



Ballarat Open Space Strategy



Canadian Creek Reserve

Volume 1

March 2008

Acknowledgements

The preparation of the City of Ballarat Open Space Strategy has been a collaborative effort between the City of Ballarat and the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

The City of Ballarat Open Space Strategy was prepared by the City of Ballarat, Sykes Humphreys Consulting and EDAW with special thanks to the Project Steering Committee:

- Adam Parrott (City of Ballarat - Client Project Manager)
- Sean O'Keeffe (City of Ballarat)
- Dean Frank (City of Ballarat)
- David Ronaldson (City of Ballarat)
- Cameron Duthie (City of Ballarat)
- Graeme Pike (City of Ballarat)
- Ian Rossiter (City of Ballarat)
- Marshall Sullivan (City of Ballarat)
- Ashley Pittard (City of Ballarat)
- Grant Hull (Department of Sustainability and Environment)
- Rod Davison (Department of Sustainability and Environment)

Project Consultant Team Members:

- Sharon Sykes (Sykes Humphreys Consulting - Consultant Project Manager)
- Ian Benjamin (Sykes Humphreys Consulting)
- Peter Haack (EDAW)
- Geoff Williams (EDAW)

Other stakeholders and relevant authorities have contributed to the development of the City of Ballarat Open Space Strategy through the community engagement process. In particular, the contributions of the general community are greatly appreciated.

Contents

1.	<i>Executive Summary</i>	6
2.	<i>Introduction</i>	14
	2.1 Open Space Definition	14
	2.2 Current Status	14
	2.3 Project Scope	14
	2.4 Project Methodology	15
	2.5 Strategy Format	17
3.	<i>Planning Framework</i>	18
	3.1 International/National Planning Context	18
	3.2 State Planning Context	19
	3.3 Local Policy Context	20
4.	<i>Demographic Profile</i>	24
	4.1 Introduction	24
	4.2 Demographic Snapshot	25
	4.3 Population Growth and Trends	25
5.	<i>Current Situation</i>	28
6.	<i>Key Issues and Community Needs</i>	36
	6.1 Provision	36
	6.2 Partnerships	37
	6.3 Management	38
	6.4 Environment	38
7.	<i>Analysis of Open Space</i>	40
	7.1 Hierarchy of Open Space	40
	7.2 Categories of Open Space	43
	7.3 Open Space Criteria	45
8.	<i>Vision and Principles</i>	49
	8.1 Vision	49
	8.2 Principles	50
9.	<i>Strategic Directions</i>	51
	9.1 Planning of Open Space	51
	9.2 Design and Development of Open Space	57
	9.3 Management of Open Space	60
	9.4 Irrigation in Open Space	63
	9.5 Open Space Management Model Matrix	64
	9.6 Development Standards	65
	9.7 Open Space Policies	71
10.	<i>Municipal Analysis</i>	73
11.	<i>Inventory of Open Space</i>	78
12.	<i>Precinct Analysis</i>	85

13.	<i>Implementation</i>	149
13.1	Planning Scheme and Open Space Contributions	149
13.2	Open Space Policies	150
13.3	Partnerships	151
13.4	Opportunities to improve / expand the open space network and linkages:	151
13.5	Master Planning	153
13.6	Environmental Targets	156
13.7	Maintenance of the GIS mapping and data	157
14.	<i>Review</i>	158

Maps

<i>Map 1 – Existing Open Space System City Wide</i>	12
<i>Map 2 – Existing Open Space System City Wide Inset</i>	13
<i>Map 3 – City of Ballarat Planning Zones</i>	30
<i>Map 4 – City of Ballarat Planning Zones Inset</i>	31
<i>Map 5 – Open Space Hierarchy City Wide</i>	32
<i>Map 6 – Open Space Hierarchy City Wide Inset</i>	33
<i>Map 7 – Open Space Category City Wide</i>	34
<i>Map 8 – Open Space Category City Wide Inset</i>	35
<i>Map 9 – Open Space Area City Wide</i>	47
<i>Map 10 – Open Space Area City Wide Inset</i>	48
<i>Map 11 – Catchment Analysis City Wide</i>	76
<i>Map 12 – Catchment Analysis City Wide Inset</i>	77
<i>Map 13 – Precinct Map</i>	86
<i>Map 14 – Map for Precinct 1: Alfredton / Delacombe</i>	87
<i>Map 15 – Map for Precinct 2: Ballarat Central</i>	94
<i>Map 16 – Map for Precinct 3: Buninyong / Rural South</i>	100
<i>Map 17 – Map for Precinct 4: Ballarat South</i>	106
<i>Map 18 – Map for Precinct 5: Golden Point / Mount Helen</i>	112
<i>Map 19 – Map for Precinct 6: Inner North East</i>	119
<i>Map 20 – Map for Precinct 7: Miners Rest / Mitchell Park</i>	126
<i>Map 21 – Map for Precinct 8: Rural East</i>	131
<i>Map 22 – Map for Precinct 9: Rural West</i>	136
<i>Map 23 – Map for Precinct 10: Wendouree</i>	142
<i>Map 24 - Future Opportunities for Open Space in the City of Ballarat</i>	152

Volume 1



Victoria Park, City of Ballarat

1. Executive Summary

Ballarat is well known for some of its key open space areas, like Lake Wendouree, Victoria Park, Lake Learmonth and Mt Buninyong as well as smaller community open spaces. The open space system provides a diverse range of opportunities for residents and visitors as well as the preservation of significant natural environments and features. An impressive mix of waterway corridors, natural forests, lakes, sporting reserves, community parks, playgrounds, regional parks, linkages, landscaped areas, urban spaces and conservation reserves make up the Ballarat open space system. Open space is a significant contributor to the provision of quality communities and its benefits include:

- ✓ Physical benefits that promote health and wellbeing;
- ✓ Psychological benefits through the provision of natural environments;
- ✓ Social benefits through provision of settings for social networks, creating a sense of community and meeting others;
- ✓ Environmental benefits through the preservation of ecosystems, creation and protection of habitat and encouraging advocates of the natural environment; and
- ✓ Spiritual benefits through the provision of natural environments for contemplation and reflection, invoking a sense of place and connectedness.

Over recent years the City of Ballarat has been proactive in developing site specific development and management plans for open space parks, residential growth areas and townships. While this practice is vitally important to determine the detailed direction for specific sites, Council has acknowledged the need to map and assess the open space network on a strategic level.

The Ballarat Open Space Strategy achieves this through collectively mapping and assessing the City's open space network based on an analysis of open space provision and the needs of the community. The Ballarat Open Space Strategy will provide Council with a tool to guide decisions about the future development and management of the City's open space network. The Ballarat Open Space Strategy:

- Provides a clear and concise policy framework for the management, use and development of the municipality's open space assets;
- Determines the appropriate provision of open space to cater to Ballarat's existing and projected population;
- Provides environmental management outcomes and solutions for financing the development of open space;
- Provides a sustainable public landscape and planting vision aimed at responding to the impact of climate change.

The development of the Ballarat Open Space Strategy has involved the following methodology:

- Review of relevant literature, documents and research;
- A comprehensive stakeholder consultation and community engagement process;
- Identification of key community trends and issues;
- Mapping and analysis of existing open space network, and;
- Development of strategic directions and Open Space Development Standards.

A number of criteria are used to define and categorise open space to ensure that the overall system is balanced and well-connected with the ability to provide for a range of purposes and activities that satisfy community and environmental needs.

A well-balanced open space network should incorporate the full range of opportunities in the municipality including formal parkland, sporting reserves, recreation parkland, conservation areas, linear parklands such as waterways, lakes, streetscapes and urban spaces such as plazas and malls. Waterways and rail reserves play an important role to provide linkages and connections. These linkages and connections in the open space network often create access for communities that might otherwise not exist.

Ballarat is fortunate to have a high proportion of open space per capita, and while on initial assessment the municipality might be considered to have plenty of open space, there are a number of factors that must be considered in the analysis of open space provision. These factors take into account the various features of Ballarat including urbanised and rural areas, spread of the population, development of new communities, the presentation of existing parks and reserves and the various demands of the community to determine the adequacy of open space overall.

An important objective of the Ballarat Open Space Strategy is to achieve a well-balanced distribution of open space that provides for the diverse needs of the community. One of the ways to achieve this might include the rationalisation of some areas of the open space network. Rationalisation may include acquisition of land and the retirement of land, where appropriate.

The rural areas of Ballarat have dispersed townships (for example, Cardigan Village and Learmonth in the Rural West precinct). Within these townships services such as shops and community services are centralised and it is quite reasonable for rural residents to travel a short distance by car to access these services. Residents in rural areas will generally have larger residential blocks which result in fewer requirements for open space. It is more acceptable for rural residents to address their open space requirements similar to other services by travelling a short distance to the township centre. Adequate open space is generally provided (or should be provided) in townships to offer a range of opportunities including play, sport, passive enjoyment of parkland, etc.

Future open space provision in Ballarat will address a range of priorities around the preservation and creation of natural landscapes, responsible design, development and management of spaces, quality sporting surfaces, fun and challenging play environments for all ages, waterway corridors and linkages that connect communities, flora and fauna and the development of a diverse open space system that is accessible to all residents. Connectedness to open space is considered in the contexts of community belonging, acknowledgement of cultural uniqueness and preservation of heritage values.

The vision of the Ballarat Open Space Strategy is that the City's open space will:

Provide a sustainable network of accessible open space which supports the recreational, environmental, social and health needs of the community and connects Ballarat to its past, present and future.

This vision will be achieved through the following key principles:

1. The management and development of open space will acknowledge the **high value** of the asset to the community.
2. Open space will continue to meet the **needs** of the established communities within Ballarat and will face the challenges to meet the needs of the **thriving communities** within the City of Ballarat through appropriate distribution.
3. Ballarat's open space network plays an important role in contributing towards the **health and wellbeing** of the individuals that make up the Ballarat community.
4. The **sustainable provision, development and management** of open space must consider the social, environmental and economic factors.
5. The open space network will contribute towards developing, enhancing and supporting **communities** that are **connected** physically, socially and emotionally.
6. The provision of open space will be **inclusive and accessible** for the whole community.
7. **Partnerships** with relevant authorities and the community are crucial for the provision of the open space network.
8. The provision of open space will need to be **integrated** across the different land owners and managers.
9. The provision of open space will be responsive to the **needs and trends** of the Ballarat community through industry best practice.
10. The open space network is an essential asset that contributes towards **tourism** and the **economy** of Ballarat.
11. A **well-balanced** open space network across the municipality might require the 'acquisition' and/or 'retirement' of parcels of open space.

The municipality has been divided into ten precincts. These precincts have been grouped based on their geographical location, availability of demographic information and recognition of the unique qualities and similarities. The ten precincts are listed down the left column of the table below.

A quantitative and qualitative analysis of the open space network both overall for the City of Ballarat and within the ten precincts was undertaken based on the criteria that are listed across the top of the table below.

The following table summarises the outcome of the assessment of open space:

Precinct	Population	Quantity	Size	Quality	Community needs	Amenity / Values	Distribution	Environmental
City of Ballarat	↑	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓
Alfredton – Delacombe	↑	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓
Ballarat Central	=	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓
Buninyong Rural South	=	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Ballarat South	↑	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Golden Point – Mount Helen	↑	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Inner North East	↑	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Miners Rest – Mitchell Park	↑	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rural East	=	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓
Rural West	=	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓
Wendouree	=	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓

(Table 1 – Open Space Analysis Summary by Precinct)

✓ = Basic/poor provision (opportunity for significant improvement)

✓✓ = Satisfactory provision (opportunity for improvement)

✓✓✓ = Excellent Provision (meets or exceeds criteria)

Population symbols:

↑ : Population is projected to increase by more than 500 people between 2007 and 2021

= : Population is projected to change by less than 500 between 2007 and 2021

The strategic directions for Ballarat's open space network are summarised below:

Planning of Open Space

- 9(i) The Ballarat Open Space Strategy will inform the future review of the Municipal Strategic Statement and the Ballarat Planning Scheme.
- 9(ii) Council will follow a transparent assessment process for the acquisition and/or retirement of land which must demonstrate an enhancement to the overall open space network for the benefit of the broader community.
- 9(iii) Open space that is encumbered will only be accepted as the Developers contribution under the Subdivision Act if it provides a significant environmental, recreational or social benefit to the broader community.

- 9(iv) Priority should be given to achieving the minimum provision of recreation open space (and the categories that comprise recreation open space) before accepting open space for any other categories.
- 9(v) Council will work in partnership with DSE to resolve the management options and preferred model for native vegetation off-set areas that are required to be designated under state legislation.
- 9(vi) Open space will be enhanced to provide a diverse range of open spaces and in particular emphasis will be placed on the development of linear reserves, habitat corridors and linkages between key open spaces and community destinations.
- 9(vii) Council will review and develop a set of open space policies to guide future open space decision making.
- 9(viii) The provision of open space will play a significant role in tourism and the economy for the City of Ballarat.

Design and Development of Open Space

- 9(ix) Development Standards will set the framework for what can be developed in the different categories of open space.
- 9(x) Council will prepare or support Master Plans or Management Plans for all State level, regional and district parks. Park Plans will be developed for neighbourhood and local parks and will be developed in accordance with development standards.
- 9(xi) Council should only support or undertake major development works within State level, regional and district parks that are consistent with a current and adopted Master Plan, unless the works are part of a formal decision of Council.
- 9(xii) Council should only support or undertake works in neighbourhood or local parks that are consistent with the development standards for that type of park.
- 9(xiii) Shared use and maximum public access to all open space and associated facilities will be a priority.
- 9(xiv) Council will require that open space proposals demonstrate water saving initiatives and are environmentally sustainable in all types of open space.
- 9(xv) Development of new reserves should demonstrate environmentally sustainable practices and design.

Management of Open Space

- 9(xvi) The agency responsible for the management of open space will be determined based on the following assessment criteria:
 - The agency's experience and skills to appropriately manage the open space;
 - The agency's core business and best interest;
 - Attributes of the site;
 - Degree of benefit for the local and broader community benefit;
 - Environmental values of the site;

- Capacity for the agency to manage and maintain the open space in the long term.
- 9(xvii) Effective management of open space will be achieved through the development of clear responsibilities of relevant stakeholders.
- 9(xviii) Council will maintain, develop and foster partnerships with relevant stakeholders.
- 9(xix) The open space network will provide diverse opportunities for the community which will be appropriate for the type of open space.
- 9(xx) Public access to the open space network will be strongly encouraged, wherever possible, to ensure that Ballarat residents have access to different types of open space areas that meet their diverse current and future needs.
- 9(xxi) A review of maintenance standards, resourcing and service levels will result in an open space system that better meets community and stakeholder expectations with Council's service levels for open space being transparent and clearly understood.

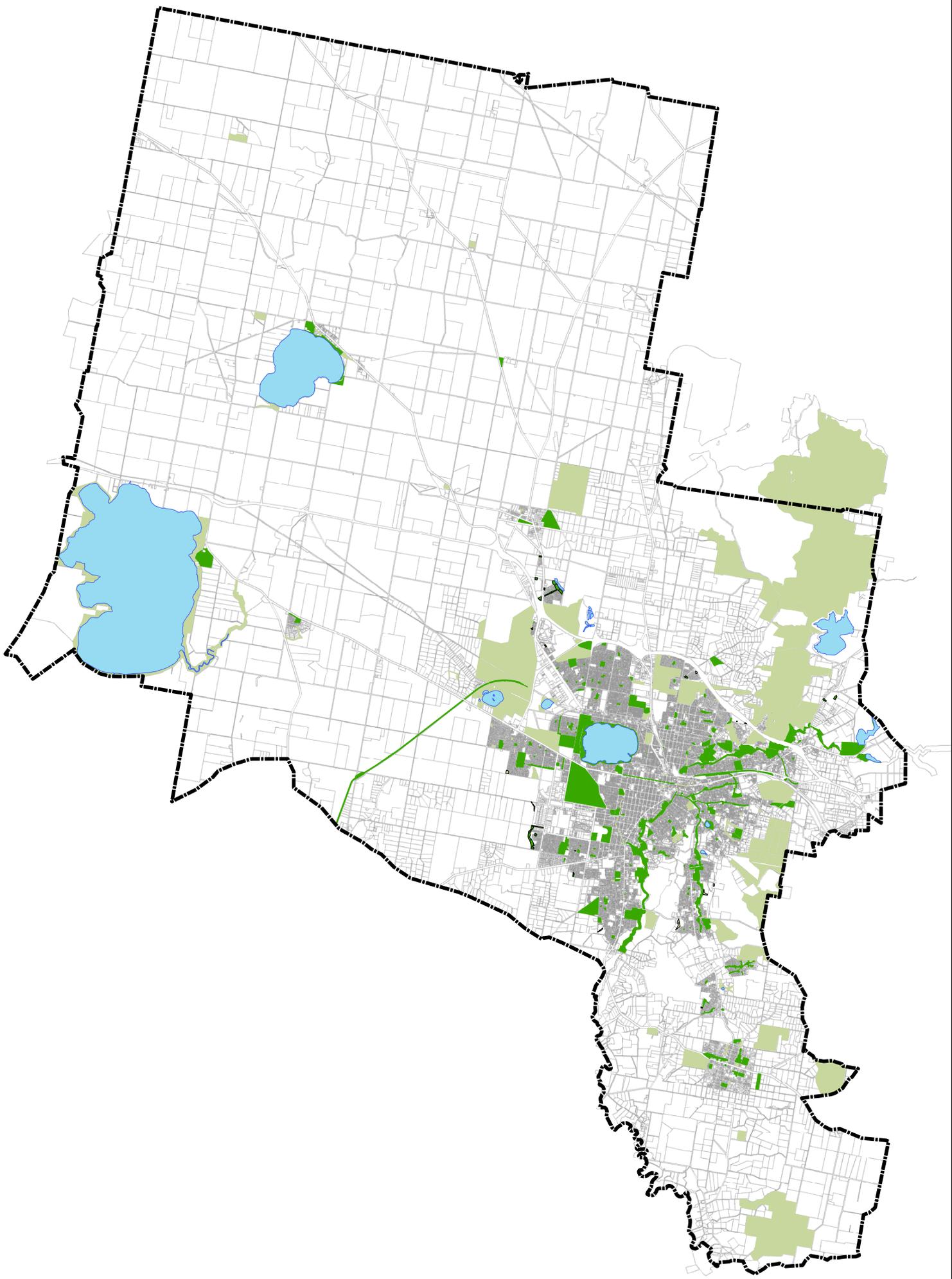
Policies for Open Space

- 9(xxi) Council will review and develop policies and standards in areas such as:
- Open space contributions;
 - Open space landscape and infrastructure; and
 - Open space management.

The priorities for implementation of the Open Space Strategy include:

- Preparing and endorsing an Open Space Contributions Policy as an amendment to the Planning Scheme;
- Preparing and endorsing a number of open space policies;
- Pursuing discussions with existing and potential partners regarding joint initiatives for the planning, management and development of open space;
- Seeking opportunities to improve and expand the open space network and create more effective linkages throughout the municipality;
- Preparing, reviewing existing and implementing Master Plans for State, Regional and District open space areas;
- Keeping all data and mapping up-to-date as initiatives are implemented; and
- Striving to meet environmental targets in accordance with the LiveSmartBallarat Sustainability Policy.

It is recommended that the Strategy be updated regularly with a significant review every five years. There is also an opportunity to undertake more detailed analysis of open space areas in relation to hierarchy, category and mapping of open space as well as identifying the benefits of open space within each precinct.

