororoit Creek (Learmonth Crescent to Wright Street)	Sunshine
WR 11	Kororoit Creek (Glengala Road to Fraser Street)	Sunshine West
WR 12	Kororoit Creek West Side (Glengala Road to Derby Road)	Sunshine West
WR 13	Kororoit Creek West Side (Derby Road to Wright Street)	Sunshine West
WR 14	Kororoit Creek (Learmonth Crescent to Wright Street)	Sunshine West
WR 15	Fairbairn Road to Kororoit Creek Drainage	Sunshine West
WR 16	Proximity Drive Reserve	Sunshine West
WR 17	Calarco Drive North Side Reserve 1	Derrimut
WR 18	Calarco Drive South Side Reserve 2	Derrimut
WR 19	Australis Drive North Side Reserve 1	Derrimut
WR 20	Australis Drive South Side Reserve 2	Derrimut

Horseshoe Bend Ward - Open space

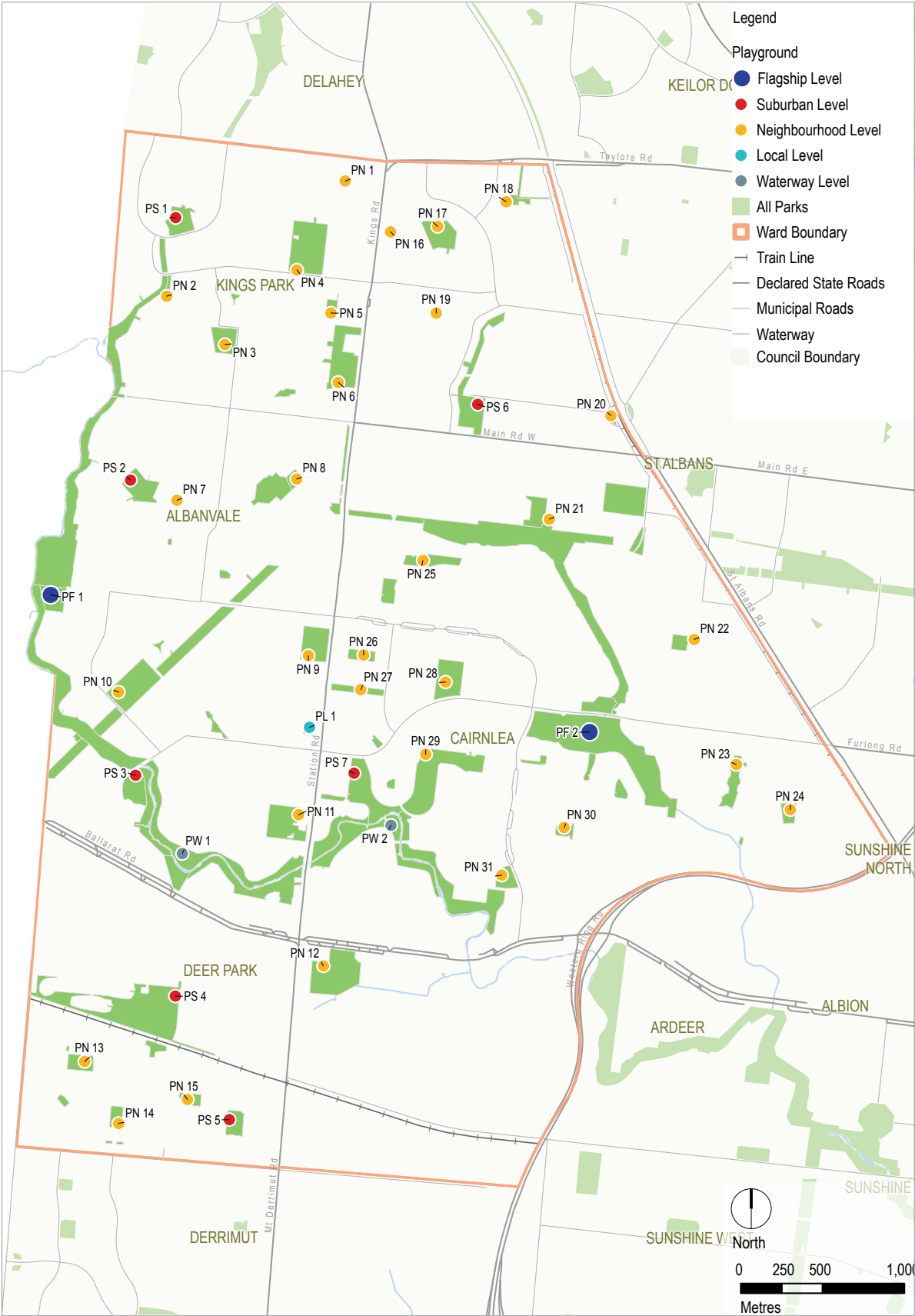


Flagship Parks		
FP 1	Cliff Harvey Lagoon Reserve	Keilor
FP 2	Errington Reserve	St Albans
Suburban Parks		
SP 1	Calder Rise Park	Keilor
SP 2	Keilor Park Recreation Reserve	Keilor Park
SP 3	Thea Court Reserve	Keilor Park
SP 4	Harefield Crescent Reserve	Kealba
SP 5	Biggs/William Street Reserve	St Albans
SP 6	Wahgunyah Drive Reserve	St Albans
Neighbourhood Parks		
NP 1	Taylors Creek Linear Park	Keilor
NP 2	Jackman Crescent Reserve	Keilor
NP 3	Keilor Recreation Reserve	Keilor
NP 4	Patterson Gardens	Keilor
NP 5	Solomon Drive Reserve	Keilor
NP 6	Bonfield Reserve	Keilor
NP 7	Collinson Street Reserve	Keilor Park
NP 8	Bellara Crescent Reserve	Kealba
NP 9	Bundeena Avenue Reserve	Kealba
NP 10	Driscolls Road Reserve	Kealba
NP 11	Conrad Street Reserve	St Albans
NP 12	Arthur Street Reserve	St Albans
NP 13	Churchill Reserve	St Albans
NP 14	Padley Park	St Albans
NP 15	Huart Reserve	St Albans
NP 16	Cowper Avenue Reserve	St Albans
NP 17	Ashton Avenue Reserve	St Albans
NP 18	Stradbroke Drive Reserve	St Albans
NP 19	Larisa Reserve	St Albans
NP 20	Maple Crescent Reserve	St Albans