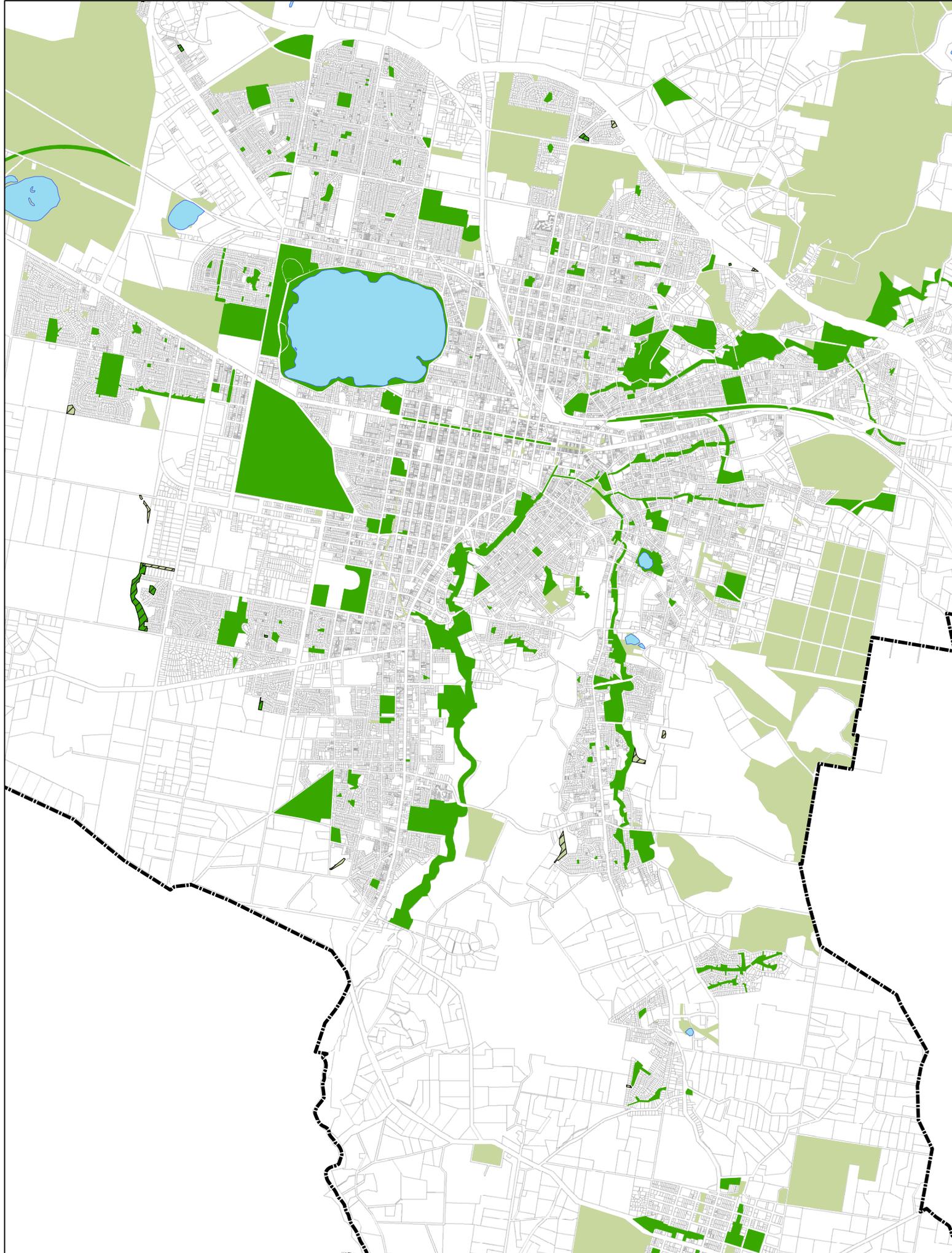


1. Existing Open Space System City Wide

Ballarat Open Space Strategy

- Recreational Open Space
- Additional Open Space
- Proposed Open Space
- Lake / Water Body

1:120,000 at A3 0.5 1 2 Kilometers N
▲



2. Existing Open Space System City Wide - Inset

- Recreational Open Space
- Additional Open Space
- Proposed Open Space
- Lake / Water Body



Ballarat Open Space Strategy

1:40,000 at A3

0 0.250.5 1 Kilometers

N

2. Introduction

2.1 Open Space Definition

Open space is defined as the range of public spaces that provide landscape and/or urban design features and are generally for rest, relaxation, recreation activity and for the preservation of the environment. Open space also provides visual amenity, often reflects cultural and heritage significance and includes the natural landscape / bushland areas and vegetation corridors. For the purpose of the Strategy, areas such as recreation and formal parkland, conservation reserves, linkages and waterway reserves, sporting reserves, public land set aside for specific recreation purposes, streetscapes and various urban spaces would be considered as open space.

2.2 Current Status

Ballarat has an extensive open space network with new parks being added to the network as new residential developments are established.

Council's existing open space network consists of a range of open space assets with a variety of recreational uses and environmental values. Non-Council open space assets, for example public land owned by the Crown, golf courses and school ovals also have a significant value in contributing towards the recreational opportunities and diversity of the municipality's network of open space.

During the development of this Open Space Strategy, open space assets have been mapped to enable detailed analysis. Assessment of Ballarat's open space network has been based on a set of criteria to provide Council with a tool to guide decisions about the future development and management of open space.

In recent years the City of Ballarat has prepared several important strategies and documents to guide decision making for specific open space areas within the City of Ballarat. These include, but are not limited to, the following: the Linear Network of Communal Spaces (LINCS); bike paths; major reserves such as the Yarrowee River; Lake Wendouree; Ballarat Botanical Gardens; Mt Buninyong, and several sports ovals. These documents provide a useful tool for the future direction of sites across the municipality, however require a strategic link to the overall network of open space.

The Ballarat City Council and the Department of Sustainability and Environment have committed to collectively assessing the open space network in the municipality through the development of this Open Space Strategy that will serve the City until at least 2025. This strategy provides a clear policy framework based on health, recreational and sustainable considerations.

2.3 Project Scope

The different types of open space that make up the overall open space network in Ballarat are each highly valued for the diverse opportunities they provide for the community. For example Crown Land in particular Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland or Wetland) contributes significantly to the overall open space network and has significant environmental values with limited recreation opportunities. 'Recreation Parkland' provides diverse recreation opportunities and 'Linear Parklands' will provide connections for the local community.

All types of open space will contribute in one way or another towards the community's (including the environment's) wellbeing and health.

The Ballarat Open Space Strategy covers the entire municipality of 73,864 hectares which has been divided into 10 precincts.

2.4 Project Methodology

Due to the significance of the project, the Ballarat Open Space Strategy has been overseen by a Project Steering Committee consisting of representatives from relevant Council departments and the Department of Sustainability and Environment. Sykes Humphreys Consulting was engaged to develop the Strategy with guidance being provided by the Steering Group. The development of the draft Strategy has involved a thorough process and included the following methodology:

2.4.1 Literature Review

Numerous documents in the form of relevant studies, reports, plans and policies were reviewed. The review included documents from Council, the Department of Sustainability and Environment and other relevant stakeholders. The literature review has been documented in Volume Two – Supporting Document of the Strategy.

2.4.2 Consultation

A comprehensive consultation process was undertaken to engage with the broader community, relevant stakeholders and authorities. The consultation process was widely advertised through the City of Ballarat's website, the community publication '*myballarat*', a direct mail out and telephone interviews.

The consultation process is detailed in Volume Two of the Ballarat Open Space Strategy and included the following:

Community Focus Groups

The community was invited to attend one of three focus groups focused around: Management, Use and Promotion of Open Space; Local Parks, Linear Parks and Linkages, and Environment and Conservation.

Household Survey

A household survey was undertaken by telephone of 300 households throughout the City of Ballarat.

Walk and Talk Session

This session provided the community with an opportunity for a leisurely walk around Lake Wendouree to talk about any issues relating to open space.

Written Submissions

Interested residents or community organisations were encouraged to forward a written submission on any ideas, concerns or opportunities on any open space or parkland areas in the City of Ballarat.

Meetings

A series of meetings or presentations were held with relevant Council Officers from across the organisation, the Project Steering Committee, Councillors, Executive Management Team and community groups including the Ballarat Environment Network and Blueprint Ballarat Committee.

Phone Interviews with Relevant Authorities

Relevant authorities were interviewed by telephone.

Youth Workshop

A youth workshop was conducted with young people and relevant youth agencies.

School Surveys

School surveys were emailed to all state and private primary and secondary schools in the City of Ballarat.

Opportunity to Speak to Project Consultant Team

The community was encouraged to contact the Council to arrange a call back from the project consultant to speak about any particular aspects of open space.

Comments on the Draft Open Space Strategy

Council released the draft strategy in November 2007 for a period of two months and invited comments and submissions on the directions of the draft strategy. This process resulted in eight detailed submissions from the community and a number of comments from City of Ballarat staff. All comments were considered and a number of modifications were made to the strategy before being presented to Council in April 2008 for adoption.

2.4.3 Mapping and analysis of existing open space network

The current provision of open space was mapped and analysed against a developed set of criteria.

The mapping and analysis of open space that is owned and/or managed by a number of organisations has been an important part of developing the Ballarat Open Space Strategy. In particular, both Council and Crown land have been acknowledged and mapped to provide an accurate picture of the current open space network.

2.4.4 Identification of key trends, issues and gaps in current provision

From the methodology as described above key trends, issues and opportunities in current provision were identified that assisted with the development of the strategy.

2.4.5 Development of Strategy

Key elements of the Strategy include the development of a vision, key principles, strategic directions, open space criteria and development standards.

2.5 Strategy Format

The format of the Strategy has been prepared as two volumes:

Volume One is the key report of the Strategy. It is structured in a logical format that provides the framework and substantiates the strategic directions and opportunities for each precinct. The Executive Summary at the beginning of volume one provides an overview of the Strategy and can be read in isolation to provide a broad understanding of the key elements.

The first few sections of volume one provides the strategic context for the Open Space Strategy including the planning framework and an analysis of the demographic profile of the municipality. An assessment of the current situation considers the hierarchy and category of the open space and is presented with various maps. Due to the size of the municipality an 'inset' map has also been prepared which focuses on the centralised urban area of the municipality to provide a clearer picture of the open space network.

In consideration of the findings from the literature review and consultation process (Volume Two – Supporting Document) key strategic issues and community needs have been identified. The issues were grouped under four key areas namely Provision, Partnerships, Management and Environment. To provide a framework for the Open Space Strategy a vision and key principles were developed and are primarily based around the community feedback. Key strategic directions were then developed to support the key principles.

The open space analysis defines the different types of open space areas, which along with the first section of the strategy, has provided the framework to establish the vision, principles and strategic directions. The last section of volume one analyses the open space provision from a municipal wide level and against each of the ten precincts. The precinct analysis is based on the open space criteria and identifies generic improvements and opportunities.

A precinct review process has been developed and is located at the end of Volume One.

Volume Two primarily includes the supporting documentation including the literature review and results from the community consultation process namely the community focus groups, surveys, written submissions, meetings and interviews.

3. Planning Framework

Open space is a valuable asset in any area and the Ballarat community is fortunate to have a diverse network of local, formal and sporting parkland along with creek corridors and bushland sites. The community places a high value on the open space network and the broad range of spaces are important in meeting the diverse community needs.

The provision of open space is shaped by the planning framework at many levels including the policy and strategic direction by the City of Ballarat (local) through to the State level and also the initiatives at a National and International level. Outlined below is the planning framework at these different levels that have been considered when preparing the Open Space Strategy.

3.1 *International/National Planning Context*

Healthy Cities Initiative

A Healthy City is always striving to improve the health of the City through a commitment to a process and structure. A Healthy City is not a City that has achieved a particular health status.

A Healthy City is continually creating and improving the physical and social environments and expanding the community resources that enable people to mutually support each other in performing all the functions of life and in developing to their maximum potential.

Some of the qualities of a healthy city as outlined by the World Health Organisation include:

- a clean, safe physical environment of a high quality;
- an ecosystem that is stable now and sustainable in the long-term;
- a strong mutually supportive and non-exploitative community;
- a high degree of participation in and control by the citizens over the decisions affecting their lives, health and well-being;
- the meeting of basic needs (food, water, shelter, income, safety and work) for all the city's people;
- access by the people to a wide variety of experiences and resources, with the chance for a wide variety of contact, interaction and communication;
- a diverse, vital and innovative economy;
- the encouragement of connectedness with the past, with the cultural and biological heritage of city dwellers and with other groups and individuals;
- a form that is compatible with and enhances the preceding characteristics;
- an optimum level of appropriate public health and sickness care services, accessible to all; and
- high health status (high levels of positive health and low levels of disease).

3.2 State Planning Context

There are several significant strategic documents and resources at a State level that have shaped the development of Ballarat's open space network. These documents include:

Native Vegetation Framework

The Native Vegetation Framework was developed to implement the objectives of Victoria's Biodiversity Strategy and the National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity.

'The Framework' is the State Government's strategy to protect, enhance and revegetate Victoria's native vegetation.

The main goal is *to achieve a reversal, across the entire landscape, of the long-term decline in the extent and quality of native vegetation, leading to a net gain*. Net gain is where overall gains in native vegetation are greater than overall losses and where individual losses are avoided where possible.

Various Management Policies of Crown Land

The powers and responsibilities of a Committee of Management are outlined under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*.

The Department of Sustainability and Environment has prepared the "Responsibilities and Good Practice Guidelines" for Committees of Management to guide the management of Crown land.

Parks Victoria 'Healthy Parks, Healthy People'

Parks Victoria will implement significant environmental and recreational initiatives under the *Healthy Parks, Healthy People* scheme. The initiative aims to promote the mental and physical benefits of spending time in parks and its contribution to the health of individuals and the community.

Research has shown that visiting a park can reduce stress, boost immunity, enhance productivity, promote healing and foster psychological wellbeing. *Healthy Parks, Healthy People* is part of a national campaign and comprises agencies across the country. These agencies are working collaboratively on events to promote public awareness for the campaign.

VicHealth Strategies and Resources

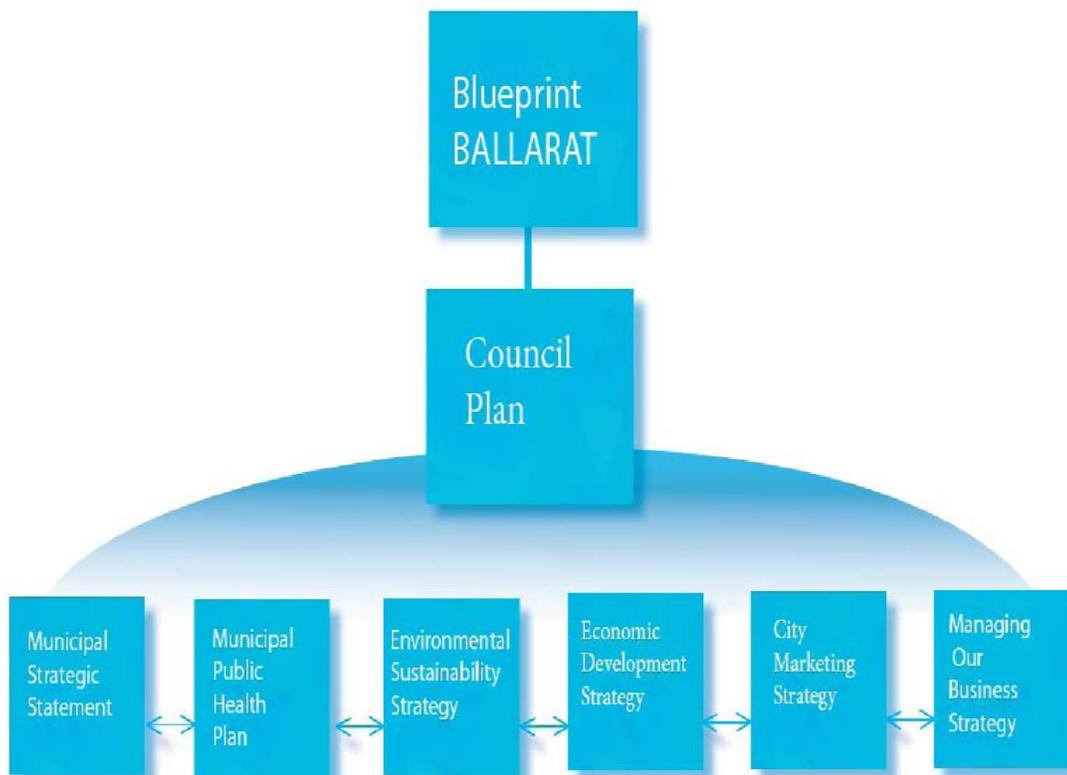
VicHealth's key strategic framework *Lead, Empower, Support, Connect* outlines the organisations key priorities for 2006-2009 to improve the health of the Victorian Community. In particular the strategic framework identifies the priority to create active communities and to:

- Increase participation in sport and active recreation;
- Improve access to nutritious food;
- Encourage more walking and cycling, and;
- Promote inclusive and accessible environments.

VicHealth has developed a resource called *Leading the Way: Councils Creating Healthier Communities* designed to increase the level of understanding across local government about how social, economic and environmental factors can impact upon health and wellbeing, the resource takes a practical look at how councils can consider policy and strategic priorities in a more integrated way.

3.3 Local Policy Context

There are several key City of Ballarat strategic documents and policies which are relevant for the development and implementation of the Open Space Strategy. The documents have been depicted in the illustration below.



There are important links between Council's key strategic documents and the Ballarat Open Space Strategy; the most significant documents are the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) and the Environment Sustainability Strategy (ESS). Implementation of the Open Space Strategy should be undertaken with regular reference to these other key documents.

Blueprint Ballarat

An important strategic document owned and developed by the community which sets out the community's vision of what Ballarat should be.

Some key visions of Blueprint Ballarat that particularly guide the Ballarat Open Space Strategy include:

- Ballarat will be a confident, outward-looking city, as proud of its heritage as it is ambitious for the prosperity and wellbeing of its people;
- Ballarat will be a leader in its management of the natural environment;
- New industries, new transport links and targeted migration will have helped to boost the population across the whole region;
- Above all, Ballarat will be a resilient, self-reliant city that draws confidence, energy and ideas from its own traditions and from the capacities of its own community.

Council Plan

The Council Plan is a key strategic document that identifies the Council's vision and how to implement the vision through actions. The Council plan is linked to the organisations financial planning and has been influenced by the community's vision for the municipality through the Blueprint Ballarat framework.

The Council Plan highlights the importance for the development of an Open Space Strategy and specifically supports several projects that enhance the municipalities open space network.

"What will distinguish it from other cities will be the way that Ballarat values and celebrates its natural environment, its history and its cultural life. A city in its own right." – City of Ballarat Council Plan 2007 - 2012

Municipal Strategic Statement

This document provides a framework for the future development of the City of Ballarat. It supports Council's vision, objectives and the strategies/actions for the development of the municipality.

It is a vision of the Municipal Strategic Statement that by 2022 Ballarat will be a municipality where lifelong learning and improved community health and cultural enrichment create wellbeing and community infrastructure to meet changing community needs with high quality accessible social services for all stages of life.

Clause 52.01 'Public Open Space Contribution and Subdivision' of the Ballarat Planning Scheme identifies the requirement for a contribution to council for Public Open Space (either land or value of land or both) by a person who proposes to subdivide land.

Municipal Public Health Plan (Health and Wellbeing Plan)

The Municipal Public Health Plan is a legislative requirement that provides a strategic direction through identifying the priority issues and needs for health and wellbeing of the Ballarat community. It outlines Council's plan of action for the next three years in response to these needs and actions with a specific recommendation to develop an Open Space Strategy that:

- articulates link between access to open space and community wellbeing;
- considers 'walkability' of open space and linear links to open space that promotes access via walking and cycling;
- provides a clear and concise policy framework for the management, use and development of Ballarat's open space assets;
- determines the appropriate provision and development standards of open space;
- caters for Ballarat's existing and projected growth;
- provides a sustainable public landscape and planting vision aimed at responding to the impact of climate change;
- Outlines the use of developer contributions to fund the development of new open space and the upgrade of existing open space.

The Health and Wellbeing Plan recognises that the City of Ballarat's open spaces such as parks, gardens, sporting ovals, wetlands, tracks and trails provide places for social gatherings, recreation, physical activity and relaxation and are important to the community's wellbeing and health.

City Of Ballarat Recreation Strategy

Sitting under the Health and Wellbeing Plan is Council's Recreation Strategy which outlines the principles that guide the planning and decision making with regards to the provision of recreation services and facilities. It also outlines Council's key priorities for recreation provision and the actions it will take over the next 10 years to achieve these priorities. The Recreation Strategy identifies that from a recreation perspective the Open Space Strategy should consider:

- The provision of suitable open space to satisfy the outdoor recreation and leisure needs of local communities and sporting associations.
- The provision of appropriate public open space in the newly developed areas.
- Council's capacity to resource the development and maintenance of Crown land reserves managed by Council and Committees.
- The future of active sporting fields which are considered surplus to need.
- The future of passive recreation spaces which have little community value.
- Policies for the assessment and disposal of surplus land.
- The development of a linked, safe, accessible and cohesive trail network.

Environmental Sustainability Strategy

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy is the framework, through a set of key directions and actions, that will help to deliver Blueprint Ballarat's environmental and sustainability vision. The Strategy focuses on the following key areas: biodiversity (flora and fauna); water quality and quantity; energy; waste, recycling and reuse; and air quality.

Specific strategies that have a direct relationship to the Open Space Strategy include sustainable principles for open space management, protection and restoration of natural assets, recycling and reduced resource consumption, and partnership initiatives to achieve targets for improved practices and outcomes.

Economic Development Strategy

The 2006 Strategy sets a framework for the future development of the economy in the City of Ballarat, to grow jobs and investment, as well as to encourage sustainability and responsible development through eight key strategic themes.

City Marketing Strategy

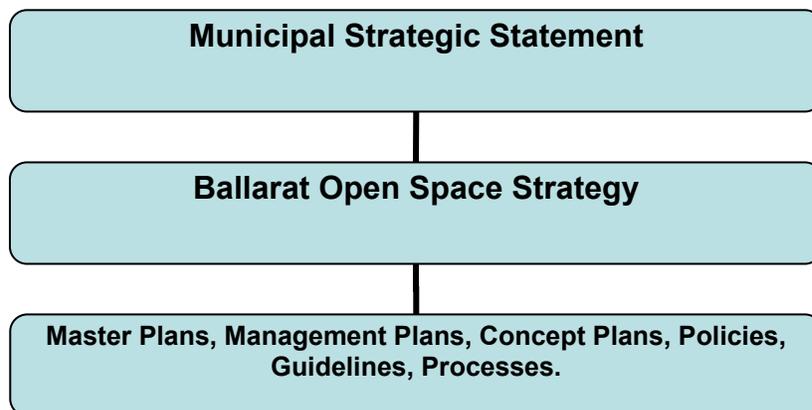
The City Marketing Strategy sets the strategic direction for tourism, events, marketing the city as a destination and managing the City's cultural attractions.

Managing Our Business Strategy

The Managing Our Business Strategy sets the strategic direction for Council's financial management, human resources management, asset management and risk management functions.

Ballarat Open Space Strategy

The Ballarat Open Space Strategy sits under the Municipal Strategic Statement and provides the framework for a number of documents for the development of the open space network as shown below.



4. Demographic Profile

4.1 Introduction

The City of Ballarat is predominantly a residential area but also has substantial industrial, commercial and rural areas. It contains a number of lakes, reserves and parks. Industrial areas are located mainly in the inner north and west areas of Alfredton, Delacombe, Mitchell Park and Wendouree. The rural areas are located mainly in the far west and north, although many of these have a large element of rural residential and rural living.