NP 21	Grantham Green Reserve	St Albans
Local Parks		
LP 1	Maribyrnong/Overnewton Reserve	Keilor
LP 2	Arundel Road Bridge Area	Keilor
LP 3	Reeves Estate Reserve	Keilor
LP 4	Gerona Street Reserve	Keilor
LP 5	Patterson Avenue Reserve	Keilor
LP 6	Ailsa Street Reserve	Keilor
LP 7	Garden Avenue Reserve	Keilor
LP 8	Keilor Botanical Gardens	Keilor Park
LP 9	Bundeena/Valewood Reserve	Kealba
LP 10	Dowling Street Reserve	Kealba
LP 11	Power Street Reserve	St Albans
LP 12	G. Scholte Reserve	St Albans
LP 13	Eisner/Woods Street Reserve	St Albans

LP 14	William Street Reserve (opposite Luxford Street)	St Albans
LP 15	Biggs Street Reserve	St Albans
LP 16	St Albans Square	St Albans
LP 17	Glyndon/Station Reserve	St Albans
LP 18	Clarke/Station Reserve	St Albans
LP 19	Harcourt Avenue Reserve	St Albans
Linear Reserve		
LR 1	Arthur Kiellerup Reserve	Keilor
LR 2	Allied Drive Easement	Tullamarine
LR 3	William/Woods Street Reserve	St Albans
LR 4	Percy Street Reserve	St Albans
LR 5	Beaver/Stradbroke Reserve	St Albans
LR 6	SEC Easement (St Albans Road to Thorndon Drive)	St Albans
LR 7	SEC Easement (Thorndon Drive to Debenham Drive)	St Albans
LR 8	SEC Easement (Debenham Drive to Stradbroke Drive)	St Albans
LR 9	SEC Easement (Stradbroke Dr to Mulhall Drive)	St Albans
LR 10	SEC Easement (Grantham Parade to Novar)	St Albans
LR 11	Magnolia Street Drainage Easement	St Albans
LR 12	SEC Easement (Currunghi Court to Grantham Parade)	St Albans
LR 13	W.R.R./Currunghi Court Easement	St Albans
Waterway Reserves		
WR 1	Taylors Creek Linear Park (Burrowye to Green Gully Road)	Keilor
WR 2	Caroline Chisholm Reserve	Keilor
WR 3	Steeles Creek Area/Beverage Drive	Tullamarine
WR 4	Park Victoria External	Keilor East
WR 5	Rowan Drive Reserve 1	Kealba
WR 6	Rowan Drive Reserve 2	Kealba
WR 7	Moonstone/Laurel Reserve	St Albans