Development of the area dates from the 1830s when a sheep station and farms were established, followed soon after by a settlement at Buninyong. Gold was first discovered in the area in 1851, prompting the establishment of townships at Mount Clear, Sebastopol and Warrenheip. The township of Ballarat emerged as a service centre to the diggings, with land sales dating in 1852. Due largely to the gold rush, the population exploded, peaking at about 64,000 in 1868. During the 1870s other industries were established including wool mills, flour mills, tanneries, boot-making enterprises, meat-preservation works, brick-making works and breweries. When a recession hit the mining industry in 1870, the population declined significantly. However, the manufacturing industry and agricultural sector kept the economy afloat. The railway lines to Maryborough and Ararat were opened in 1875, enabling Ballarat to become a significant retail centre. In the late 1800s there were also timber industries, cordial factories and some vines and winemaking. Throughout the twentieth century Ballarat prospered as a major administrative, manufacturing and commercial service centre.

The population of Ballarat increased significantly again in the post-war years. Most of this growth was in the west and north, in suburbs such as Ballarat North and Wendouree. The City had a relatively stable population for much of the 1980s and early 1990s, but has grown strongly over the last ten years due largely to substantial employment growth in service industries and expansion of core manufacturing (food processing) and agricultural industries. The population has grown from over 76,000 in 1991 to nearly 80,000 in 2001. This population growth has been most heavily concentrated in the inner north suburbs of Alfredton, Invermay Park and Wendouree and areas south of the Central Activity District such as Delacombe.

Major features of the City include the University of Ballarat, Ballarat Base Hospital, St John of God Hospital, Sovereign Hill, Eureka Stockade, the retail area of Ballarat City Centre, Ballarat Botanical Gardens, Mount Buninyong, Lake Wendouree, Lake Burumbeet, Lake Learmonth and the Avenue of Honour and Arch of Victory. The City is served by the Western Highway, the Midland Highway, the Glenelg Highway, the Sunraysia Highway and the Ararat-Ballarat-Melbourne railway line.

4.2 Demographic Snapshot

The population of the City of Ballarat in 2006 was 85,196, representing an increase of 6.7% from 2001 (79,794) (source: ABS 2006/2001 Census Quickstats Ballarat Local Government Area). It is forecast that the population will increase by a further 21.9% (103,853) by 2021 (source: forecast.id – Total Population Forecast Year City of Ballarat).

The method of commuting to work reveals that most people travelled to work by car (75%*). This is reflective of the car ownership profile of the municipality with 35.3% of households with 1 vehicle and 36.2% of households with two vehicles.

The share of the population with different educational qualifications was indicative of a relatively skilled and educated workforce. About 32% of the population noted some form of educational qualification, with the most significant being those people with vocational qualifications, which may be related to the significant growth in construction or business service industries between 1996 and 2001.

Age Structure

The age structure of the City of Ballarat was notable in that there was a spread of population across most age groups. The largest age group in the region was the 15-24 year olds. There was quite an even spread across other age groups up until the age of 60 years, where numbers begin to drop significantly. This age structure is often described as being an 'urban mix', with a range of different age groups in the population.

The major differences in age structure between the City of Ballarat and the Central Highlands district includes a higher percentage of persons aged 35-49 throughout the whole district, but generally the trends were similar. The most significant changes in age structure in the City of Ballarat between 2001 and 2006 were in the age groups:

- 50-59 year olds (+1,852 persons)
- 60-69 year olds (+1,062 persons)
- 15-24 year olds (+806 persons)

Household Types

The City of Ballarat experienced some changes in household types between 2001 and 2006, which included:

- total couples with child(ren) which declined from 45.3% to 42.2%;
- couple without child(ren) which grew from 34.7% to 37.5%;
- one parent families which grew from 18.1% to 18.6%.

4.3 Population Growth and Trends

All areas in the City of Ballarat are expected to increase in population to 2021, except for Wendouree as outlined on the following page. The largest gains are expected in the areas to the west, south and north of the Central Activity District in particular Alfredton, Delacombe, Miners Rest-Mitchell Park, Lake Wendouree and Mount Clear-Mount Helen. The population increase is based on household growth, which in turn relates to new residential opportunities, most notably in the growth areas. The forecast population growth

rates are lower than household growth as a result of the decreasing number of people per household. This is a pattern that is likely to affect all areas of the City of Ballarat during this period.

Forecast POPULATION Area	Forecast year			Change between 2001 and 2021	
	2001	2006	2021	number	average annual % change
City of Ballarat	83,599	88,137	103,853	20,254	1.09
Alfredton	4,902	5,749	10,231	5,329	3.75
Ballarat Central	6,309	6,440	6,817	508	0.39
Ballarat East-Brown Hill	7,704	7,688	7,990	286	0.18
Ballarat North-Invermay Park	5,399	5,765	6,563	1,164	0.98
Buninyong-Rural South	3,599	3,650	4,152	553	0.72
Delacombe	3,791	4,160	7,271	3,480	3.31
Golden Pt-Mt Pleasant-Canadian	6,548	6,723	7,385	837	0.60
Lake Wendouree	5,143	6,400	6,507	1,364	1.18
Miners Rest-Mitchell Park	1,925	2,348	3,759	1,834	3.40
Mount Clear-Mount Helen	4,963	5,206	6,867	1,904	1.64
Redan	3,179	3,158	3,195	16	0.03
Rural East	1,974	2,188	2,419	445	1.02
Rural West	2,716	2,822	3,257	541	0.91
Sebastopol	8,155	8,361	10,015	1,860	1.03
Soldiers Hill-Black Hill-Nerrina	5,530	5,634	5,725	195	0.17
Wendouree	11,763	11,845	11,702	-61	-0.03

(Table 2: Population forecast by area. Source: City of Ballarat Forecast Id 2001 – 2021)

Furthermore it is anticipated that:

- Predominantly young couples, young and maturing families will be attracted to the substantial new housing opportunities across the City of Ballarat, particularly in the major growth areas of Ballarat west and to a lesser degree to the south and north.
- The City of Ballarat's population will also increase with home-leavers and tertiary students from neighbouring rural areas and small towns in their late teens and early twenties.
- The loss of young adults in their twenties leaving home is expected in many areas, as some will leave the City to find employment and education opportunities elsewhere.
- Empty-nesters will also increase as will retirees from Melbourne, aided by the ageing of the population.



Lake Learmonth Recreation Reserve (March 2007)

5. Current Situation

Ballarat has an open space network consisting of approximately 250 parks, reserves and public open spaces. The network provides different opportunities (recreational, social and environmental) for the community and is highly valued in different ways by the community.

The open space network has been identified across the City of Ballarat in two different ways: by **hierarchy**, describing the access that the community has to different levels of open space and by **category**, which describes the function of open space that provide opportunities for various types of uses and activities.

The Crown or Council are primarily the owners of the City of Ballarat open space network, however the management responsibility of the open space network will primarily rest with various authorities including Parks Victoria, Ballarat City Council, Ballarat Environment Network, other environment and community (tenant) groups or the private sector (e.g. Ballarat Showgrounds).

The hierarchy is divided into:

Hierarchy of Open Space	Number	Example
State	1	Lake Wendouree
Regional	19	Ballarat-Skipton Rail Trail, Victoria Park
District	32	Learmonth Recreation Reserve, Winter Swamp Reserve
Neighbourhood	78	Marks Reserve, Sanctuary Bushland Reserve
Local	84	Grant Street Linear Reserve, Summit Crescent Reserve
Other	46	Ballarat Showgrounds, Phoenix Mall

(Table 3: Examples Hierarchy of Open Space)

The table below identifies the categories of the open space with some examples including the approximate number of open space areas within the municipality.

Category of Open Space	Number	Example
Recreation Parkland	117	Victoria Park, Len T. Frazer Reserve.
Formal Parkland	4	Ballarat Botanical Gardens, Eureka Stockade Reserve.
Conservation Parkland	7	James Reserve , Miners Rest Wetland.
Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)	12	Mt. Buninyong, Canadian Forest.
Linkage (Major)	8	Yarrowee River Reserve, Ballarat Skipton Rail Trail.

Category of Open Space	Number	Example
Linkage (Minor)	10	Franklin Court Strip, The Horizon Linear Reserve.
Sport	26	CE Brown Reserve, City Oval.
Special Use	26	Llanberris Athletics Reserve, Ballarat Showgrounds.
Streetscape/Landscape Amenity	6	Sturt Street Gardens, Lakeview Court Park.
Urban Space	6	Bridge Mall, Civic Hall Surrounds (Skatepark).
Drainage / Water Body	32	Lake Burumbeet, Grant Street Linear Reserve.

(Table 4: Examples Category of Open Space)

Each open space area has been designated with a hierarchy and category label. Generally most open spaces can be classified with a single category that best describes their function and use. Where another function of the open space is identified as significant, a secondary category might also be assigned. For example, a sporting reserve that has a large area of passive open space around it that is used for play, picnics, etc, might be assigned Sport as a primary category and Recreation Parkland as a secondary category. For the purpose of this Strategy where all open space is categorised under these definitions for the first time, only a primary category has been designated.

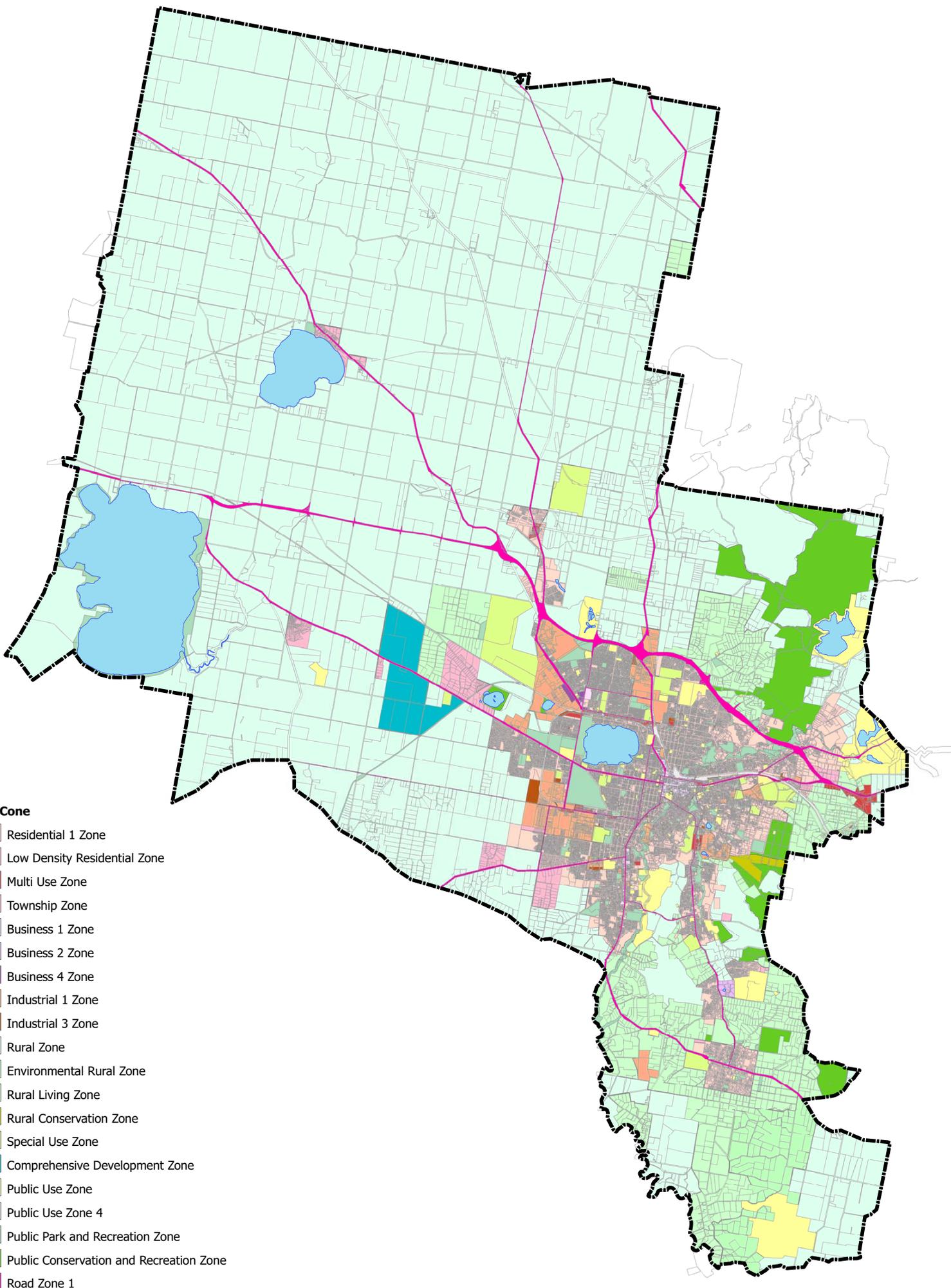
Further details about the hierarchy and function of the City of Ballarat open space network are outlined in *Chapter 7 – Analysis of Open Space*.

Mapping has been used to show all the open space across the City of Ballarat and the following key points are made in relation to the mapping:

- Municipal mapping is generally shown overall by municipal boundaries and then an 'inset' map is included indicating further detail in the urban areas of the City.
- Mapping for analysis of open space has been based on the inclusion of planning layers for residential 1, mixed use and township zones.
- Safe crossing points that allow pedestrian crossing over significant barriers generally will only relate to safe traffic signal intersections.

Please note that not all Crown land has been mapped, therefore this strategy contains only the relevant Crown land parcels to an open space strategy.

The following maps show planning zones for the City of Ballarat (residential 1 and low density residential zones have been used for the purpose of analysis of open space catchments within walking distance) and the open space network across the City of Ballarat according to hierarchy and category.



- Zone Cone**
- Residential 1 Zone
 - Low Density Residential Zone
 - Multi Use Zone
 - Township Zone
 - Business 1 Zone
 - Business 2 Zone
 - Business 4 Zone
 - Industrial 1 Zone
 - Industrial 3 Zone
 - Rural Zone
 - Environmental Rural Zone
 - Rural Living Zone
 - Rural Conservation Zone
 - Special Use Zone
 - Comprehensive Development Zone
 - Public Use Zone
 - Public Use Zone 4
 - Public Park and Recreation Zone
 - Public Conservation and Recreation Zone
 - Road Zone 1

3.City of Ballarat Zoning City Wide

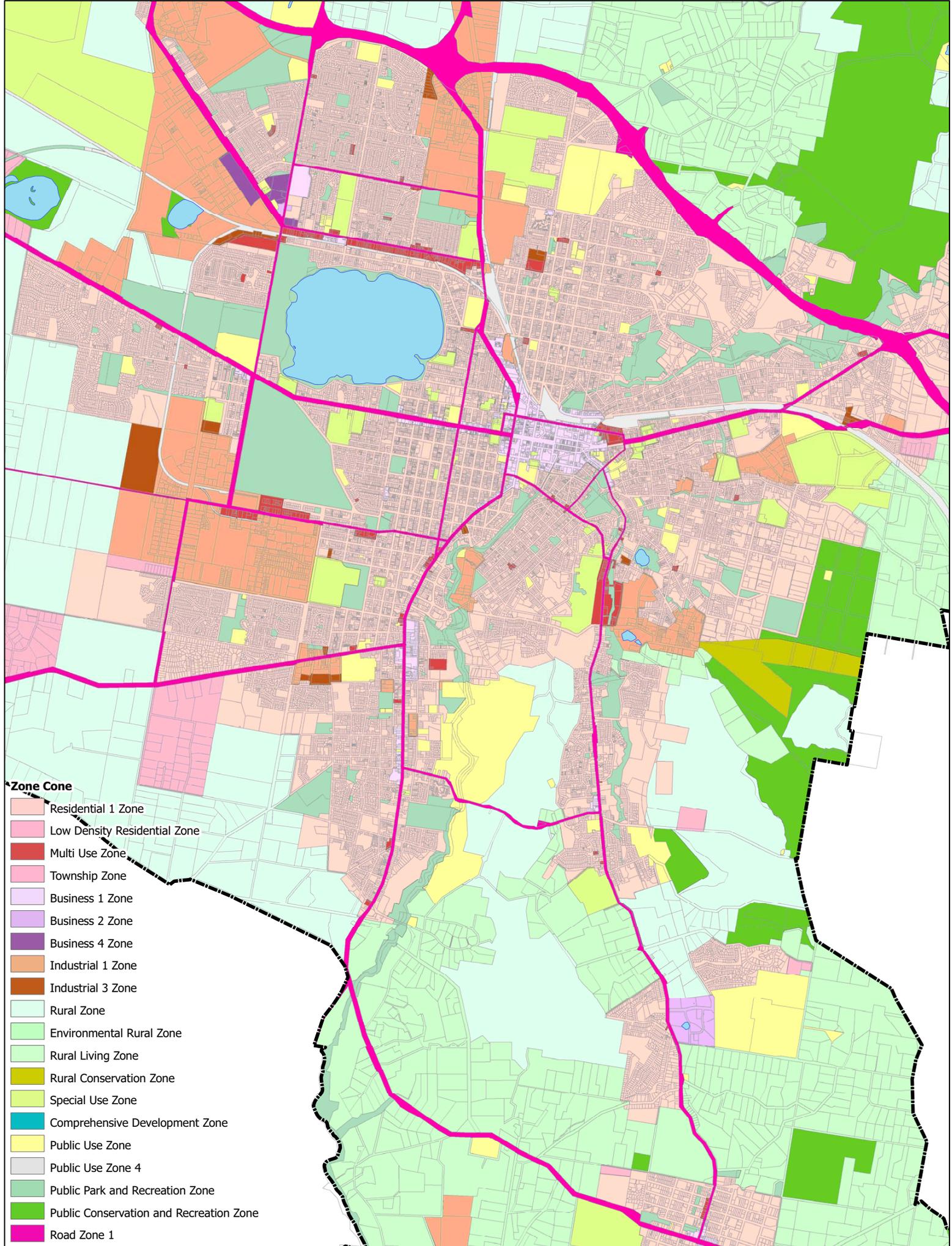
Ballarat Open Space Strategy

Lake / Water Body

1:120,000 at A3

0 1 2 4 Kilometers

N



- Zone Cone**
- Residential 1 Zone
 - Low Density Residential Zone
 - Multi Use Zone
 - Township Zone
 - Business 1 Zone
 - Business 2 Zone
 - Business 4 Zone
 - Industrial 1 Zone
 - Industrial 3 Zone
 - Rural Zone
 - Environmental Rural Zone
 - Rural Living Zone
 - Rural Conservation Zone
 - Special Use Zone
 - Comprehensive Development Zone
 - Public Use Zone
 - Public Use Zone 4
 - Public Park and Recreation Zone
 - Public Conservation and Recreation Zone
 - Road Zone 1