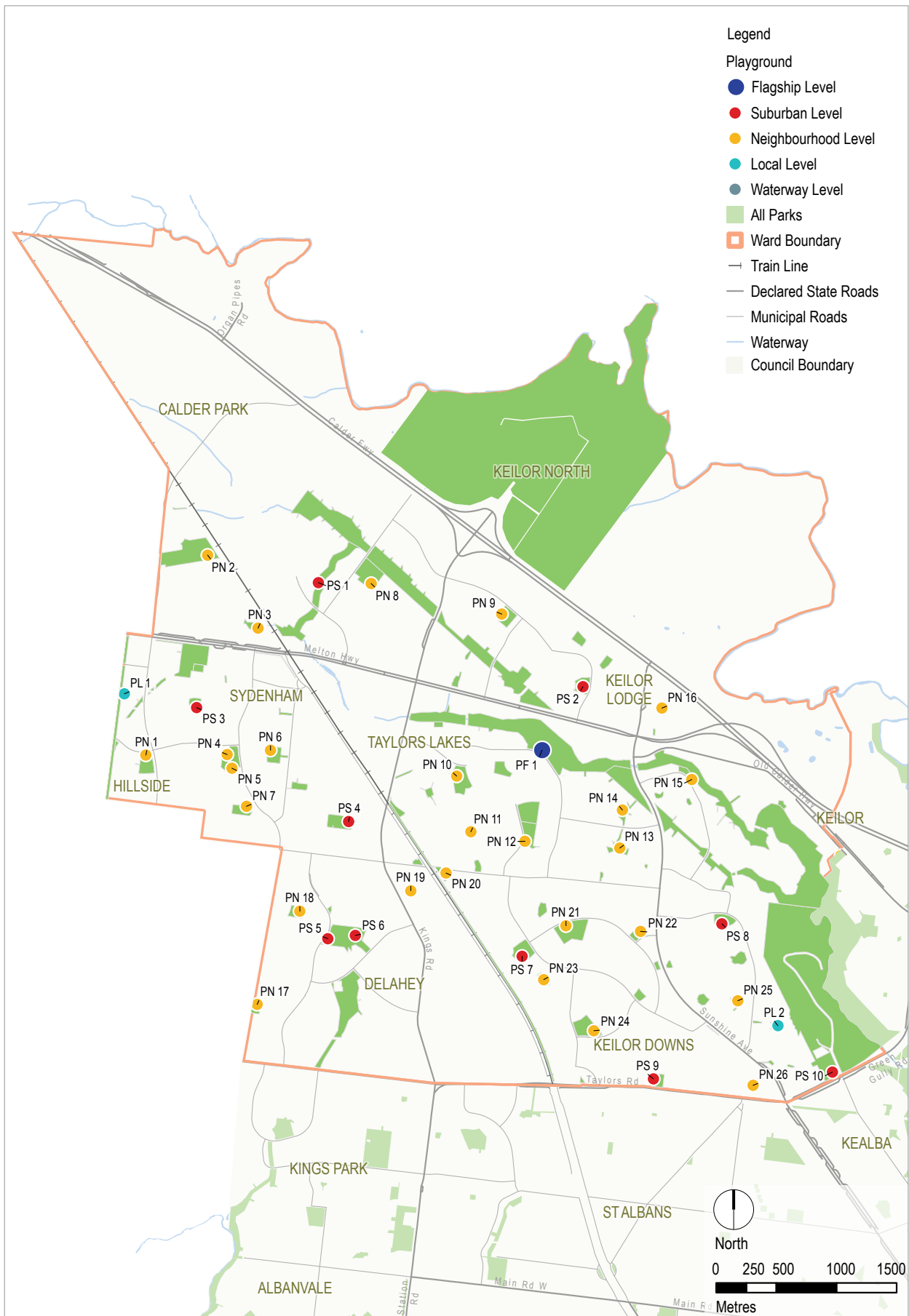
Playground Location

Grasslands Ward - Playgrounds



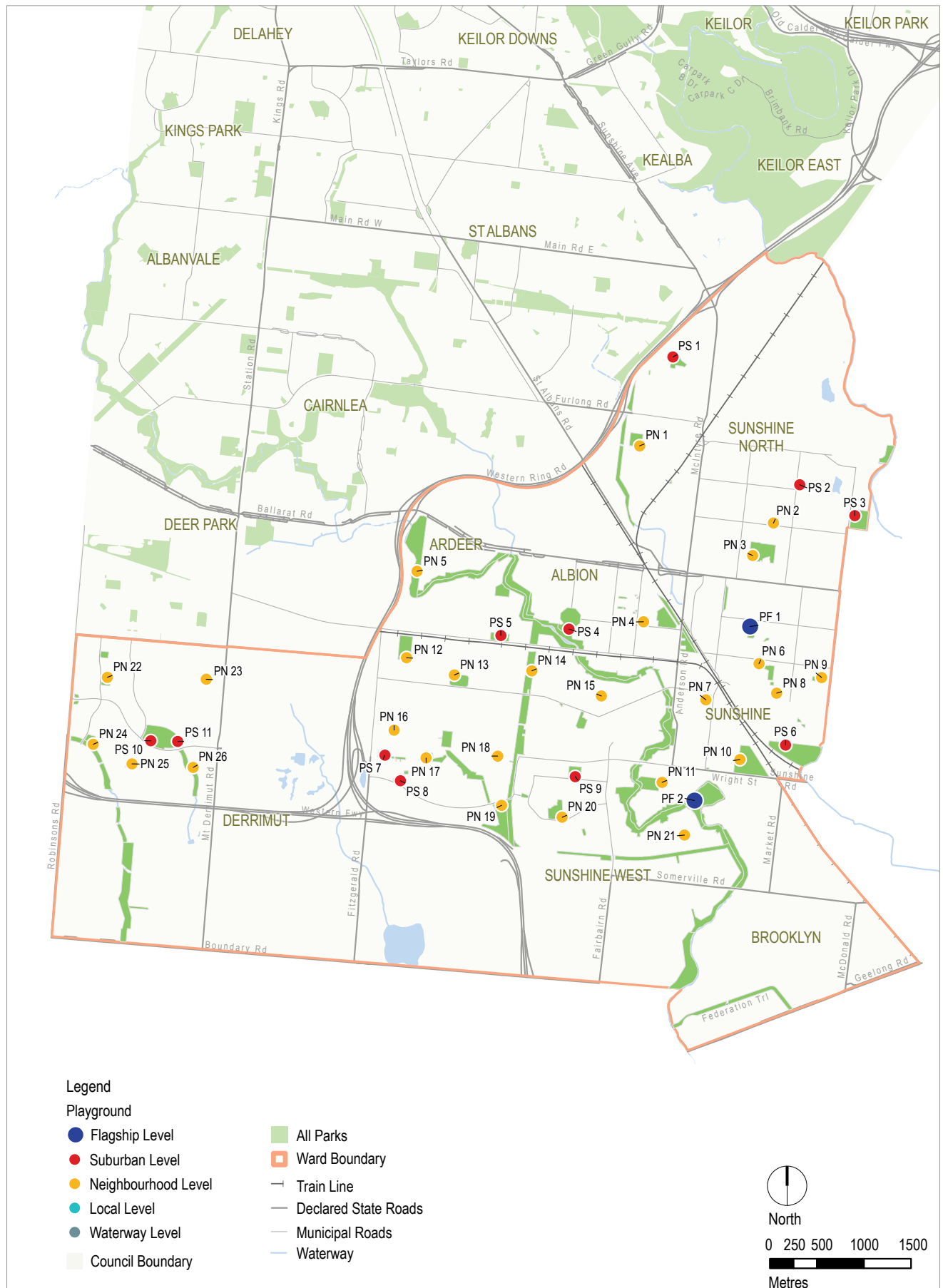
Flagship Park Playground		
PF1	Isabella Williams Reserve	Deer Park
PF2	Kevin Flint Memorial Reserve	Cairnlea
Suburban Park Playground		
PS1	Kurung Drive Reserve	Kings Park
PS2	Evergreen Reserve	Albanvale
PS3	Davitt Reserve	Deer Park
PS4	Bon Thomas Reserve	Deer Park
PS5	St Andrews Park	Deer Park
PS6	Jamieson Street Reserve	St Albans
PS7	Station Waters Reserve	Cairnlea
Neighbourhood Park Playground		
PN1	Lillypilly Crescent Reserve	Kings Park
PN2	Yale Walk Reserve	Kings Park
PN3	Cromwell Road Reserve	Kings Park
PN4	Kings Park Reserve	Kings Park
PN5	Myuna Drive Reserve	Kings Park
PN6	Cyril Clements Reserve	Kings Park
PN7	Bloomingdale/Witchwood/Woodland Reserve	Albanvale
PN8	Albanvale Primary School Park	Albanvale
PN9	Robert Bruce Reserve	Deer Park
PN10	Tamar Drive Reserve	Deer Park
PN11	Sassella Park	Deer Park
PN12	John McLeod Reserve	Deer Park
PN13	Hatchlands Drive/Ashgrove Drive Reserve	Deer Park
PN14	Bentley Dr/Duncombe Park Way Reserve No 1	Deer Park
PN15	Fairways Blvd. / Abernethy Ave. Reserve	Deer Park
PN16	Corunna Avenue Reserve	St Albans
PN17	International Gardens Reserve	St Albans
PN18	Highcombe Crescent Reserve	St Albans
PN19	McLeod/Stevens Reserve	St Albans
PN20	West Esplanade Reserve	St Albans
PN21	Rita Street Reserve	St Albans
PN22	University Park Primary School Reserve	St Albans
PN23	Nickson Gardens	St Albans
PN24	Glenmaggie Drive Reserve	St Albans
PN25	Moorland Park	Cairnlea
PN26	O'Connors Paddock	Cairnlea
PN27	Stockton Run Reserve	Cairnlea
PN28	Shearwater Meadow Reserve	Cairlea
PN29	Waterfield Park - Stage 1	Cairnlea
PN30	Elford Green Reserve	Cairnlea
PN31	Clarian Street Reserve	Cairnlea
Local Park Playground		
PL1	Capri/Porter Reserve	Deer Park
Waterway Reserve Playground		
PW1	Kororoit Creek (NS Station to Billingham Road)	Deer Park
PW2	Kororoit Creek (Gurnung Drive South)	Cairnlea