4. City of Ballarat Zoning City Wide - Inset

Ballarat Open Space Strategy

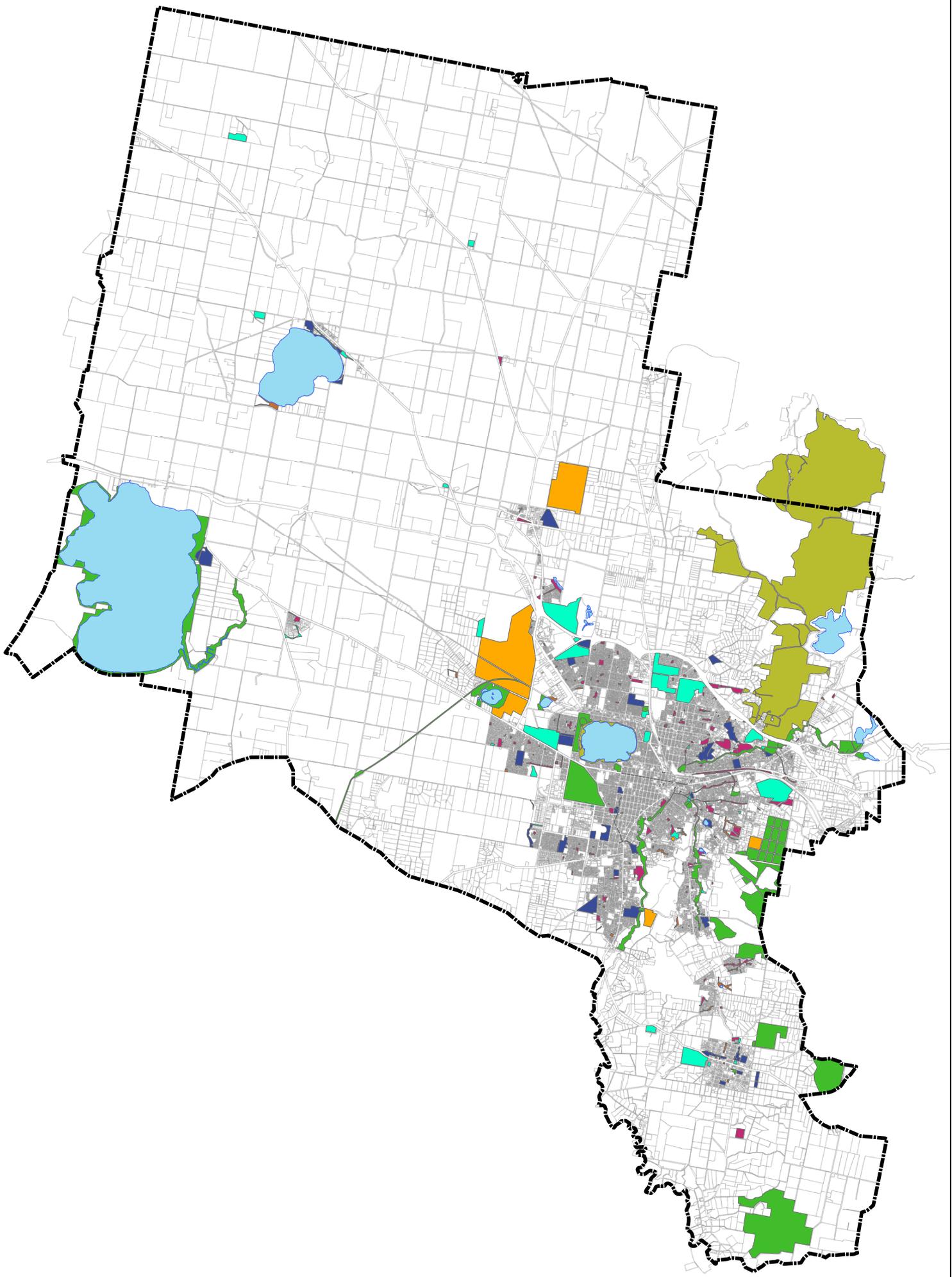
Lake / Water Body



1:40,000 at A3

0 0.250.5 1 Kilometers





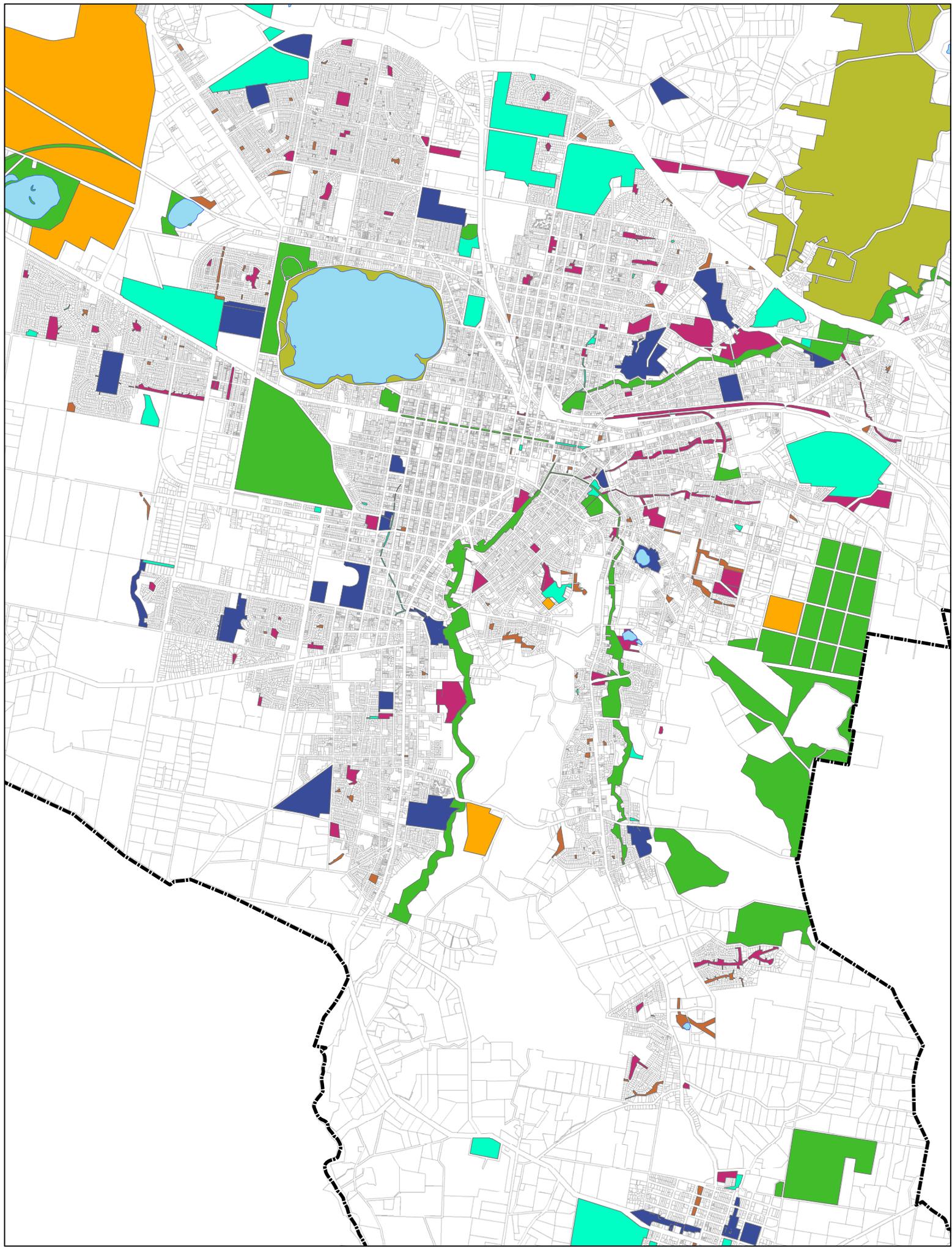
5. Open Space Hierarchy City Wide

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
|  State |  District |  Local |  Special Uses |
|  Regional |  Neighbourhood |  Other |  Lake / Water Body |

1:120,000 at A3

0 0.5 1 2 Kilometers



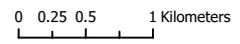


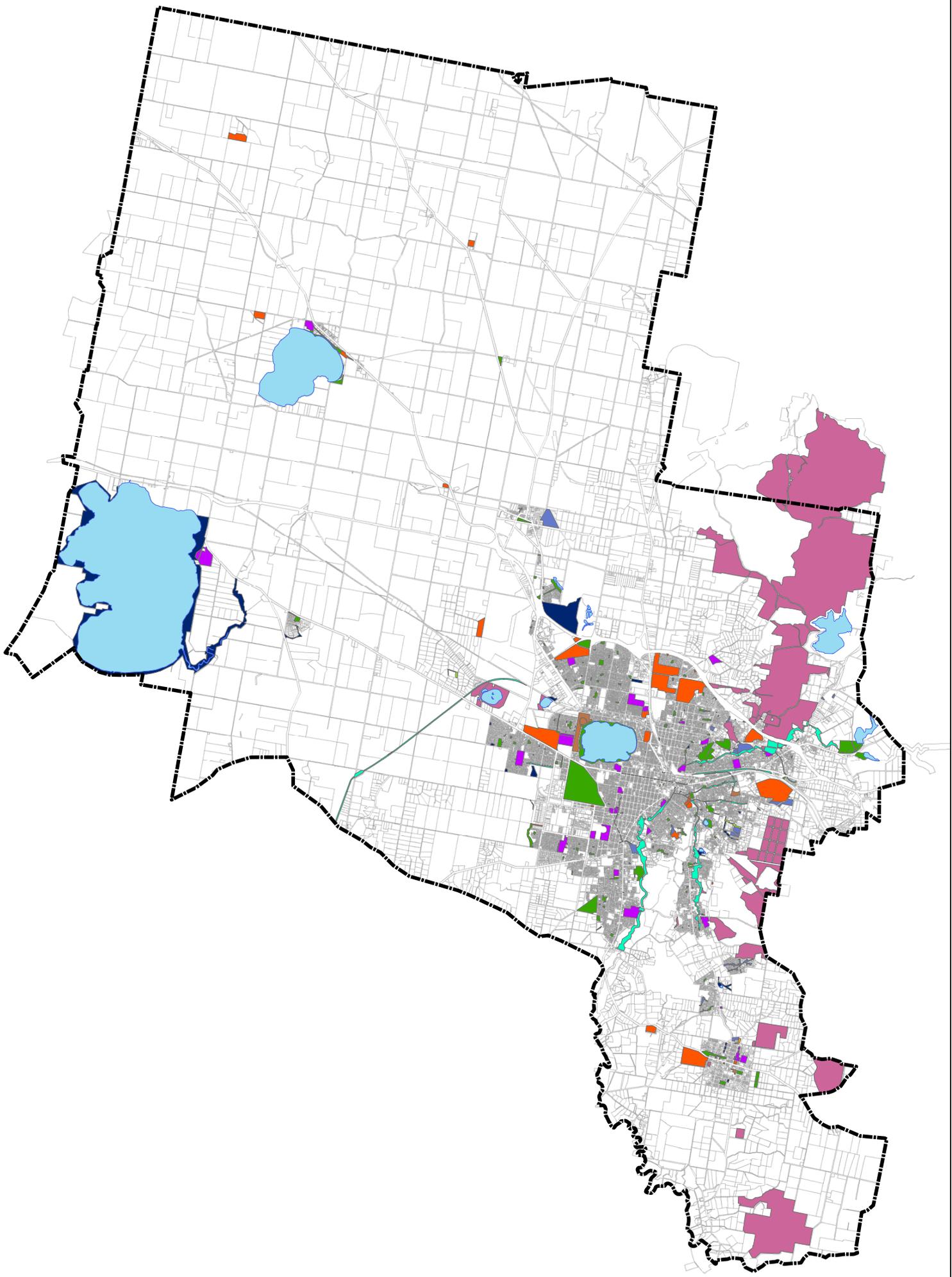
6. Open Space Hierarchy City Wide - Inset

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
|  State |  District |  Local |  Special Uses |
|  Regional |  Neighbourhood |  Other |  Lake / Water Body |



1:40,000 at A3





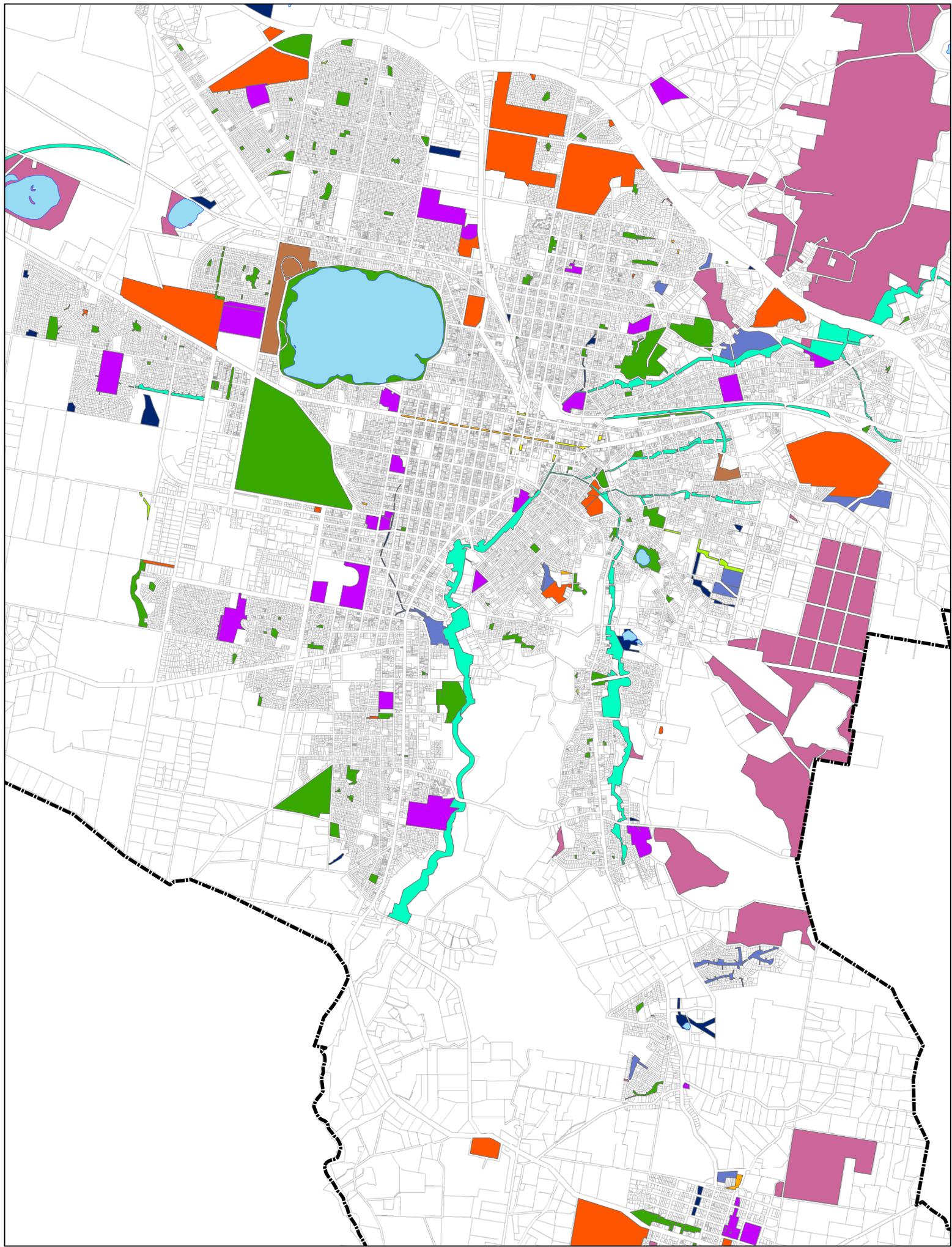
7. Open Space Category City Wide

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Recreation Parkland | Formal Parkland | Special Use/Undetermined | Urban Space |
| Conservation Parkland | Linkage (Major) | Sport | Water Body/Drainage |
| Conservation (Bushland/
Native Grassland/Wetland) | Linkage (Minor) | Streetscape/Landscape Amenity | Lake / Water Body |

1:120,000 at A3

0 0.5 1 2 Kilometers





8. Open Space Category City Wide - Inset

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Recreation Parkland | Formal Parkland | Special Use/Undetermined | Urban Space |
| Conservation Parkland | Linkage (Major) | Sport | Water Body / Drainage |
| Conservation (Bushland/ Native Grassland/Wetland) | Linkage (Minor) | Streetscape/Landscape Amenity | Lake / Water Body |



Ballarat Open Space Strategy

1:40,000 at A3
 0 0.25 0.5 1 Kilometers



6. Key Issues and Community Needs

The City of Ballarat is faced with many issues when it comes to the provision of an open space network that meets the needs of the community. These issues have been shaped by influences outside the control of the organisation such as the environment (for example climate change and the current drought) and the pressures to accommodate population growth which is fuelled by social and market forces. There are other issues that the City of Ballarat has somewhat more control over such as the partnerships with relevant stakeholders and the development controls of open space through Council policy and the Ballarat Planning Scheme.

The following key issues and community needs have been raised as part of the consultation process with the community, relevant stakeholders, authorities and Council Officers. The key issues and community needs focus around four main areas namely Provision, Partnerships, Management and Environment and have been a significant consideration in preparing the strategic directions of the Open Space Strategy.

6.1 Provision

- 6.1.1 The quality, quantity and distribution of open space across the municipality particularly in the residential growth areas such as Ballarat West and to the north west (for example Alfredton, Delacombe and Miners Rest) needs to accommodate the recreational and environmental requirements of the growing community.
- 6.1.2 A diverse range of open space types (for example bushland reserves, local parks, sporting reserves, lakes and waterways, linear parks and streetscapes) is required to accommodate for the diverse recreational and environmental needs of the community.
- 6.1.3 The open space network needs to be accessible to the broad community. An accessible open space network will accommodate for the physical requirements of the community, appropriate infrastructure to support people commuting to and within the reserve and provide good, clear connections to other reserves.
- 6.1.4 The open space network is highly valued by the community with regard to contributing towards recreation opportunities, environmental values, connectedness and a healthy community.
- 6.1.5 The connectivity of the trail and path networks is very important to the Ballarat community (92% of the community surveyed indicated that the pathways were either an 'important' or a 'very important' component of future open space).
- 6.1.6 The path and trail network needs to make strong linkages to various destination points (for example parklands, transport, community services) through continuous paths with safe crossings.
- 6.1.7 Existing and potential partnerships with schools and other agencies can add valuable open space to the network for the benefit of the community when facilities are open and available to local residents.

- 6.1.8 The rationalisation (for example land acquisition, retirement or land swaps) of open space is important to:
- provide a well-balanced and equitable distribution across the municipality;
 - increase public use;
 - develop a well-connected open space network;
 - improve the efficiencies associated with managing the asset, and;
 - justify existing and proposed levels of expenditure.
- 6.1.9 There is a shift from the community in seeking non-structured (informal) open space areas as opposed to the provision of active sporting reserves. (58% of respondents to the household survey indicated that sporting facilities were either 'important' or 'very important' as opposed to 81% that considered open parkland for playing ball games was either important or very important).
- 6.1.10 The provision of open space should cater for diversified recreation opportunities including non-traditional recreation pursuits (e.g. bocce, skateboarding, BMX, rebound walls, fitness equipment, etc.).
- 6.1.11 There are limited off-road linear trails and connections in the north, west or north-west of the municipality.
- 6.1.12 There is inequity in regards to the development standards of open space reserves across the municipality.

6.2 Partnerships

- 6.2.1 The management and maintenance of environmentally significant open space areas is challenging and relies on effective contributions from environmental community organisations for the sustainable management of the City's open space network.
- 6.2.2 Support for community based organisations that assist with the management and maintenance of the open space network can be an issue for land management agencies.
- 6.2.3 Partnerships are important to enhance the City of Ballarat's open space network - the challenge is in defining how agreements might be developed for successful partnerships into the future.
- 6.2.4 The current tenancy agreements with user groups (for example sporting reserves) might lack some clarity about tenants' responsibilities for development and/or maintenance of infrastructure.
- 6.2.5 In some areas, there is poor community access to open space areas when there might be a non-Council open space site nearby that is not publicly accessible. (For example: approximately 43% of schools who participated in the survey indicated they would be willing to consider expanding their current level of community access).
- 6.2.6 Council has some very effective existing relationships with partners in the management and provision of open space – for example: schools adjacent to Doug Dean Reserve and Alfredton Recreation Reserve.

6.3 Management

- 6.3.1 The City of Ballarat's open space network is currently managed and owned by various authorities and stakeholders. For example Crown land will be managed by various groups including Council, Parks Victoria, Ballarat Environment Network (BEN) or other environmental community groups. These management arrangements will raise particular questions and issues such as whether the Management Group is best equipped to manage the land, inconsistent management approaches by different management groups and whether the various management arrangements provide for the best outcomes for the broader community.
- 6.3.2 It is not appropriate for Council to manage some types of open space areas (for example bushland reserves of state significance or scenic reserves).
- 6.3.3 Development standards should relate to the category of a reserve to provide a consistent approach and allow community expectations to be met in relation to reasonable ongoing maintenance standards.
- 6.3.4 Maintenance levels should relate to the category and function of the open space to provide a consistent and sustainable approach to management that can respond well to community needs and expectations.
- 6.3.5 Once the land contribution has been provided by the developer under the Subdivisions Act, Council is often left with the financial burden to develop/maintain the open space to an acceptable community standard. There is an opportunity for a Developer Contributions Plan (DCP) to provide guidelines and requirements for developers that clarify responsibilities.
- 6.3.6 There are limited resources to implement the existing open space Master Plans and no process to prioritise the implementation of master plans/capital works considering the limited resources.
- 6.3.7 The City of Ballarat experiences some challenges with the provision of water bodies and drainage in open space. Given the generally flat topography of the municipality, it is a requirement of many subdivisions to have on site retention of stormwater. Often this is provided in small ad hoc sites that offer little in the way of recreation opportunities or open space values. The general preference would be for improved management and recreation potential through larger retention basins, wetlands, etc. incorporated into larger pieces of integrated open space.

6.4 Environment

- 6.4.1 'Climate change' poses challenges for land managers to seek alternative sustainable solutions for the ongoing irrigation of the open space network.
- 6.4.2 Ballarat's natural landscapes and introduced vegetation are currently threatened by the current drought and climate change and significant analysis will need to be undertaken to determine the most suitable vegetation and methods of planting to survive under changing climatic conditions.
- 6.4.3 The impact of the drought on the water levels at the numerous lakes has had a significant impact on the recreational opportunities and visitation at these sites.

- 6.4.4 The open space network, in particular sporting reserves, require sufficient irrigation to allow for the appropriate maintenance to an acceptable standard for the safe and practical use by the community.
- 6.4.5 There are existing pressures on Council to prioritise how they use the limited water resource to maintain the open space network. This pressure will continue in the immediate to medium term until an alternative sustainable solution is determined.
- 6.4.6 The open space network, in particular roadside vegetation, state forests, native grasslands, wetlands, creeks, linear open space parks and bushland reserves, has high environmental and habitat values. Vegetation (97%) and the natural environment (98%) were rated as either 'important' or 'very important' park components rated by respondents to the household survey.
- 6.4.7 The retention and conservation management of remnant bushland in line with the State Government's Native Vegetation Framework is critical within the open space network particularly in new residential subdivisions.
- 6.4.8 Need to protect, preserve and develop the natural environment including remnant vegetation, water quality and habitat areas.



Dyson Drive Reserve in Alfredton – landscaped with local native vegetation with open spaces for passive play but primary function is a stormwater retention basin.

7. Analysis of Open Space

Open space in Ballarat is defined in two ways, firstly as part of an overall **hierarchy** of open space and secondly it is **categorised** according to its function and use.

7.1 Hierarchy of Open Space

The following hierarchy of open space represents the range of parks within the City of Ballarat. The definitions should be used in conjunction with the Open Space Development Standards (see chapter 9.5). It should be noted that the category of an area of open space results from the influences of both the character and activity undertaken.

While many parks will be larger than the recommended size, their hierarchical classification is based on the standard of facilities present, level of development and ability to attract users, rather than sheer size alone.

All levels of the hierarchy of open space are considered part of the open space system and will generally play a role in providing community open space for surrounding local areas in addition to any specific purpose for which the open space was developed.

Hierarchy	Size and Description	Comments	Included as Developer Contribution
<p>Local *</p> <p>500m from each resident</p>	<p>Parks typically between 0.1 ha (1,000m²) and 0.2 ha (2,000m²) in size. Minimum width in any direction should be not less than 30 m. <i>(Any park under this size is considered Streetscape / Amenity)</i></p> <p>A local park caters mainly for frequent, short duration visits by residents from the immediate surrounding area. The park provides a number of informal recreation opportunities catering for a range of age groups (e.g., kick about space, quiet relaxation, small playground).</p>	<p>The size of this type of open space limits the variety of potential uses. It is recommended that Neighbourhood Parks be the future minimum standard size in newly developed areas.</p> <p>It may also be acceptable to achieve local park provision as urban spaces in built-up areas (for example Ballarat Central) where large residential areas do not have access to Recreation Parkland within the recommended 500 metres.</p>	Yes

Hierarchy	Size and Description	Comments	Included as Developer Contribution
<p>Neighbourhood **</p> <p>500m from each resident</p>	<p>Parks typically between 0.5 ha (5,000m²) and 1 ha (10,000m²) in size. Minimum width in any direction is to be not less than 50m. A neighbourhood park would have play facilities. The park should reflect the character of the neighbourhood and protect any local, natural or cultural values including planting to provide landscape amenity. The park's value is often enhanced when linked via movement corridors to the wider open space system. Often integral to the design of a residential neighbourhood where the park provides a site for safe play by children under surveillance by adults.</p> <p>A neighbourhood park will cater mainly for frequent, short duration visits by residents from the surrounding neighbourhood.</p>	<p>The character and development standard of these parks has a significant influence on how usable and attractive they are.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Parks to be the future minimum standard in newly developed areas.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>District</p> <p>2km (indicative service catchment with ability to attract users predominantly based on existing natural, cultural or environmental values).</p>	<p>Extensive recreation park serving a minimum catchment area of 15,000 to 25,000 people. The size of a district park will be site specific, related to existing natural, cultural or environmental values and generally be from 4 ha to greater than 10 ha in size.</p> <p>A district park will protect the natural or cultural values and provides a wide range of recreation/sporting opportunities, which cater for diverse sections of the community (e.g. appreciation of the natural environment, large playgrounds, barbecue areas).</p>	<p>District Parks, particularly Sporting Fields, also provide for recreational users at the neighbourhood level.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Hierarchy	Size and Description	Comments	Included as Developer Contribution
Regional Municipal catchment or greater.	Significant areas that have a primary focus of recreation, sporting, cultural heritage, conservation values or landscape settings and attract visitation from across or beyond the municipal area. The size of a regional park will be site specific, related to existing facility or environmental values and proposed uses.	Although Regional Parks attract users from outside of the municipality, they also provide for users at the neighbourhood level. Council can be Committee of Management of Crown land.	Yes, however unlikely. Mainly provided by Local or State Government.
State Intra and Inter State.	Highly significant areas that have a primary focus of recreation/sporting, cultural heritage conservation values or landscape settings and attract visitation from within and outside of the state.	Although State Parks attract users from intra and inter state, they also provide for users within the municipality.	No.

(Table 5: Hierarchy of Open Space)

* This type of park is not deemed suitable in future development areas due to its size and associated limitations on recreational opportunity or the flexibility of future development.

** The benchmark of 500m is recognised as a maximum reasonable distance to walk without being confronted by major barriers that might include arterial roads, freeways, roundabouts, railway lines or waterways.



Inkerman Gully Reserve

7.2 Categories of Open Space

The categories of open space are defined according to their 'Function Type' and represent the range of parks within the City of Ballarat. The definitions should be used in conjunction with the Open Space Development Standards (see chapter 9.5). It should be noted that the category of open space results from the influences of both the character and activity undertaken. The 'Categories of Open Space' are defined as generally useable for a range of recreation activities and are counted as part of the open space network as 'Recreation Open Space':

<p>Recreation Parkland</p>	<p>Open space that provides for a range of informal recreation experiences / uses (i.e. playgrounds, open space areas for informal play, walking, picnic and barbeque facilities, relaxation). It also includes areas surrounding sporting facilities with the above attributes.</p> <p>Recreation Parkland can be included as part of the developer contribution.</p>
<p>Formal Parkland</p>	<p>Parks managed to conserve the value of significant plantings (often exotic), structures (often historic) and landscape features. Often of a high standard usually with mown and irrigated lawns or grass, paving, sculpture, shrub or flower beds. Often subject to intensive use and may host special events. An ornamental open space area will primarily be managed to protect the normally fragile plantings and, as a result, ball play will not normally be an encouraged activity. Parks that provide a setting for components of the environment that have aesthetic, historic, scientific, cultural or social significance for the present community and for future generations.</p> <p>Formal Parkland can be included as part of the developer contribution. It is generally limited in its distribution and is not considered appropriate for future open space development at the Local, Neighbourhood or District Level.</p>
<p>Conservation Parkland</p>	<p>Areas of open space comprised of previously disturbed land which has been developed to provide a natural and/or cultural bush land type setting with some vegetation, habitat values for wildlife and to help maintain biological diversity. They may have archeological or building remnants that justify conservation and protection and can cater for a range of recreational activities, which may include pathways, interpretive signage, picnic and BBQ areas. Toilet facilities and off-street parking may be provided in larger parks. Conservation Parkland is often located as a buffer zone between areas of Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland).</p> <p>Conservation Parkland can be included as part of the developer contribution.</p>
<p>Linkage (Major)</p>	<p>Long, relatively narrow, interconnected open space areas which can serve a variety of purposes including drainage / flood ways, visual buffers, and movement corridors (for pedestrians, cyclists etc where appropriate). These are predominantly for human use but also serve as wildlife corridors. Generally, the most significant corridors will be located along waterways or abandoned railway lines. Generally not narrower than 15m from top of bank, except for short distances of approximately 30 metres. May include tree reserves wider than 15 m where access is not impeded by road crossings or rail reserves. Major linkages will be over 15 metres in width. Open space areas that provide major linkages are included in the open space network but must be planned, developed and managed for flood risk.</p> <p>Major linkage open space can be included as part of the developer contribution but only that part that is not subject to an Australian Rainfall Inundation '1 in 10' event.</p>

Sport	<p>Open space primarily developed and managed for the playing of competitive and active recreation, mainly defined as organised sports, in an outdoor setting. Sport reserves may also contribute to passive recreation and should be accessible for the community for recreation opportunities when not being used for organised sports. These sport open space areas do not include formal indoor sports facilities.</p> <p>Sport Reserves can be included as part of the developer contribution.</p>
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(Table 6: Category of Recreation Open Space)

The following categories of open space are highly valuable in the overall open space system and have been shown on the mapping of municipal and precinct open space. These types of open space are generally not useable for recreation activities (as compared to ‘recreation open space’) by the community as parks or neighbourhood open space for casual use and as such have not been included in the total amount of open space for the purpose of analysis of provision. The values of these types of open space include visual amenity, refuge, rest and escape in the urban realm, preservation of environmental (including habitat) values and special uses that specific groups in the community might be involved in and hence have been shown on the mapping as ‘Additional Open Space’.

Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)	<p>Areas of remnant vegetation that are conserved and protected based on their significant biological values or are required as offsets under the Native Vegetation Framework. Toilet facilities and off street parking may be provided in larger parks. The majority of recreation activities, apart from walking / mountain bike tracks / horse trails are confined to suitable fringe areas. Likely activities include picnic areas, wood fired BBQs, interpretation, and low-key nature based facilities such as bird hides.</p> <p>Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland) should not be included as part of Developer Contribution as it is protected in its own right.</p>
Streetscape / Landscape Amenity	<p>Small spaces with a primary function of visual amenity. Can comprise landscaped footpaths / road verges, central median strips, tree reserves and entrance statements containing planted trees, shrubs and grasses. Streetscapes and landscapes are incidental and mainly visual, for safety or screening. Streetscapes will play a significant role in providing connections between open space areas and residential areas. The diversity and quality of the tree and shrub plantings and provision of facilities can enhance the overall user amenity of an area.</p> <p>Streetscapes should not be included as part of the developer contribution.</p>
Urban Space	<p>A generally extensive, hard surfaced space of limited size providing for events, circulation, milling around and sitting; often located around or adjacent to a building/s. Urban space is not considered as part of the open space network, however will possibly meet some open space needs of the community. Can provide valuable open space for workers and visitors rather than meeting recreational needs of residents.</p> <p>Urban space could possibly be included as part of the developers’ contribution.</p>
Linkage (Minor)	<p>Smaller in length and width, relatively narrow, interconnected open space areas which can primarily serve as movement corridors (for pedestrians, cyclists, etc.) where appropriate to link to larger linkages or public reserves. Generally, minor linkages will be located along waterways. These linkages are often the small tributaries that feed off from the large river systems such as the Yarrowee River or are linkages to existing public reserves. Minor linkages will preferably be between 5 – 15 metres of</p>

	<p>accessible and traversable land.</p> <p>Minor Linkage can be included as part of the developer contribution, but only that part of the area that is not subject to an Australian Rainfall Inundation 1 in 10 event can be included within the Developer Contribution and provides significant connection or linkage as part of the overall open space network.</p>
Special Use	<p>Public land specifically set aside for a specific purpose. Special use open space might include sites leased to sporting clubs for exclusive use. (Other examples include racetrack, airport common land, cemeteries, golf courses, lawn bowls).</p> <p>Special Use open space should not be included as part of the Developer Contribution.</p>
Drainage and Water Bodies	<p>Refers to wetlands and retarding basins/floodways which will be encumbered land. Melbourne Water definitions and standards can be used to define this type of open space. Also the water components of creeks, lakes and waterways. Can be natural depressions, along waterways or constructed for a drainage purpose. These areas will require protection for the water function ahead of any recreational use.</p> <p>Drainage open space should not be included as part of the Developer Contribution.</p>

(Table 7: Category of Additional Open Space)

7.3 Open Space Criteria

A number of criteria have been used to assess the provision and quality of open space across Ballarat. The five criteria listed below have been used together to provide a quantitative and qualitative analysis of open space.

Population

Open space areas must be able to:

- Provide for the needs of the existing population.
- Accommodate growth of residential corridors or townships.
- Cater for the range of age groups within each precinct.
- Be accessible for all sections of the community.

Quantity

- The amount of open space that is provided across the City of Ballarat and within each of the precinct areas.
- The benchmark that is being used for Ballarat is four hectares per 1000 people (urban areas) and two hectares per 1000 people (rural areas). This includes all 'useable' open space such as neighbourhood parks, linkages/trails, sporting reserves and larger parks. This will provide the City of Ballarat with a useful tool to analyse the quantity of open space as a guide to overall provision, but leaves the assessment open to the other criteria of distribution, size, quality, opportunities and activities that will provide a more comprehensive analysis.

Size

- The area and dimensions of open spaces that will depend on the open space type (hierarchy and category, eg. neighbourhood vs district, parkland vs linkage). Minimum areas and widths as well as typical sizes are defined in the open space development standards to ensure that open space can meet the range of community needs (for example, the recommended minimum size of a neighbourhood park is 0.5ha).

Quality

- This analysis also includes consideration of the quality of presentation of open space, including the infrastructure that has been provided within each park.

Community Recreation Needs

- Provides for a range of opportunities and activities within the open space.
- Responsiveness of open space to cater for current and future community needs of all sections of the community (eg. Women, Children, Cultural and Linguistically Diverse, Elderly, People of all Abilities).

Amenity and Values

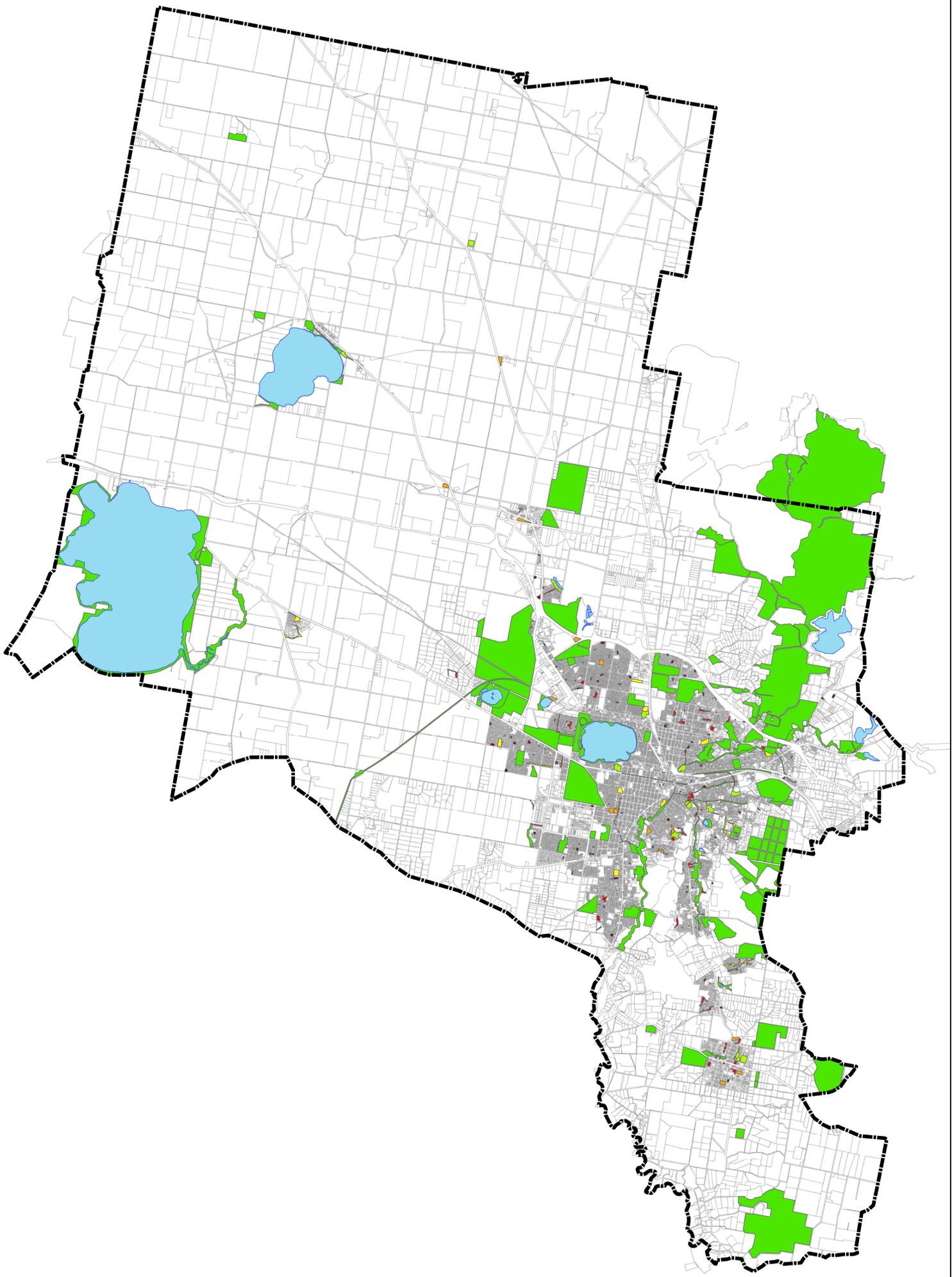
- Open space to be well presented and accessible to the broad community.
- Well connected to other open space areas or to destination points, activity nodes and places of interest such as shops, transport, services etc.
- Contributes to the overall health of the community.

Distribution

- Open space being provided within 500m of every residence in the municipality, giving consideration to barriers that prevent access to open space.
- This benchmark distance of 500m is widely accepted as a 'walkable' distance for most residents from their home to a local park. This is reinforced in a number of studies of best practice that analyse walking distance and access to local destinations within communities.
- Further, it is noted that the United Nations set an Environmental Accord in relation to Green Cities that included for Urban Nature: "Ensure that there is an accessible public park or recreational open space within 500m of every city resident by 2015"
- Residents in rural areas will generally have larger residential blocks which will place fewer requirements for open space to be widely dispersed across the rural areas. It is more acceptable for rural residents to address their open space requirements similar to other services (for example shops) and travel a short distance to the township where open space is sufficiently provided for.

Environmental Considerations

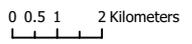
- A balance of ecological spaces (for example, bushland, waterways and vegetation) that provides for biodiversity in particular of the local/regional vegetation and habitat for wildlife.
- Open space areas with high ecological value contribute towards the overall health of the community.
- Consider the environmental threats such as the current climatic conditions. The location of open space areas in close proximity to sustainable water resources or sharing of existing facilities (for example, sharing sporting reserves with schools) can contribute greatly to minimising water consumption. A priority of reduced resource consumption in the design, development and maintenance of open space is also an important consideration.

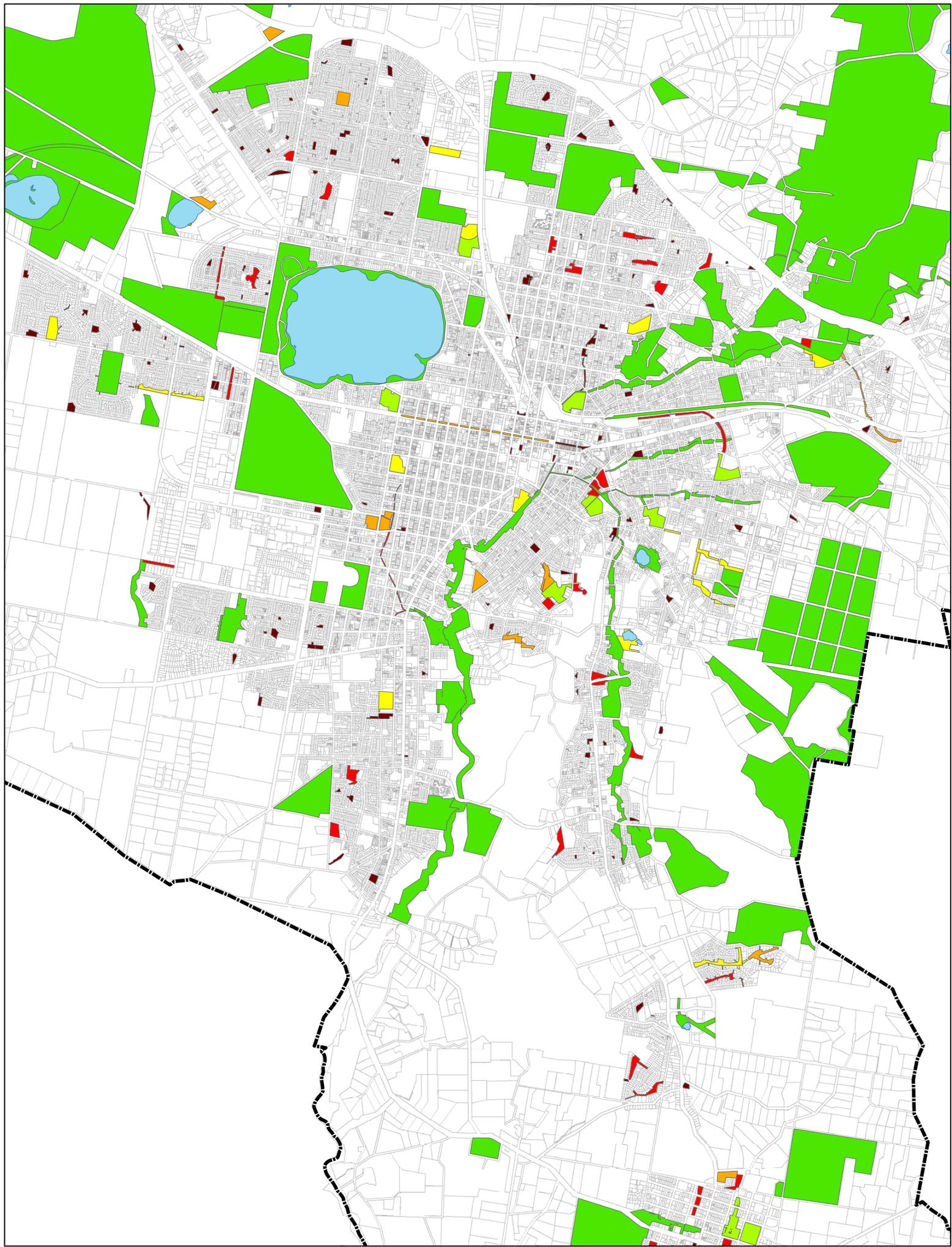


9. Open Space Area City Wide

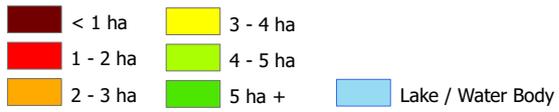
- < 1 ha
- 1 - 2 ha
- 2 - 3 ha
- 3 - 4 ha
- 4 - 5 ha
- 5 ha +
- Lake / Water Body

1:120,000 at A3





10. Open Space Area City Wide - Inset



8. Vision and Principles

The City of Ballarat's open space network is a highly valued asset which reflects the City's rich history, provides recreation opportunities and creates the contemporary challenges for the future.

The vision and principles for the Ballarat Open Space Strategy strongly reflects the community's plan for the city; Blueprint Ballarat and the Council Plan.

8.1 Vision

The City of Ballarat's open space will:

Provide a sustainable network of accessible open space which supports the recreational, environmental, social and health needs of the community and connects Ballarat to its past, present and future.

8.2 Principles

There are a range of principles developed from the community feedback and review of relevant literature and documents that guide the action plan and recommendations in the Ballarat Open Space Strategy. The principles are as follows:

12. The management and development of open space will acknowledge the **high value** of the asset to the community.
13. Open space will continue to meet the **needs** of the established communities within Ballarat and will face the challenges to meet the needs of the **thriving communities** within the City of Ballarat through appropriate distribution.
14. Ballarat's open space network plays an important role in contributing towards the **health and wellbeing** of the individuals that make up the Ballarat community.
15. The **sustainable provision, development and management** of open space must consider the social, environmental and economic factors.
16. The open space network will contribute towards developing, enhancing and supporting **communities** that are **connected** physically, socially and emotionally.
17. The provision of open space will be **inclusive and accessible** for the whole community.
18. **Partnerships** with relevant authorities and the community are crucial for the provision of the open space network.
19. The provision of open space will need to be **integrated** across the different land owners and managers.
20. The provision of open space will be responsive to the **needs and trends** of the Ballarat community through industry best practice.
21. The open space network is an essential asset that contributes towards **tourism** and the **economy** of Ballarat.
22. A **well-balanced** open space network across the municipality might require the 'acquisition' and/or 'retirement' of parcels of open space.