Taylors Ward - Playgrounds



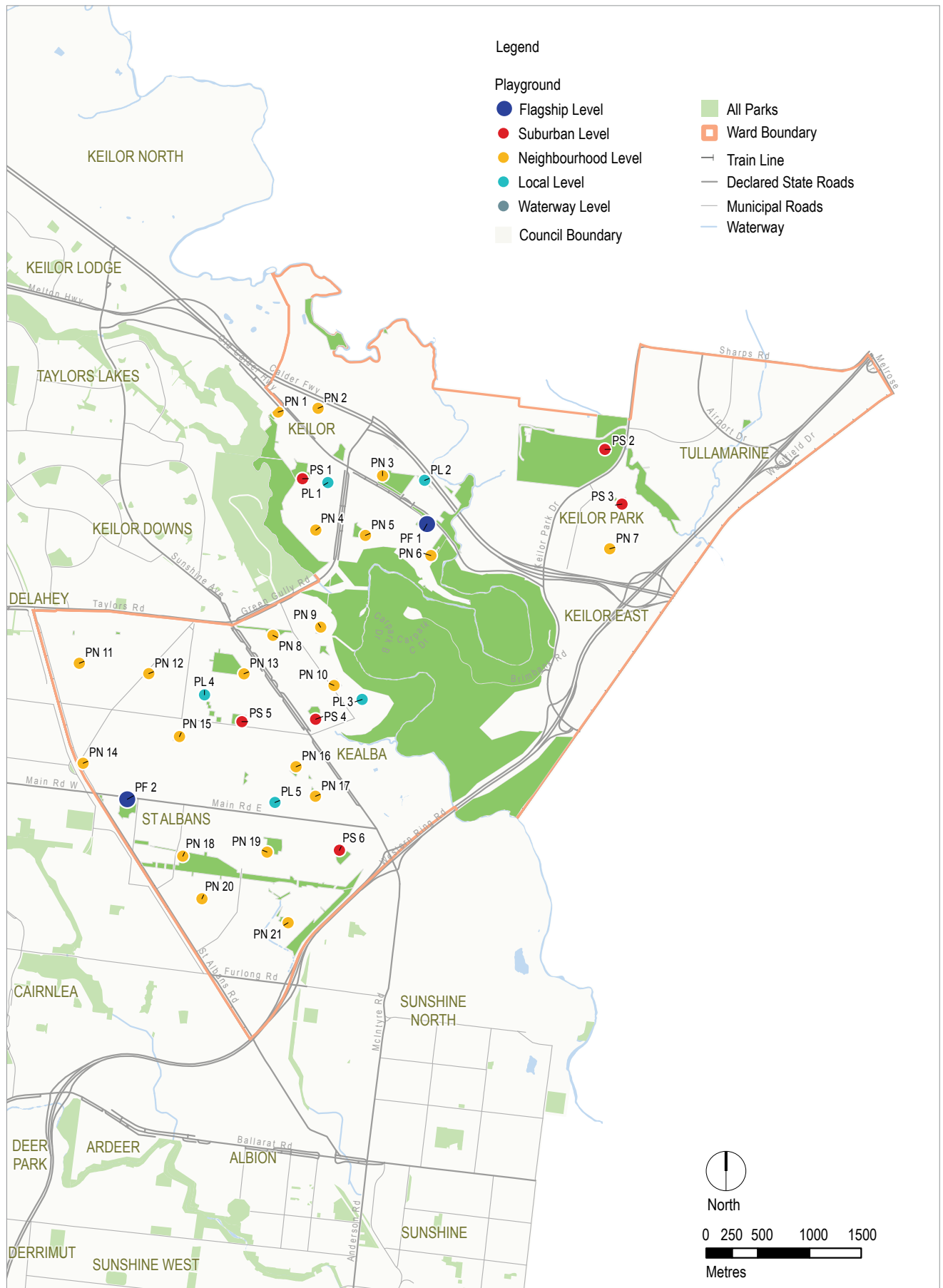
Flagship Park Playground		
PF 1	Taylors Creek Linear Park. (Parmelia Drive to Sunshine Avenue)	Taylors Lakes
Suburban Park Playground		
PS 1	Whiteley Parade Reserve	Taylors Lakes
PS 2	Verona Drive Reserve	Keilor Lodge
PS 3	Delbridge Drive Reserve	Sydenham
PS 4	Roseleigh Reserve	Sydenham
PS 5	Delahey Recreation Reserve	Delahey
PS 6	Delahey Recreation Reserve	Delahey
PS 7	Copernicus Way Reserve	Keilor Downs
PS 8	Odessa Avenue Reserve	Keilor Downs
PS 9	Packard Street Reserve	Keilor Downs
PS 10	Green Gully Reserve	Keilor Downs
Neighbourhood Park Playground		
PN 1	Calder Park/Community Hub Reserve	Hillside
PN 2	Pioneer Park	Sydenham
PN 3	Esplanade Reserve	Sydenham
PN 4	Overton Lea Blvd Reserve	Sydenham
PN 5	Overton Lea Blvd Reserve	Sydenham
PN 6	Stagecoach Reserve	Sydenham
PN 7	Orchid Square Reserve	Sydenham
PN 8	Keilor Lodge Reserve	Taylors Lakes
PN 9	Salamander Drive Reserve	Taylors Lakes
PN 10	Parmelia Drive Reserve	Taylors Lakes
PN 11	Solent Crescent Reserve	Taylors Lakes
PN 12	Lionheart Reserve (BCC)	Taylors Lakes
PN 13	Cocoparra Crescent Reserve	Taylors Lakes
PN 14	Eurora/Koroit Place Reserve	Taylors Lakes
PN 15	Rutherglen Way Reserve	Taylors Lakes
PN 16	Santa Monica Drive Reserve	Keilor Lodge
PN 17	Delahey Emerald Park	Delahey
PN 18	Cowley Street Reserve	Delahey
PN 19	Robinson Court Reserve	Delahey
PN 20	Proctor Cres Reserve	Keilor Downs
PN 21	Willys Avenue Reserve	Keilor Downs
PN 22	Singer Avenue Reserve	Keilor Downs
PN 23	Caprice Court Reserve	Keilor Downs
PN 24	Keilor Downs Recreation Reserve	Keilor Downs
PN 25	Antwerp Drive Reserve	Keilor Downs
PN 26	Dongola Road Reserve	Keilor Downs
Local Park Playground		
PL 1	Terrye Court Reserve	Hillside
PL 2	Tarella Drive Reserve	Keilor Downs