9. Strategic Directions

The following strategic directions provide guidance for Council in the future development and provision of the open space network. The key directions at the end of each section represent Council's policy position and help guide decision making, including funding allocations and actions.

The principles listed in section 8.2 of this report are addressed through these Strategic Directions. The tables at the beginning of each of the following sections provide a reference to the specific principles that are considered within the sections.

The City of Ballarat is reported as having a significant amount of open space throughout the municipality. However, when assessed against the range of criteria that examines quantity as one measure only, there are some identified gaps and deficiencies in the system. It is also acknowledged that a considerable amount of the open space, connections and waterways throughout Ballarat have significant environmental and habitat values. While recreation use and value might be minimal, there is a commitment to the preservation and further enhancement of these sites (for example, Mt Buninyong, Yarrowee River Corridor, Canadian Forest, etc).

9.1 Planning of Open Space

Principles	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓

The provision of a good quality and diverse open space network requires sound planning and effective decision making. Local government generally improves open space through the acquisition of land, improvements to specific sites and management practices that maximise social and environmental benefits.

Council often add to the open space system in a number of ways including contributions of land or cash as new developments occur, purchase of open space, change of land use of public land to open space, land being vested in councils and so on. Improvements to open space often begin with sound master planning and the prioritisation of works in accordance with open space development standards.

Effective open space planning for the City of Ballarat into the future involves the following considerations:

- Planning for any acquisition of open space in response to the assessment of open space provision;
- Planning for development and enhancement to open space;
- Establishing management practices that preserve open space values, maximise community use where appropriate and enhance the open space system; and
- Determine effective maintenance practices and priorities to ensure long term sustainability of the open space system.

9.1.1: Open Space Contributions

The City of Ballarat requires public open space contributions from developers based on the Subdivision Act 1988. Council can request provision of up to 5% of the land in a plan intended for residential, commercial or industrial purposes or alternately, monies up to the equivalent of 5% of the unimproved land value can be requested.

Under Section 18 of the Act, the following must be considered:

- the existing or proposed use or development of the land;
- any likelihood that the open space will be used in a more intensive manner after the subdivision;
- any existing or likely population density in the area of the subdivision and the effect of the subdivision on this;
- whether there are existing areas of public resort in the neighborhood of the subdivision and the adequacy of these;
- how much of the land in the subdivision is likely to be used for public resort and recreation for lot owners; and
- any policies of the Council concerning the provision of places of public resort and recreation.

Following consideration of the above, appropriate contributions are then determined.

Council can accept land when appropriately sized and located parcels are provided. Otherwise monies to the equivalent percentage of the site unimproved value may be requested.

The recommended open space contribution percentage of 5% determined by the Subdivision Act was determined at a time when typical residential lots in developing areas were approximately 1,000 m². At present, typical developer open space contributions in outer growth areas, such as City of Casey, where typical lot sizes are now 600 m² or less, are in the order of 10 – 12%. This is the result of increasing demand for open space by residents, the recognition of the importance of open space and recreation in community health and wellbeing, as well as an increase in residential densities.

The challenge in urban areas is to achieve an appropriate level of developer open space contribution that responds to multi-unit, medium and high density developments, where a simple formula based on unimproved site area, without regard for the number of potential residents, is traditionally applied.

It is recommended that Council review the current open space contributions scheme and move toward a model that is based on a higher percentage of improved site value (10% is recommended for precincts experiencing growth and 5% for rural precincts).

Cash in lieu of land will be at the Council's discretion and may be used for open space acquisition or enhancement anywhere within the municipal area. Given the spatial requirements of effective, usable open space, in the case of most development proposals Council will seek a monetary contribution from a developer to allow a future purchase of an area of open space that is of a size that fulfils the functional requirements and development standards of open space. In instances where open space does not need to be acquired due to existing distribution levels and provision standards meeting the Open Space Strategy

criteria, Council will use the contribution funds to develop and improve existing parks and linkages consistent with the development standards.

In addition to the quantity and value of open space contribution, the type of land and its characteristics are also critically important. Council is often presented with drainage reserves and retention basins as open space solutions and these sites can often have very little potential for development of recreation parkland. This strategy has defined open space that has its primary category as drainage or water body as not counted as open space. This will have implications for the type of encumbered and unencumbered land that developers might offer Council into the future.

To ensure that adequate levels of provision for future demand are achieved, particularly with increasing residential densities due to infill development in existing areas as well as reducing lot sizes in new growth areas, developers are required to contribute to open space acquisition and / or development. This strategy recommends developers contributing to open space development in a number of ways: -

1. Increase the developers' open space contribution to 10% in identified precincts where the recommended open space provision level is 4ha / 1,000 head of resident population based on growth areas, increasing residential density due to infill and decreasing allotment sizes.
2. Request a developer open space contribution of 5% in identified precincts where the recommended open space provision level is 2-4ha / 1,000 head of resident population based on rural and township communities where allotment sizes are larger, projected population growth is minimal and open space acquisition and/or improvements are focussed on linkages and district level sporting and parkland facilities within township centres
3. Through the provision of land and the full development of Neighbourhood Parks to meet the Development Standards outlined in Section 9.5.

The following table summarises the suggested application of provision and open space contributions for the precincts that should be applied through provisions in Council's planning scheme:

Precinct #	Precinct Name	Target ha/1000	% contribution for precinct
1	Alfredton / Delacombe	4ha/1000	10%
2	Ballarat Central	4ha/1000	10%
3	Buninyong Rural South	2-4ha/1000	5%
4	Ballarat South	4ha/1000	10%
5	Golden Point / Mount Helen	4ha/1000	10%
6	Inner North East	4ha/1000	10%
7	Miners Rest / Mitchell Park	4ha/1000	10%
8	Rural East	2-4ha/1000	5%
9	Rural West	2-4ha/1000	5%
10	Wendouree	4ha/1000	10%

It is also noted that where growth areas and residential development extends into a rural area (e.g Alfredton Delacombe development will extend into Rural West as outlined in the Ballarat West Structure Plan), Council should apply the 10% contribution for open space.

9.1.2: Provision and Diversity of Open Space

Section 7.2 defines the various categories of open space that come together to form the overall network. Ranging from sporting reserves to forest areas and linear reserves to waterways, the diversity of the open space system and natural features within Ballarat create unique communities and an interesting landscape that hosts wildlife corridors and promotes biodiversity.

A priority for the improvement of the open space system is the development of and improvement to linkages and linear open space. The features of river, creek and rail corridors have facilitated a good network of linkages to date and this is an area that Council will continue to improve as opportunities arise. For recreation activities, linear pathways for walking and cycling are in significant demand and should be provided throughout the municipality. For environmental benefits, wildlife corridors, revegetation of identified areas and establishment of native vegetation are important to maintain the significant conservation values that have been preserved in Ballarat for many decades.

An example of an initiative taken to preserve environmental values is the Koala Management Plan, where preferred vegetation species have been recommended and incorporated in the Ballarat Planning Scheme, Wildfire Plan and the Canadian Valley Outline Development Plan.

Significant growth is planned for the City of Ballarat particularly in the areas of Ballarat West and to a lesser degree to the north and south (as indicated by Blueprint Ballarat 2004). With the significant growth in these residential corridors and other remote townships (for example, Miners Rest) it is important that communities are linked to each other and essential services. The open space network is critical for these connections including the pedestrian and bicycle paths and trails.

The long-term sustainability of an effective open space network will require consideration of some rationalisation of open space. The assessment of provision of open space has and will in the future identify areas that are deficient according to one or more of the assessment criteria. As a result of this analysis, Council will be able to consider options for improvement to the provision of the whole open space network. Generally if retirement of any open space is recommended there will be benefits to be gained elsewhere in the local area and broader open space network.

As new open space is planned and developed in sub-divisions and existing areas, the following factors should be considered:

- Maximising the road frontage for parks to increase accessibility and visibility;
- Seeking opportunities for links and connections to and from the open space; and
- Exploring opportunities to co-locate open space with other community infrastructure.

9.1.3: Linkages

One of the key features of an effective open space system is a networks of trails and linkages that maximise access, opportunity and environmental corridors.

The following is a summary of the values of linear reserves as listed in the LINCS Strategy (prepared for the City of Ballarat in 1996):

- ✓ Providing a living historical record of Ballarat pre European settlement
- ✓ Retaining the natural character and aesthetics of the region
- ✓ Offering a source of seed for the restoration of the original vegetation using locally adapted species
- ✓ Providing windbreaks that are offered by trees
- ✓ Gaining biodiversity benefits through the provision of habitat corridors for fauna
- ✓ Allowing for the movement of wildlife between large bushland areas
- ✓ Controlling erosion, salinity, soil loss and other land degradation problems when linear reserves are intact
- ✓ Providing diverse recreation opportunities
- ✓ Visual amenity and relief in a largely modified landscape

An important outcome of this Strategy will be improvements to connections and linkages throughout the open space system including:

- Pathways, habitat and landscape corridors along major waterways
- Development of shared pathways along disused railway corridors
- Pathways and linkages that use road reserves (on-road / off-road)
- Connections with open space linkages on a broader, more regional scale, e.g Great Dividing Trail
- Connections via significant linkages to neighbouring municipalities

A priority for Council and the community is to promote greater participation in walking and cycling for a range of recreation and lifestyle benefits and also as a way to encourage alternate transport options. A comprehensive and connected pathway system is essential to realise these objectives.

9.1.4: Tourism and Economy

The City of Ballarat with its rich history, significant natural assets and easy access will continue to be a tourist attraction. The City is attractive for large-scale major events which will also strengthen the local economy.

The open space network is an important natural asset that supports tourism and the local economy. Tourists will visit the city's open space network for educational, historical, professional, specific purposes (for example a major event) or leisure purposes (day visits or sporting activities). Various sites including Lake Wendouree and Victoria Park have hosted major events which attract people from outside the municipality. The role that key areas of open space provide for tourism and the economy is critical and should not be underestimated.

Local events for residents and communities within the City of Ballarat will also be supported through provision of appropriate infrastructure in suitable parks.

Key Directions:

- 9(i) The Ballarat Open Space Strategy will inform the future review of the Municipal Strategic Statement and the Ballarat Planning Scheme.**
- 9(ii) Council will follow a transparent assessment process for the acquisition and/or retirement of land which must demonstrate an enhancement to the overall open space network for the benefit of the broader community.**
- 9(iii) Open space that is encumbered will only be accepted as the Developers contribution under the Subdivision Act if it provides a significant environmental, recreational or social benefit to the broader community.**
- 9(iv) Priority should be given to achieving the minimum provision of recreation open space (and the categories that comprise recreation open space) before accepting open space for any other categories of open space.**
- 9(v) Council will work in partnership with DSE to resolve the management options and preferred model for native vegetation off-set areas that are required to be designated under state legislation.**
- 9(vi) Open space will be enhanced to provide a diverse range of open spaces and in particular emphasis will be placed on the development of linear reserves, habitat corridors and linkages between key open spaces and community destinations.**
- 9(vii) Council will review and develop a set of open space policies to guide future open space decision making.**
- 9(viii) The provision of open space will play a significant role in tourism and the economy of Ballarat.**

9.2 Design and Development of Open Space

Principles	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	✓		✓		✓	✓			✓		

Once open space is acquired or has been identified for improvements, a process to determine the most appropriate level of development of that open space, based on its categories and values is an important step.

Development standards have been prepared to guide provision levels of open space and are included in this report in section 9.5. Long-term sustainability of the open space network has been a priority for the development of standards with issues like irrigation and tree species selection being noted for careful consideration.

9.2.1: Master Planning Process for Open Space

Master Plans have been developed for some of the significant open space sites. It is important that all Master Plans develop achievable actions and priorities in accordance with development standards for open space hierarchy and function. While planning is important for all open space, regional parks and sporting precincts require a higher level of analysis and more sophisticated planning than neighbourhood parks.

Council has successfully implemented a number of Master Plan initiatives over recent years. As community expectations change and the demands upon open space provides new challenges, Council will review relevant Master Plans and improve the open space system accordingly.

It is suggested that for state level, regional and district parks, Master Plans be prepared to determine the type of development and improvements for these open space sites.

For neighbourhood and local open space a more simple structure is suggested, involving the development of a "Park Plan" - a brief plan for the site that identifies improvements in accordance with development standards that can be easily implemented without the need for detailed master planning. These Park Plans would involve some community consultation depending on the type of open space, where as Master Plans will involve more extensive consultation.

9.2.2: Recreation and Sporting Activities on Open Space

The Open Space Strategy generally works to provide spaces across a complete system that includes a diverse range of open space categories. While activities that happen within these spaces are relevant to the extent that they guide planning requirements for open space, this strategy does not provide detailed guidance about activities and uses of open space.

It is however important to recognise that with the declining rainfall and increasing incidence of drought conditions, the development of open space to accommodate activities such as organised sport becomes more challenging. For the City of Ballarat in particular, shortage of water for irrigation of sports fields has led to a review of how these facilities are provided. It is important to acknowledge that the current provision of district level sports fields that are regularly irrigated in every locality throughout the municipality is unsustainable in the long term.

Council has commenced a review of sports facilities to examine the merits of developing higher level precincts that make use of recycled water through water treatment plants and some application of synthetic all-weather surfaces to provide centralised venues for organised sports. If this new model succeeds and is rolled out for up to four locations, it will mean that individual sports fields across the City of Ballarat may no longer be irrigated. Reliance on natural rainfall and/or access to recycled local water will be required to maintain sports fields. This direction is expected to have an initial impact on clubs and associations because of the nature of their organisations and there may be need for change. The benefits for the long-term sustainability and the viability of sports fields and facilities however will be worth any short-term disruption.

9.2.3: Environmental Values and Response to Climate Change

Council acknowledges the important role that the natural environment plays in the overall open space network. Whether for protection of wildlife habitat or biodiversity values or for preservation of sites of significant vegetation, there is general agreement of the importance of responsible management of existing and expansion of environmental areas. Council currently implements a position of increasing the range of sites for native vegetation, bushland corridors and connection of conservation areas.

Climate change has created some challenges for land managers for the sustainable provision of the open space network. In particular with the current drought and water restrictions in place authorities need to consider that climate change is not a trend in our weather pattern that may rectify itself but rather a realisation to proactively change management practices for the long term.

The development of sustainable management practices will be best achieved when working in partnership with other relevant authorities and stakeholders. Stakeholders not only include land managers but also land users who also have a responsibility to modify their usage expectations in order to address the issues of climate change on the City's open space network.

In addition to climate change there are several legislative and planning frameworks such as the State Government Native Vegetation Framework and local environmental policies that aim to minimise the impact of development on the environment.

Sustainable practices in open space should extend beyond water consideration to all facets of development and management, including the use of sustainable materials in construction (low toxicity, low embodied energy, reused, recycled and from renewable sources) as well as the provision of shared use trail networks to allow for sustainable access and movement to and between open space areas.

Council will work to achieve a range of environmental improvements in all open space management, development and maintenance practices and initiatives will be consistent with Council's adopted Environment Sustainability Strategy and with the targets outlined in LiveSmartBallarat Sustainability Policy. An integrated approach to responsible management of open space will contribute to meeting agreed environmental targets.

Key Directions:

- 9(ix) Development Standards will set the framework for what can be developed in the different categories of open space.**
- 9(x) Council will prepare or support Master Plans or Management Plans for all State level, regional and district parks. Park Plans will be developed for neighbourhood and local parks and will be developed in accordance with development standards.**
- 9(xi) Council should only support or undertake major development works within State level, regional and district parks that are consistent with a current and adopted Master Plan, unless the works are part of a formal decision of Council.**
- 9(xii) Council should only support or undertake works in neighbourhood or local parks that are consistent with the development standards for that type of park.**
- 9(xiii) Shared use and maximum public access to all open space and associated facilities will be a priority.**
- 9(xiv) Council will require that open space proposals demonstrate water saving initiatives and are environmentally sustainable in all types of open space.**
- 9(xv) Development of new reserves should demonstrate environmentally sustainable practices and design.**

9.3 Management of Open Space

Principles	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
			✓			✓		✓	✓		

The City of Ballarat's open space network is currently owned and managed by a range of different authorities and organisations. The land owned by the Crown or Council is managed by authorities such as Parks Victoria, Council or community organisations such as the Ballarat and Environment Network.

With the various organisations responsible for the management of open space come different management practices.

This raises certain questions such as:

- Who is best equipped (in respect to skills, experience, core business, resource availability) to manage open space?
- Are the current management arrangements providing the best outcomes for the broader community?

The management of the open space network should be based on certain considerations that ensure the best outcome for the Ballarat community. For example the Council may be interested in managing water frontages if the water frontage forms part of a major or significant linkage/connection as part of the overall open space network and is in the best interest of the broad community. A management matrix has been prepared and is included in this report as 9.4. It is suggested that this matrix be used as a guide only, for determining the most appropriate management body for all open space and can be used by all land management agencies, in particular Council and DSE.

9.3.1: Partnerships

Partnerships are a critical element for the effective management and provision of the open space network. There are many stakeholders involved with the provision of open space and partnerships are important to ensure an integrated approach to the preservation and enhancement of the open space system throughout the City of Ballarat. The stakeholders include the State Government – Department of Planning and Community Development, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development; Parks Victoria; Ballarat Environment Network; Great Dividing Trail Association and other environmental organisations / friends groups, community organisations, water authorities, developers, sporting organisations, peak associations, private sector and public and private schools.

Perhaps the most significant partner for Council is the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), coordinated by the Ballarat Regional Office. The City of Ballarat maintains a number of open spaces that are owned by the state government and liaison regarding the ongoing management and protection of this crown land is coordinated through DSE. While Council has been in regular dialogue with DSE regarding specific management issues for open space (for example, Lake Burumbeet, Lake Learmonth, Royal Park and Victoria Park), it is acknowledged that communication between the two organisations could be improved and further discussion should be pursued about the most appropriate land manager for some open space sites that are currently managed by the City of Ballarat.

9.3.2: Open Space Provision for the Community

There is a strong interest within the community regarding the following:

- Open space should be accessible for a variety of unstructured recreation opportunities. There is a perception from the community that some open space is not accessible due to the presence of an obstacle such as a fence.
- Amenity and maintenance of the open space network.

The existing open space network is provided for the broad Ballarat community. It is important that residents of all abilities, ages and interests are encouraged to use the open space network for both formal and unstructured pursuits. There are many benefits that are realised from using and enjoying open space including physical, social, emotional and spiritual.

There are demands on Council to provide for some activities that require exclusive use of public space for specific activities. An example of this type of activity is community gardens. While the merit of community gardens is well justified, provision of such activity in public open space compromises the space for other uses and public access. Open space should be preserved as open and accessible parkland wherever possible. Other requests for use of open space will come from commercial operators to run cafés or fitness programs in parklands. The merit of fitness programs is well supported by Council documents such as the Municipal Public Health Plan. Support for fitness or lifestyle programs in open space is based on increasing participation and creating a healthier community.

For healthy communities to thrive it is important to have access to a well-balanced open space network which provides a diverse range of recreational opportunities supported by appropriate infrastructure. There is no doubt that all open space land makes a contribution to the health of the community, however it is important for this to be considered from a strategic perspective on how each parcel of open space land contributes across the municipality.

It was quite clear through the consultation process that the community highly values its open space network and on the maintenance, aesthetics and general cleanliness of the open space in the City of Ballarat. The community expectations of maintenance standards generally exceed the current level of maintenance. This issue may need to be addressed through the review of maintenance standards and appropriate resourcing for maintenance.

Key Directions

9(xvi) The agency responsible for the management of open space will be determined based on the following assessment criteria:

- **The agency's experience and skills to appropriately manage the open space;**
- **The agency's core business and best interest;**
- **Attributes of the site;**
- **Degree of benefit for the local and broader community benefit;**
- **Environmental values of the site;**
- **Capacity for the agency to manage and maintain the open space in the long term.**

- 9(xvii) Effective management of open space will be achieved through the development of clear responsibilities of relevant stakeholders.**
- 9(xviii) Council will maintain, develop and foster partnerships with relevant stakeholders.**
- 9(xix) The open space network will provide diverse opportunities for the community which will be appropriate for the type of open space.**
- 9(xx) Public access to the open space network will be strongly encouraged, wherever possible to ensure that Ballarat residents have access to different types of open space areas that meet their diverse current and future needs.**
- 9(xxi) A review of maintenance standards, resourcing and service levels will result in an open space system that better meets community and stakeholder expectations with Council's service levels for open space being transparent and clearly understood.**

9.4 Irrigation in Open Space

The following guide for application of irrigation to open space is consistent with the Development Standards that are outlined in the next section of this document.

There will be some open space development where the use of irrigation is quite specific to the development of the site and priorities for use. For example, where a district sporting reserve is being established, it will be important to develop a high quality of passive recreation parkland open space. This may require irrigation for establishment to create a level of amenity that encourages / supports a high level use of the open space by tenant clubs and spectators. It is also important that the local community is able to access such a park as their neighbourhood open space.

Category	Hierarchy				
	State	Regional	District	Neighbourhood	Local
Recreation Parkland	✓ (part)	✓ (part)	✓	-	-
Formal Parkland	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Conservation Parkland	-	✓	✓	-	-
Linkage – major	-	-	-	-	-
Sport	-	✓✓	✓	-	-
Conservation Bushland*	-	-	-	-	-
Streetscape	✓	✓	-	-	-
Urban Space	-	-	-	-	-
Linkage – minor	-	-	-	-	-
Special Use	-	-	-	-	-
Drainage and Water Body	-	-	-	-	-

✓✓ = Irrigation will be required due to the nature of activity and possibly to minimise risk

✓ = Irrigation should be considered, but minimised where possible

Exceptions to the above guidelines might be considered where:

- There is an ability to capture/harvest water on-site;
- There is evidence of access to non-potable alternate water supply;
- No negative environmental impacts are identified;
- Endorsement of a proposal is provided by relevant water authorities;
- Long term sustainability and benefits can be clearly demonstrated; and / or
- Establishment of some open space as part of a district level or higher open space is clearly justified and has responded to the above environmental considerations.

(*) = Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)

9.5 Open Space Management Model Matrix

Open Space Category	State Government	Local Government (as Committee of Management)	Community (Committee of Management)	Tenancy Agreement with Users
Recreation Parkland	x	✓ Core activity for Local Govt. to support active participation, healthy communities.	✓ Not usually although possible if specific interest.	x
Formal Parkland	x	✓ Generally responsibility of Council due to resources / expertise.	✓ Not usually although possible if specific interest.	x
Conservation Parkland	✓ Regional or State significance.	✓ If it forms as part of a broader linkage / connection or adjoins recreation parkland.	✓ Local, Neighbourhood or District significance.	x
Linkage (Major) - Will often include waterways /creeks.	✓ Regional or State significance.	✓ If it forms a strong linkage or connection as part of overall open space network.	✓ Not usually although possible if specific interest.	x
Sport	x	✓ Local, Neighbourhood, District or Regional significance.	x	✓ Local, Neighbourhood, District / Regional significance.
Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)	✓ Regional or State significance. May include native vegetation offset areas if they adjoin other Crown land managed by the State Government.	✓ If it forms as part of a broader linkage or connection or adjoins an open space corridor.	✓ Local or Neighbourhood significance.	x
Streetscape / Landscape Amenity	x	✓ Core Local Govt. responsibility.	x	x
Urban Space	✓ May include civic plazas of State Government offices / cultural buildings.	✓ Core Local Govt. responsibility.	x	x
Linkage (Minor)	x	✓ If providing a strong linkage or connection.	✓ Not usually although possible if specific interest.	x
Special Use	✓ May include education facilities or cemeteries.	✓ When has benefit to the broad community.	✓ Where groups have exclusive use for specific purpose.	✓ Where groups have exclusive use of open space.
Drainage and Water Body	✓ Generally if located beyond urban areas	✓ Generally if located within urban areas	✓ Not usually and only if Local or Neighbourhood significance	x

(Table 8: Management Model Matrix)

9.6 Development Standards

Definitions of the various categories of open space are provided in Chapter 7. Development standards have been developed to ensure that the open space areas within the City of Ballarat are attractive, sustainable and add to the livability of the community. Development of open space and ongoing management and maintenance practices must demonstrate sustainable outcomes and reduced resource consumption wherever possible.

The development standards for the categories of open space are indicated as follows:

Recreation Parkland

Local Recreation Parkland Development Standard:

Main function of this small type of open space (0.1-0.4ha) is to provide for local play as well as rest and relaxation. Local residents might meet their neighbours in a local park and they should be linked to other opportunities in the open space system wherever possible.

Should have:

- Drought tolerant planting to create shade and landscape amenity, compatible with the landscape character of the surrounding area
- Open area for informal play
- Bench seating with arms

Might have:

- Some junior play equipment with soft fall
- Shade planting for play spaces
- Unsealed pathways where a connection / linkage can be defined
- Picnic tables and integrated seating
- Identifying signage

Should not have:

- Constructed water features or irrigation, regardless of water source
- Large combination play space units
- Security / amenity / feature lighting
- Art or sculpture
- Drinking Fountains
- Toilets
- Off-street parking
- BBQs, picnic shelters
- Fencing, except to prevent vehicle access or make play areas safe

Neighbourhood Recreation Parkland Development Standard:

Main function of this larger park (0.5-1.0ha) is to provide a diversity of recreation opportunity including children's play, informal ball games and picnic facilities. This type of park would serve as a local meeting place for the neighbourhood and should wherever possible be linked into the open space system. Design of this park type should be based on local character and should protect any local environmental or cultural values.

Should have:

- Drought tolerant planting to create shade and landscape amenity, compatible with the landscape character of the surrounding area
- A large open area for informal play

- Unsealed pathways where a connection / linkage can be defined
- Disability access where landform allows
- Bench seating with backs and arms
- Identifying signage
- Play space which should include a number of features that cater for play for all ages
- Shade planting for play spaces

Might have:

- Basketball ring, hitting wall or similar if sufficient space allows adequate buffer to residents
- Disability accessible picnic tables and integrated seating
- Shade structures such as pergolas or shelters where the structures serve a purpose and are linked to an activity
- Art or sculpture
- Rubbish bin/s

Should not have:

- Constructed water features or irrigation, regardless of water source
- Security / amenity / feature lighting
- Drinking Fountains
- Toilets
- Dog poo bins and bag dispensers
- Off-street parking
- BBQs
- Fencing, except to prevent vehicle access or make play areas safe

District Recreation Parkland Development Standard:

Main function of this large park (ranging from 1ha to 10ha) is to provide a diversity of recreation opportunity, often in conjunction with sporting activities and usually including children's play, informal ball games, shared trails and picnic facilities. This type of park would attract people from at least a two kilometre catchment and should be linked into the open space system. Design of this park type should be based on local character and should protect any local environmental or cultural values.

Should have:

- Drought tolerant planting to create shade and landscape amenity, compatible with the landscape character of the surrounding area
- A minimum of one play space to cater for a diversity of play activities for all ages
- Shade planting for play areas
- Basketball backboard, concrete pad with hitting wall or other type of informal sporting facility for young people
- Large open areas for informal play and/or a minimum of 25% of total area of parkland to be provided for casual activities where a district park is used primarily for sports fields
- Well-defined all weather pathways, either sealed or unsealed subject to landscape design and nature/potential of linkages into the trail/pathway network
- Disability access where landform allows
- Bench seating with backs and arms
- Identifying, interpretive and management signage, where community benefit is achieved
- BBQs, picnic tables and integrated seating
- Shade structures such as pergolas or shelters where the structures serve a purpose and are linked to an activity
- Art or sculpture
- Rubbish bin/s

- Drinking fountains
- Toilets
- Off-street parking

Might have:

- Irrigation for establishment only subject to landscape design and availability of alternative water sources
- Security / amenity / feature lighting

Formal Parkland

Formal Parkland Development Standard:

This type of open space is generally limited in its distribution and is not considered appropriate for future open space development at the local, neighbourhood or district levels. As such, there is no defined development standard and future works should be focused on maintenance and conservation of vegetation, elements and structures in accordance with relevant cultural heritage conservation plans.

Conservation Parkland

Conservation Parkland Development Standard:

Park sizes vary and this open space category does not differentiate hierarchy for development standards – all are the same considerations. The main function of this category is to provide a bushland-like setting with habitat values for wildlife and to support biodiversity values. A secondary function of these spaces is to cater for a range of low level or low environmental impact recreation activities. Conservation parkland can also provide a buffer for Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland) areas.

Conservation Parkland should wherever possible link into the wider open space network through development of shared trails and management will be consistent with the restoration and enhancement of natural values.

Should have:

- Pathways – generally well formed and unsealed
- Rest areas and seating
- Protective fencing of areas of high environmental value
- Locally indigenous vegetation

Might have:

- Interpretive signage
- Picnic and BBQ facilities
- Boardwalks
- Shelters and seating platforms
- Off-street parking
- Toilets
- Low key pathways for walkers and mountain bike riders
- Play space to cater for the play needs of all ages and abilities

Linkage (Major)

Major Linkage Development Standard:

Long relatively narrow interconnected open space areas which can serve a variety of purposes including drainage, floodways, visual buffers and movement corridors for pedestrians and cyclists. Generally the most significant corridors will be located along waterways. In some instances, opportunities for the development of a linkage will be limited by the particular requirements relating to the nature of the land, eg. easements may have restrictions on the construction of infrastructure as well as planting.

Where possible, linkages should be developed to enhance landscape amenity as well as facilitate pedestrian connectivity to the open space and shared trail network.

Should have:

- Vegetation compatible with the landscape character of the surrounding area – often native vegetation if along waterways
- All-weather shared pathway of a minimum width of two metres – might be a sealed path where off-road cycle routes are designated, or otherwise unsealed
- Directional signage
- Seating and resting points

Sport

Sport Open Space Development Standard:

Large areas generally 4-10ha catering for all levels of sporting activities. Sporting reserves might be co-located with schools, creating efficiencies through sharing of resourcing and utilisation. It is important that sporting reserves should be visually attractive as well as functional and should have a minimum of 25% of total park area provided for unstructured and casual play/parkland.

Should have:

- Junior and senior sport playing surfaces (fields and/or courts) – specifications for surface type, drainage, lighting etc to be defined according to nature and level of activity
- Identifying signage
- Shade planting
- Seating

Might have:

- Irrigation through special arrangements for access to recycled water for regional sports precincts only in accordance with Council's Sports Precinct Strategic Plan
- Shared pavilion/toilet/change room – with public toilets incorporated into buildings
- Play space to cater for the play needs of tenant club users and the general community
- BBQ and picnic facilities
- Structures such as pergolas or shelter where the structures serve a purpose and are integrated with an activity

Should not have:

- Irrigation for neighbourhood and district sporting facilities

Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)

Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland) Development Standard:

Generally applying to district and regional open space only, Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland) sites can vary in size depending on the values to be protected. Often reasonably large areas will be designated to provide buffers and increase sustainability potential. Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland) areas are conserved and protected based on significant biodiversity values. These spaces should be linked into the wider open space system where possible by restoration / ecological plantings to provide for wildlife and flora corridors.

Should have:

- Locally indigenous vegetation

Might have:

- Pathways – generally low-key and unsealed (for walkers and mountain bikes)
- Protective fencing of areas of high environmental value
- Rest areas / seating Interpretive signage
- Boardwalks
- Picnic and BBQ facilities
- Bird hides
- Shelters and seating platforms

Streetscape / Landscape Amenity

Streetscape Development Standard:

Street tree planting will be relevant to the physical, cultural and environmental values of the surrounding area. Landscape amenity and long term sustainability should be maximised wherever possible.

Urban Space

Urban Space Development Standard:

A generally hard surfaced space providing for access and circulation, meeting and sitting, located around or adjacent to buildings. Urban spaces can also be green spaces of a smaller size than a local park and are generally used for sitting, socialising, eating lunch, etc.

Should have:

- Some all weather surfacing
- Seating
- Identifying / Directional signage
- Security lighting
- Direct access from footpath without steps to comply with disability requirements
- Wind protection
- Areas with good access to sun and shade
- Design and material selections that either discourage or withstand use by skateboards

Might have:

- Drought tolerant planting to create shade and landscape amenity, compatible with the landscape character of the surrounding area
- Structures which serve a purpose such as shading and are integrated with an activity
- Amenity / feature lighting
- Art or sculpture
- Lawn areas located out of movement patterns

Linkage (Minor)

Minor Linkage Parkland Development Standard:

Narrower, shorter and less connected than a major linkage, this is an open space area which can serve a variety of purposes including drainage, floodway, visual buffer and pedestrian corridor.

Should have:

- Vegetation compatible with the landscape character of the surrounding area – often native vegetation if along waterways

Might have:

- Pathway – often informal / unsealed
- Directional signage
- Seating

Special Use

Special Use Development Standard:

Subject to the special use that is designated for this type of open space, development standards will vary according to the specialist requirements of the open space type. E.g.: regional athletics facility, cemeteries, golf courses, etc. In general, requirements for irrigation should comply with other categories of open space – minimal use of water whether potable or recycled, subject to requirements and special arrangements.

Drainage Function

Drainage Function Development Standard:

A: Wetlands:

Open space with naturally occurring wetlands or a constructed wetland in a natural depression within a creek or drainage line. All planting and subsequent revegetation should be approved native species and aim to enhance water quality, native habitat and visual amenity.

Boardwalks should be constructed where access close to the wetland edge is appropriate.

To minimise risk, a wetland should be offset by a minimum of 15 metres to any allotment boundaries where there are back fences without private access provision, or 25-30 metres where there is access provision (Melbourne Water – June 2002). A wetland should be offset by a minimum of 30 metres from any roadway.

All wetlands should conform to the Waterbody and Wetland Safety Requirements developed by Melbourne Water in the document “Constructed Wetland Systems – Design Guidelines for Developers” – June 2002

Drainage Function Development Standard:

B: Retarding Basins / Floodways

Wherever possible, these areas should be designated to enhance landscape and recreation amenity, within the required technical requirements and risk management restriction of their intended use.

Typical open space enhancements could include:

- Tree and macrophyte planting where hydraulic performance requirements permit
- Shared path construction (in accordance with Draft Melbourne Water Guidelines for approval of constructed paths – December 2002)
- Seating

9.7 Open Space Policies

When Council adopted the Open Space Policy in 1998, a number of policy directions were approved. Council has been able to make decisions about provision management and development of open space using this policy as a guide.

The following policies are recommended for development and/or review as part of the implementation of the Open Space Strategy. It is suggested that Council consider and adopt each policy separately as they will be important tools in future decision making for open space planning and provision.

9.7.1: Open Space Contributions Policy

This policy is introduced in Section 9.1.1 and will involve the preparation of a policy as a possible amendment to the Ballarat Planning Scheme. Once adopted, this policy will provide significant guidance for

- Determining whether and open space land or cash in lieu contribution (or a combination of both) should be provided for developments where an open space contribution is applicable;
- The provision of new open space in growth areas;
- The acquisition of open space where there are deficiencies within the network;
- The development of existing open space across the municipality where it is not in accordance with the Development Standards in this Strategy applicable to its hierarchy and category

The Open Space Contributions Policy will be read in conjunction with the precinct analysis and assessment of open space provision. Further details on the development of an Open Space Contributions Policy are included in the Implementation Section 13 of this document.

9.7.2: Open Space Landscape and Infrastructure Policy

The Open Space Landscape and Infrastructure Policy should be prepared as a new policy for Council's approval and should include consideration of:

- Development Standards within this Strategy;
- Maximising the range of recreation opportunities in open space;
- Built infrastructure for related activities on open space (e.g. pavilions, public toilets);

- Restrictions on built infrastructure that has little or no relationship to open space;
- Requirements for maximising public access and multi-use;
- No nett loss of open space;
- Car parking, provisions and vehicle access and use;
- Public and pedestrian access and improving safe access and connections to neighbourhood, district and regional linkages;
- Lighting guidelines for open space including energy minimization, public safety, light spillage and local resident amenity;
- Fencing guidelines to consider where fences should / should not be provided and for what purposes, what design and materials, heights, etc;
- Landscape guidelines that will include consideration of design, vegetation and species types, use of exotic and native plants in open space settings and the impacts of climate change on the sustainability of landscape;
- Signage in open space including park naming and identification signage, tenancy signage, park directional, information and interpretive signage, sponsorship, advertising and events signs and the design and rationalisation of signs to improve open space amenity and management; and
- Environmental sustainability principles including: use of recycled materials, irrigation, and reduced resource use in open space development, construction and maintenance

9.7.3: Open Space Management Policy

The Open Space Management Policy should consider a range of issues including the following:

- Asset management standards, policies and programs;
- Lease, user groups and tenancy arrangements, providing clear direction on who is responsible for development costs and the ongoing management of assets and infrastructure within the open space (will depend on the level of exclusivity)
- Maximising public access to all open space including open space that is subject to agreements
- Restrictions on commercial use of open space
- Guidelines about events in open space and appropriate management procedures

Key Directions:

9(xxii) Council will review and develop policies and standards in areas such as:

- **Open space contributions**
- **Open space landscape and infrastructure**
- **Open space management**

10. Municipal Analysis

This analysis is based on the whole municipal area of the City of Ballarat. More detailed analysis for each precinct can be found in Section 12 – the Precinct Analysis.

Projected figures for the municipality and the respective precincts are based on information from forecast.id – City of Ballarat. These population projections are based on the 2001 census because updated projection figures on the 2006 census are not yet available.

A brief summary of the analysis of all open space is provided here with maps showing catchment analysis following these tables. The next section outlines the total open space inventory for the City of Ballarat.

Population		↑
2007 (Projected)		89,253
Young – 0-17 years	24.3%	21,690
Ageing - 60 years and greater	19.6%	17,552
2021 (Projected)		
Resident		103,853
Projected Young – 0-14 years	21%	21,823
Projected Ageing - 60 years and greater	24.7%	25,648

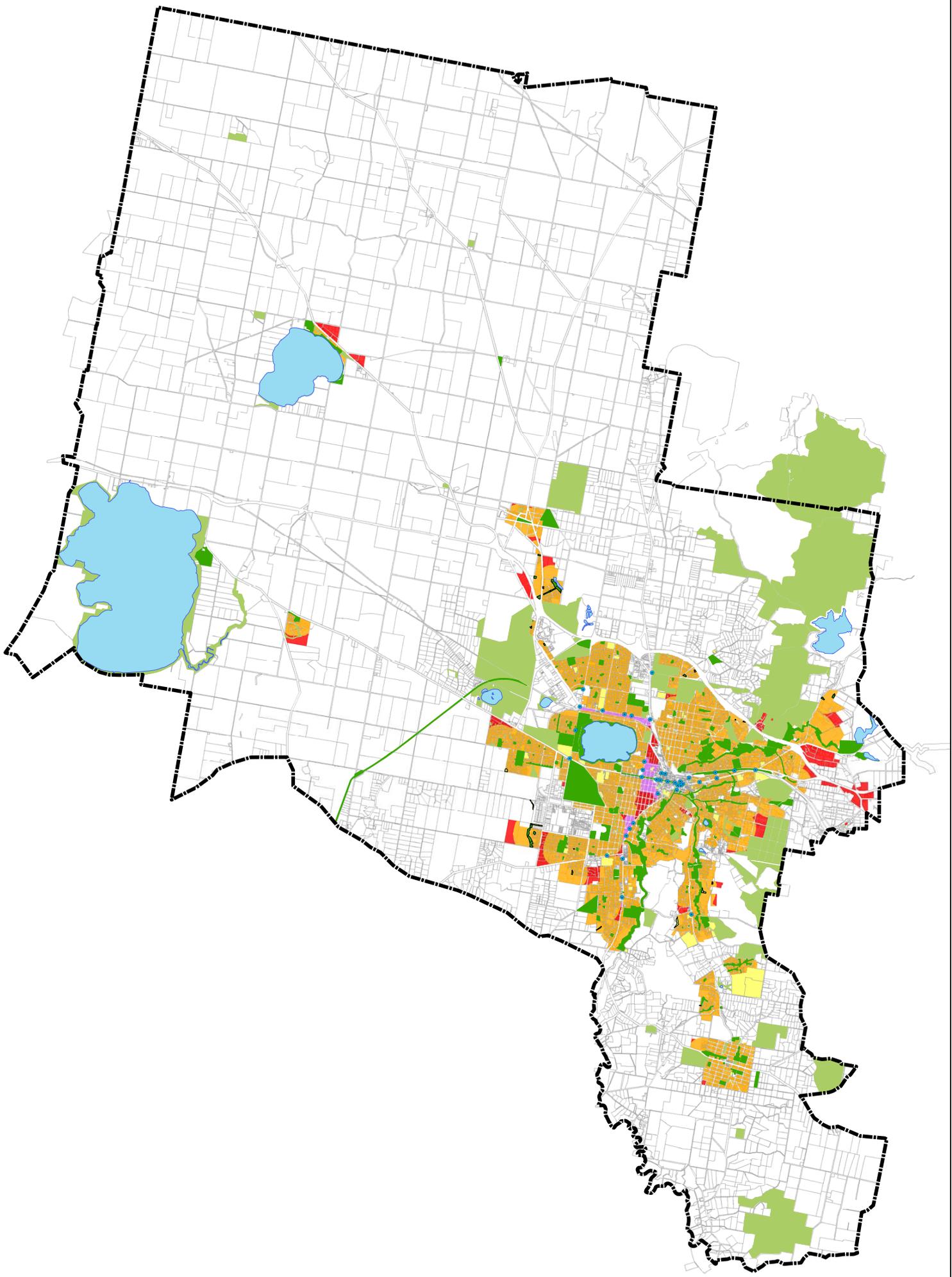
(Source: Based on City of Ballarat - ID Forecasting)

Quantity	✓✓
<i>(Proposed Provision Ratio for City of Ballarat: Urban and Growth Areas - 4 ha per 1,000, Rural Areas – 2-4 ha per 1,000 population)</i>	
All Reserves	2382.73 ha
Open space (excludes: Conservation (Bushland, Native Grasslands and Wetland) Minor Linkage, Urban Space, Landscape Amenity / Streetscape, Special Use)	1229.36 ha
Open space per 1,000 resident population - 2007	9.72 ha
Open space per 1,000 resident population – 2021 based on current OS Provision	8.35 ha
<p>The amount of open space throughout the City of Ballarat exceeds the recommended target quantities. The categorising of open space in the inventory has created a category of “recreation” open space to clarify accessible and usable open space for the community, and has considered all open space within the hierarchy from state and regional to local. The City of Ballarat is fortunate to have access to significant open space areas like Lake Wendouree and Victoria Park which provide a diverse range of experiences. It should be noted that the assessment of the other criteria (eg. size, quality, environmental considerations, distribution, etc) are required to identify where possible deficiencies in the open space system exist.</p>	

Size	✓✓
<p>Generally the range of sizes of the open space network is good with a range of small local parks through to regional open space scattered across the municipality. Where open space is smaller than the minimum recommended area for the hierarchy classification, there can be an inability to provide a range of recreation activities. There may be opportunities to rationalise and/or add to such open space to meet minimum size recommendations.</p>	
Quality	✓✓
<p>Open space throughout the municipality varies in its quality, however it is generally well maintained and presented. Throughout the analysis a number of improvements are identified and there are comments in individual precincts about improvements to development, presentation and maintenance of open space.</p>	
Community Recreation Needs	✓✓
<p>The Ballarat open space system generally meets a diverse range of community needs and provides a range of recreation opportunities. The recommended catchment of 500 metres walkable distance to open space is a minimum standard to provide for the needs of the community. Residential areas that do not have walkable access within 500 metres are considered to not have their recreation open space needs fully met. These locations are indicated on the following maps and individually highlighted on the precinct maps.</p> <p>There is however an increasing trend toward unstructured recreation and activities like walking and cycling are becoming more popular. Demand for recreation parkland and linkages rather than formal sporting reserves is expected to increase – development of open space to meet this need will complement the more traditional provision of sporting reserves where limited diversity was offered.</p>	
Amenity and Values	✓
<p>Generally the open space within the municipality is diverse in its values, environmentally, historically and physically.</p> <p>There are opportunities for better connections and linkages throughout the system to improve access and opportunity.</p>	
Distribution	✓
<p>There is generally a good distribution, although this criteria identifies more deficiencies across the open space system than any other criteria. Barriers to access and open space being concentrated in some areas have created a number of deficiencies across the network. These are further outlined in the precinct analysis.</p>	

Environmental Considerations	✓
<p>There is an inconsistency of bushland and linear open space across the municipality with some areas being well provided for with river corridors and forests, etc., and other areas particularly in the west of the municipality having poor vegetation cover.</p> <p>Within the areas of significance, there are important environmental qualities, some areas of remnant vegetation and high habitat value. This occurs primarily in the eastern section of Ballarat, and is much less prevalent in the western and northern areas.</p> <p>The current drought creates significant challenges in the management of the open space system. The future of lakes is uncertain as reducing rainfall trends create significant impacts on natural areas. Changes in the management of vegetation including the species selection of trees and landscape will need to be incorporated in changing practices.</p> <p>The provision and management of sporting reserves and playing surfaces will change with the development of sports precincts that utilise treated water and introduce a range of sustainable practices like all-weather surfaces, drought tolerant plantings and significant multi-use of key spaces.</p>	

Open Space Provision Opportunities
<p>Opportunities across the municipality include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Improve access across the municipality to ensure residents within urbanised areas are within 500 metres of recreation open space.▪ Develop linkages and improve connectivity to open space areas and destination points within precincts and to connecting precincts.▪ Enhance environmental values across the municipality in consideration of relevant environmental policies.▪ Partnerships in particular with schools will assist to address the recreational and open space requirements of the municipality particularly in those precincts that do not have adequate access to open space.▪ Opportunities and improvements have been identified for each precinct and discussed in the precinct analysis.