Harvester Ward - Playgrounds



Flagship Park Playground		
PF 1	Sunvale Community Park	Sunshine
PF 2	Buckingham Reserve	Sunshine West
Suburban Park Playground		
PS 1	Roussac Reserve	Sunshine North
PS 2	Northumberland Road Reserve	Sunshine North
PS 3	Duke Street Reserve	Sunshine North
PS 4	Selwyn Park	Albion
PS 5	Ardeer Community Park	Ardeer
PS 6	Matthews Hill Reserve	Sunshine
PS 7	Fitzgerald Square Reserve	Sunshine West
PS 8	Noble Court Reserve	Sunshine West
PS 9	Dalton Street Reserve	Sunshine West
PS 10	Balmoral Park	Derrimut
Neighbourhood Park Playground		
PN 1	Lloyd Reserve	Sunshine North
PN 2	Suffolk Road Reserve	Sunshine North
PN 3	Dempster Park	Sunshine North
PN 4	King Edward Avenue Reserve	Albion
PN 5	More Park	Ardeer
PN 6	Kevin Wheelahan Gardens	Sunshine
PN 7	R T Pollard Gardens	Sunshine
PN 8	Monash/Pizzey Reserve	Sunshine
PN 9	Lowe Crescent Reserve	Sunshine
PN 10	JR Parsons Reserve	Sunshine
PN 11	Arthur Beachley Reserve	Sunshine
PN 12	Nancy Street Reserve	Sunshine West
PN 13	Ainsworth Reserve	Sunshine West
PN 14	Collenso Street Park	Sunshine West
PN 15	Krambruk Street Reserve	Sunshine West
PN 16	Empress/Harwood Reserve	Sunshine West
PN 17	Sunshine Reserve	Sunshine West
PN 18	Austral/Sheldon Reserve	Sunshine West
PN 19	Gresham Way Reserve	Sunshine West
PN 20	Norm Talintyre Reserve	Sunshine West
PN 21	Bickley/McCoubrie Reserve	Sunshine West
PN 22	Haddon Grn/Queensberry St Reserve	Derrimut
PN 23	Hammerwood Avenue Reserve	Derrimut
PN 24	Bothwell Green Reserve	Derrimut
PN 25	Capesthorne Drive Reserve	Derrimut
PN 26	Kenwood Green Reserve	Derrimut

Horseshoe Bend Ward - Playgrounds



Flagship Park Playground		
PF 1	Cliff Harvey Lagoon Reserve	Keilor
PF 2	Errington Reserve	St Albans
Suburban Park Playground		
PS 1	Calder Rise Park	Keilor
PS 2	Keilor Park Recreation Reserve	Keilor Park
PS 3	Thea Court Reserve	Keilor Park
PS 4	Harefield Crescent Reserve	Kealba
PS 5	Biggs/William Street Reserve	St Albans
PS 6	Wahgunyah Drive Reserve	St Albans
Neighbourhood Park Playground		
PN 1	Taylor's Creek Linear Park	Keilor
PN 2	Jackman Crescent Reserve	Keilor
PN 3	Keilor Recreation Reserve	Keilor
PN 4	Patterson Gardens	Keilor
PN 5	Solomon Drive Reserve	Keilor
PN 6	Bonfield Reserve	Keilor
PN 7	Collinson Street Reserve	Keilor Park
PN 8	Bellara Crescent Reserve	Kealba
PN 9	Bundeena Avenue Reserve	Kealba
PN 10	Driscolls Road Reserve	Kealba
PN 11	Conrad Street Reserve	St Albans
PN 12	Arthur Street Reserve	St Albans
PN 13	Churchill Reserve	St Albans
PN 14	Huart Reserve	St Albans
PN 15	Padley Park	St Albans
PN 16	Cowper Avenue Reserve	St Albans
PN 17	Ashton Avenue Reserve	St Albans
PN 18	Stradbroke Drive Reserve	St Albans
PN 19	Larisa Reserve	St Albans
PN 20	Maple Crescent Reserve	St Albans
PN 21	Grantham Green Reserve	St Albans
Neighbourhood Park Playground		
PL 1	Patterson Avenue Reserve	Keilor
PL 2	Ailsa Street Reserve	Keilor
PL 3	Dowling Street Reserve	Kealba
PL 4	Eisner/Woods Street Reserve	St Albans
PL 5	Clarke/Station Reserve	St Albans

Appendix

Our approach to engagement in delivering projects

To reflect the rich diversity and cultural identity of the Brimbank community, meaningful engagement is central to delivering well designed parks that the local community feel welcome in, a sense of local community pride and connection to.

In line with adopted Council Policy, community engagement will draw on the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum. The IAP2 Spectrum is designed to guide the range and extent of participation that defines a community's level of influence on a decision or outcome of a project. Outlining a commitment to the public at each engagement level, the IAP2 spectrum works on building trust and helps to ensure transparency about the level of influence a community has in a project.

Knowing and understanding who our community is, is key to designing meaningful engagement processes that will support greater opportunities for residents to participate.

In achieving more equitable outcomes for all park users, we have a strong commitment to delivering engagement methods that seek to reach and encourage participation of diverse groups, reflecting age, gender, culture, abilities and socio-economic background.

We recognises that some groups are harder to reach

and this requires extra steps in achieving meaningful engagement. One way we can encourage greater participation is working closely with local community groups, sporting groups, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island local communities and CALD communities. Targeting specific groups is critical to addressing gaps in local knowledge and data, particularly for young girls, women and the LGBTQIA+ community.

Brimbank's approach to community engagement practices have been broadly defined as either being participatory or deliberative and most of Council's engagement projects will likely include both and encompass various levels. Although the approach to community engagement is unique to each project context, the following table illustrates our base level engagement assessment with regard for the Open Space Framework and the IAP2 Engagement Spectrum.

IAP2 Engagement Spectrum					
	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
	Provide public with balanced and objective information to understanding the project - alternatives, problems and opportunities	Obtain public feedback on a project, alternative, analysis and/ or decision	Work directly with public throughout process to ensure concerns, aspirations are consistently understood and considered	Partner with public in each phase of project/ decision including development of alternatives and identification of preferred solution	Decision making in the hands of community- key stakeholders
CBP Context	Local residents to be notified of construction	Community to be notified of proposed upgrades including the opportunity to respond to proposed design	Community consultation to guide development and upgrade	Community participation and involvement in decision making during concept design phase	
Brimbank Approach	Participatory Engagement		Deliberative Engagement		
Open Space Typologies					
Heritage and Memorial Gardens					
Flagship Park					
Suburban Park					
Neighbourhood Park					
Local Park					
Linear Reserve					
Waterway Reserve					
Nature Reserve					
Open Space Facilities					
Oasis Parks					
Physical Activity Facilities					
All-abilities playgrounds					
Skate, Scoot and BMX Facilities					
Youth Spaces					
Enclosed Dog Off Leash Spaces					
Destination Dog Parks					
Nature Places					

Gender analysis of the 'Your Say' online Survey

In applying a gender lens to the YourSay Online Survey this analysis has sought to highlight female specific experiences to inform inclusive design practices in updating CBP. Given that there was limited data on gender-diverse experiences this analysis focused on female identifying experiences and their perceptions of parks in Brimbank.

As there were a larger cohort of female respondents, percentages in this analysis were calculated based on the total number of females, total number of males and total number of 'prefer to not say' groups exclusively.

Main concerns and requests highlighted by participants in relation to parks were categorised under four main themes of safety, accessibility, participation and diversity. The key findings of the gender analysis of the online survey are summarised below:

Safety

- There was a greater perception of safety, when more people were seen to be using a park. Increased park use could be improved through the inclusion of a greater variety of activities.
- Lighting was an important consideration, particularly for females wanting to use parks before or after work. Seasonal lighting, particularly for winter was also suggested to improve perceived safety.

Participation

- Parks have an important social value for culturally diverse women, especially when it comes to large family gatherings. Providing more spaces and facilities to support social gathering, such as covered areas, seating and barbeques were frequently suggested to improve both gender and cultural inclusivity.
- For female respondents park use commonly aligned with being primary carers of children. This may suggest that for a significant number of female respondents parks are primarily being accessed for the purpose of children's play and related activities.
- Increasing facilities for physical activity, such as gym equipment and courts were regularly suggested by female respondents as a way to support inclusive spaces.

Accessibility

- Female participants more often observed or experienced the spatial inequalities of parks. While there was recognition that some parks catered to people with disability, there was a shared feeling that generally, play and exercise equipment were exclusionary and that there needed to be more variety of spaces and diversity of facilities that catered to all abilities. In particular suggestions for flexible play spaces and the inclusion of sensory or tactile gardens were ways to improve this.
- Limited toilet facilities in parks were seen to more likely impact how women, girls and gender diverse people use parks as well as determine the amount of time they would spend at a park. For some female respondents having separated gendered toilets was important with regard for safety. On the other hand, the inclusion of gender neutral toilets was also an important consideration cited, as a way to make park facilities more inclusive and welcoming for gender diverse visitors.

Diversity

- Responses suggest that parks have an important social value for culturally diverse women, especially when it comes to large family gatherings. However, limited signage or markers that reflect diversity or help navigate the space may contribute to culturally diverse women feeling marginalised in parks (Women's Health East, 2020).

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