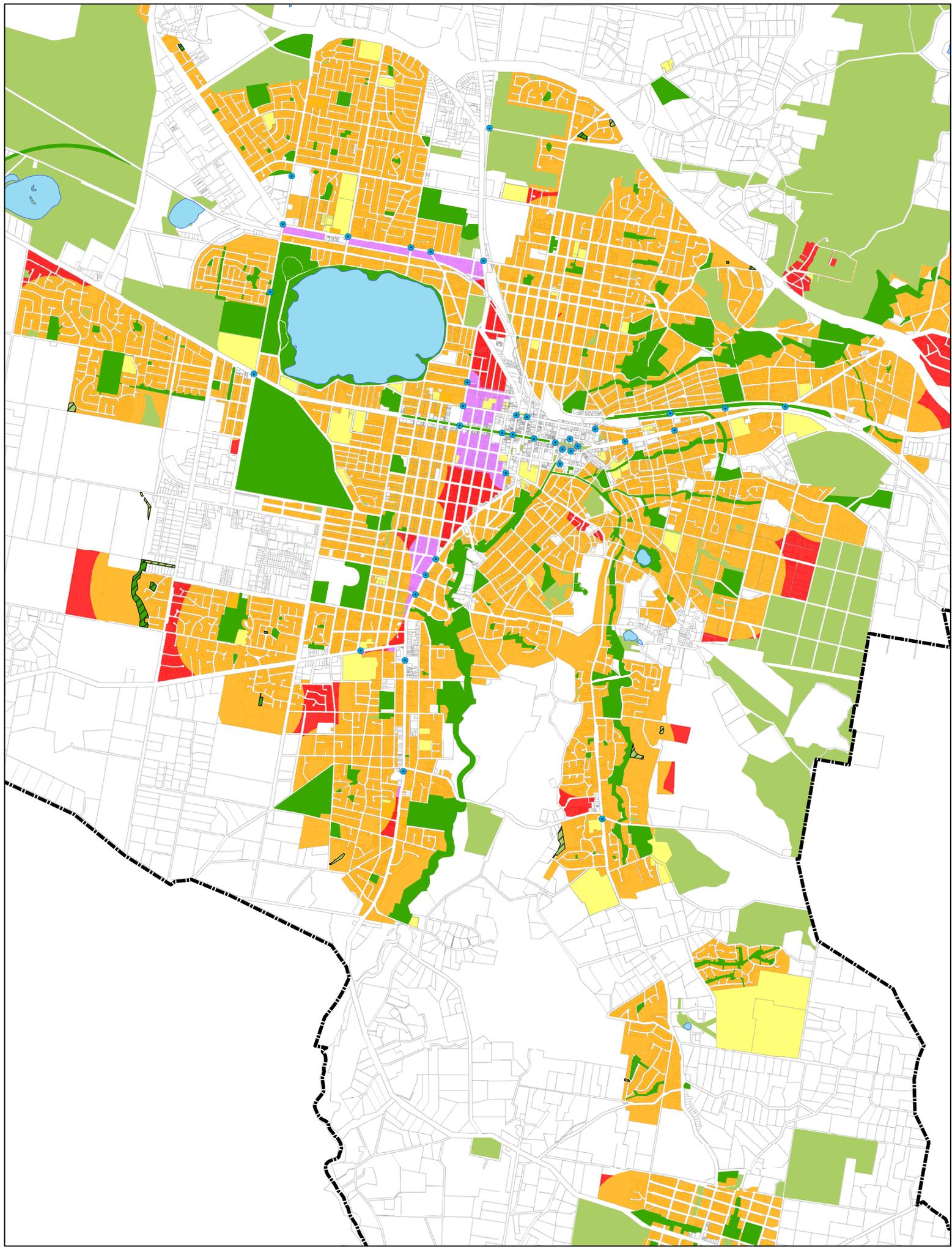


11. Open Space Analysis City Wide

- Recreational Open Space
- Additional Open Space
- Proposed Open Space
- School
- Safe Crossing Point
- Residential areas with access to Recreational Open Space
- Residential areas without access to Recreational Open Space
- Residential areas with access to Recreational Open Space via safe crossing point
- Lake / Water Body
- Non Residential Areas

Access to Recreational Open Space is within 500 Metre catchment





12. Open Space Analysis City Wide - Inset

- Recreational Open Space
- Additional Open Space
- Proposed Open Space
- School
- Safe Crossing Point
- Residential areas with access to Recreational Open Space
- Residential areas without access to Recreational Open Space
- Residential areas with access to Recreational Open Space via safe crossing point

Access to Recreational Open Space is within 500 Metre catchment

- Non Residential Areas
- Lake / Water Body



Ballarat Open Space Strategy

11. Inventory of Open Space

The following is an overview of the open space sites in the City of Ballarat in order of hierarchy including the category for each site. The category has been listed based on the primary use of the open space area. Note that in some cases a secondary use is also applicable to a particular site if there are more than one significant uses or features of a site. At this time, primary category only has been identified for each open space site. (Open space is shown in alphabetical order within each hierarchy.)

State			
ID	Name	Precinct	Category
310	Creswick State Forest	Rural East	Conservation Bushland*
127	Lake Wendouree	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland

Regional			
ID	Name	Precinct	Category
94	Ballarat Botanical Gardens	Wendouree	Formal Parkland
73	Ballarat-Skipton Rail Trail	Rural West	Linkage (Major)
69	Buninyong Botanic Gardens	Buninyong Rural South	Formal Parkland
250	Canadian Creek Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Linkage (Major)
220	Canadian Forest	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Conservation Bushland*
25	City Oval	Wendouree	Sport
128	Eastern Oval	Inner North East	Sport
176	Eureka Stockade Reserve	Inner North East	Formal Parkland
222	Flax Mill Swamp	Wendouree	Conservation Bushland*
307	King Gully Forest	Buninyong Rural South	Conservation Bushland*
219	Kirks Reservoir	Rural East	Recreation Parkland
148	Lake Burumbeet	Rural West	Recreation Parkland
20	Llanberris Athletics Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Special Use
218	Mt Buninyong	Buninyong Rural South	Conservation Bushland*
61	Northern Oval	Wendouree	Sport
2	Sturt Street Gardens	Ballarat Central	Streetscape/Landscape Amenity
152	The Gong Reservoir	Rural East	Recreation Parkland
147	Union Jack Reserve	Buninyong Rural South	Conservation Bushland*
97	Victoria Park	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
106	Winter Swamp Reserve	Rural West	Conservation Bushland*
56	Yarrowee River Reserve	Inner North East	Linkage (Major)

District			
ID	Name	Precinct	Category
119	Alfredton Recreation Reserve	Alfredton-Delacombe	Sport
37	Black Hill Reserve (Black Hill Lookout)	Inner North East	Recreation Parkland
121	Brown Hill Reserve (Progress Park)	Rural East	Sport
51	Buninyong Recreation Park	Buninyong Rural South	Sport
65	Buninyong Community Facility	Buninyong Rural South	Sport
122	Burumbeet Recreation Park (Burumbeet Reserve)	Rural West	Sport
23	C.E Brown Reserve	Wendouree	Sport
181	De Soza Park (Tannery Flat)	Buninyong Rural South	Recreation Parkland
124	Doug Dean Reserve	Alfredton-Delacombe	Sport

District			
ID	Name	Precinct	Category
129	Invermay Recreation Reserve	Alfredton-Delacombe	Sport
38	Lake Esmond	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Recreation Parkland
149	Lake Learmonth	Rural West	Special Use
126	Learmonth Recreation Reserve	Rural West	Sport
81	Len T Fraser Reserve	Inner North East	Recreation Parkland
108	M.R Power Park	Ballarat South	Recreation Parkland
34	Marty Busch Reserve	Ballarat South	Sport
72	Miners Rest Wetland	Miners Rest-Mitchell Park	Conservation Parkland
141	Morshead Park	Ballarat South	Sport
179	Mt Clear Recreation Reserve (Mt Clear Tech Res)	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Sport
212	Mt Innes - (Birdwood Park & Hasties Springs)	Buninyong Rural South	Recreation Parkland
305	Nerrina Gully	Rural East	Conservation Bushland*
132	Pioneer Park	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
98	Prince Of Wales Park	Wendouree	Sport
95	Royal Park	Buninyong Rural South	Recreation Parkland
217	Russell Square	Rural East	Sport
109	St Georges Reserve	Ballarat South	Sport
24	The Gong (Buninyong Bot Gardens)	Buninyong Rural South	Recreation Parkland
111	Trekardo Park	Ballarat South	Sport
140	Wendouree West Recreation Reserve	Wendouree	Sport
154	Western Oval	Ballarat Central	Sport
264	Winter Creek Reserve	Alfredton-Delacombe	Recreation Parkland
235	Yarrowee-Redan Wetlands	Ballarat South	Conservation Parkland

Neighbourhood			
ID	Name	Precinct	Category
27	Binney Reserve (Binney Street Reserve)	Inner North East	Sport
159	Bullock Gully	Inner North East	Recreation Parkland
214	Bunny Trail	Inner North East	Linkage (Major)
13	Canadian Gully Reserve (Canadian Creek)	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Recreation Parkland
14	Cardigan Village Reserve	Rural West	Recreation Parkland
11	Central Park	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
223	Chisholm Street Reserve (Old Black Hill Tip)	Inner North East	Recreation Parkland
104	Civic Hall Surrounds (Ballarat Skatepark)	Ballarat Central	Urban Space
64	College Street Park	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
273	Coorabin Ridge Neighbourhood Park	Rural East	Conservation Parkland
233	Cuthberts Road Reserve	Alfredton-Delacombe	Recreation Parkland
308	DSE - managed by BEN	Buninyong Rural South	Conservation Bushland*
139	Dyson Drive Reserve	Alfredton-Delacombe	Water Body/Drainage
162	Dytes Parade Reserve	Inner North East	Recreation Parkland
195	Ealing Avenue Reserve	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
256	Grant Street Reserve	Ballarat South	Recreation Parkland
228	GreenHill Linear Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Conservation Parkland
165	Gregory Street Reserve	Inner North East	Recreation Parkland
166	Hearns Road Reserve	Rural East	Recreation Parkland

Neighbourhood			
ID	Name	Precinct	Category
103	Horsham Crescent Reserve	Alfredton-Delacombe	Recreation Parkland
167	Inkerman Gully	Inner North East	Recreation Parkland
168	Jack Toohey Reserve	Inner North East	Recreation Parkland
209	James Reserve	Buninyong Rural South	Conservation Parkland
145	Kensington Estate Park	Alfredton-Delacombe	Recreation Parkland
199	Lawrie Linear Reserve	Alfredton-Delacombe	Linkage (Major)
188	Leawarra Crescent Park	Alfredton-Delacombe	Recreation Parkland
191	Lowan Street Reserve	Ballarat South	Recreation Parkland
266	Macarthur Park - Central Park	Miners Rest-Mitchell Park	Recreation Parkland
267	Macarthur Park Wetlands	Miners Rest-Mitchell Park	Recreation Parkland
42	Margaret Street Reserve	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
33	Marks Reserve	Inner North East	Sport
36	McKenzie Reserve	Inner North East	Recreation Parkland
258	Menzies Court Reserve	Alfredton-Delacombe	Recreation Parkland
142	Midlands Reserve	Inner North East	Recreation Parkland
202	Miners Rest Park	Miners Rest-Mitchell Park	Recreation Parkland
185	Montgomery Street Reserve	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
206	Mt Blowhard Reserve	Rural West	Recreation Parkland
304	Mt Helen Tennis Courts	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Sport
60	Mt Pleasant Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Sport
255	Nerrina Bushland Reserve	Rural East	Conservation Bushland*
26	Nerrina Wetlands (Yarrowee River)	Rural East	Conservation Parkland
58	Pauls Retention Basin	Wendouree	Water Body/Drainage
114	Peady Street Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Conservation Parkland
12	Pearces Park	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Recreation Parkland
120	Peel Street Park	Inner North East	Recreation Parkland
44	Pennyweight Park	Inner North East	Recreation Parkland
229	Pinewood Court Reserve	Inner North East	Recreation Parkland
63	Pleasant Street Reserve	Ballarat South	Sport
45	Poverty Point (Canadian Creek)	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Recreation Parkland
225	Pryor Park	Inner North East	Conservation Parkland
160	Rizal Park	Inner North East	Recreation Parkland
5	Rowan View Park	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
6	Sailors Gully Neighbourhood Park	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Special Use
259	Sanctuary Bushland Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Conservation Parkland
158	Scotts Parade Linear Reserve	Rural East	Linkage (Major)
8	Scout Hall Reserve	Alfredton-Delacombe	Recreation Parkland
205	Shaw Avenue Reserve	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
221	Soapy's Dam Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Water Body/Drainage
216	Sparrow Ground Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Conservation Parkland
251	Specimen Vale Creek Reserve	Inner North East	Linkage (Major)
70	Stamford Street Reserve	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
156	Sunraysia Heights Neighbourhood Park	Miners Rest-Mitchell Park	Recreation Parkland
256	Sunraysia Heights Reserve	Miners Rest-Mitchell Park	Recreation Parkland
239	Timbertop Bush Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Conservation Parkland
245	Trigg Station Reserve	Inner North East	Conservation Parkland
155	Vale Street Reserve	Alfredton-Delacombe	Recreation Parkland
157	Victoria Street Reserve	Ballarat South	Recreation Parkland
74	Victory Park	Ballarat South	Recreation Parkland
215	Village Green	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
171	Walter Jones Reserve	Inner North East	Recreation Parkland
82	Walton Street Reserve	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
252	Warrenheip Creek Reserve	Inner North East	Linkage (Major)

Neighbourhood			
ID	Name	Precinct	Category
238	Warrenheip Gully Reserve	Inner North East	Linkage (Major)
84	Warwick Park Reserve	Alfredton-Delacombe	Recreation Parkland
172	Webb Avenue Park	Inner North East	Recreation Parkland
32	Weeramar Park	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
99	White Flat	Ballarat Central	Sport
134	Woolway Court	Alfredton-Delacombe	Recreation Parkland
135	Yarana Drive Park	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Recreation Parkland
57	Yuille Station Park -Yarrowee River	Ballarat South	Recreation Parkland

Local			
ID	Name	Precinct	Category
137	Albert H Graham Reserve	Ballarat Central	Recreation Parkland
29	Alex Mills Park	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Recreation Parkland
49	Almurta Street Reserve (formerly Balyarta)	Alfredton-Delacombe	Recreation Parkland
31	Apex Park	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Recreation Parkland
50	Bedgegood Court Park	Ballarat South	Recreation Parkland
88	Bogart Drive Reserve (Boulevard Reserve)	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
87	Boronia Grove Reserve	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
110	Buninyong Creek Reserve	Buninyong Rural South	Water Body/Drainage
143	Buninyong RSL Memorial Park	Buninyong Rural South	Recreation Parkland
53	Caldwell Street Park	Miners Rest-Mitchell Park	Recreation Parkland
107	Canadian Springs Linear Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Water Body/Drainage
270	Carngham Road Linear Reserve	Alfredton-Delacombe	Linkage (Minor)
175	Carpenter Street Playground	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
117	Civic Park (Police & Law Courts)	Ballarat Central	Urban Space
15	Clover Street Reserve	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
7	Colemans Spring	Buninyong Rural South	Water Body/Drainage
174	Crompton Street Reserve	Inner North East	Water Body/Drainage
131	Cummins Road Reserve	Miners Rest-Mitchell Park	Recreation Parkland
193	Dallas Avenue Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Recreation Parkland
276	Drainage Reserve	Rural East	Water Body/Drainage
194	Drummond Street Playground	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
92	Eddy Avenue Reserve (Nevett Crescent Reserve)	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Recreation Parkland
261	Eilish Court Linear Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Linkage (Minor)
48	Elaine Avenue Reserve (formerly Arrandale)	Alfredton-Delacombe	Special Use
192	Falcon Drive Reserve	Inner North East	Recreation Parkland
208	Fussell Street Reserve	Inner North East	Conservation Bushland*
112	Gladstone Street Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Streetscape/Landscape Amenity
41	Glenvale Road Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Recreation Parkland
224	Golden Point Lookout (Sov Hill Lookout)	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Recreation Parkland
271	Grant Street Linear Reserve	Ballarat South	Water Body/Drainage
187	Harrier Drive Reserve	Inner North East	Special Use
100	Harrow Street Reserve	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
78	Hume Crescent Reserve	Alfredton-Delacombe	Recreation Parkland
79	Kenworthy Place Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Recreation Parkland
80	Kinnane Court	Inner North East	Linkage (Minor)
313	Lake Learmonth Special Use	Rural West	Special Use
170	Lakeland Square	Ballarat Central	Urban Space

Local			
ID	Name	Precinct	Category
196	Lakeview Court Park	Inner North East	Streetscape/Landscape Amenity
197	Langstaffe Street Reserve	Wendouree	Linkage (Minor)
169	Latrobe Street Playground	Ballarat South	Recreation Parkland
178	Launchley Drive Reserve	Rural West	Linkage (Minor)
198	Lawrie Drive Reserve	Alfredton-Delacombe	Water Body/Drainage
275	Local Park	Rural East	Recreation Parkland
40	Macarthur Street Reserve	Inner North East	Recreation Parkland
234	Maddern Street Reserve	Inner North East	Recreation Parkland
269	Manna Boulevard Park	Alfredton-Delacombe	Recreation Parkland
43	Marigold Street Reserve	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
200	Marina Drive Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Recreation Parkland
67	McManus Drive Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Recreation Parkland
201	McNulty Drive Reserve	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
62	Multi Storey Carpark Reserve	Ballarat Central	Urban Space
9	N F Donald Park (Neville Donald Park)	Ballarat South	Recreation Parkland
213	Nerrina/Doodts Reserve	Rural East	Conservation Parkland
125	Olympic Avenue Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Linkage (Major)
10	Park Street Reserve	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
89	Pearl Court Park (Bradby Avenue Park)	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Recreation Parkland
257	Pennyweight Gully Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Linkage (Minor)
231	Pinevale Way Reserves	Inner North East	Conservation Bushland*
46	Primrose Street Reserve	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
146	Romney Street Reserve	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
204	Semillion Grove Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Recreation Parkland
66	Simone Court Park	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Recreation Parkland
59	Soyuz Court Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Recreation Parkland
274	Springs Road Wetlands Reserve	Rural East	Conservation Parkland
151	St Cedars Grove Park	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
22	St Glens Way Park	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
182	St John Wood Reserve	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
21	Stirling Drive Park	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
136	Strickland Parade Reserve	Rural East	Recreation Parkland
71	Summit Crescent Reserve	Rural East	Recreation Parkland
1	Teague Court Place	Ballarat South	Recreation Parkland
184	Technology Park Wetlands	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Water Body/Drainage
161	The Conservatory Reserve	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
230	The Horizon Linear Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Conservation Parkland
47	Tress Street Reserve Pryor/Tress St Res	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Recreation Parkland
3	Tulip Crescent Reserve	Wendouree	Recreation Parkland
4	Tyar Court Park	Ballarat South	Recreation Parkland
75	Victory Avenue Reserve	Alfredton-Delacombe	Recreation Parkland
144	Wall Street Park	Ballarat South	Recreation Parkland
190	Walsh Industrial Estate Wetlands	Wendouree	Water Body/Drainage
83	Waltham Drive Reserve	Miners Rest-Mitchell Park	Recreation Parkland
272	Whitehorse Road Conservation Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Conservation Bushland*
85	Wills Court Reserve	Ballarat South	Recreation Parkland
54	Winifred Street Park	Miners Rest-Mitchell Park	Recreation Parkland
260	Zoe Drive Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Conservation Bushland*

Other			
ID	Name	Precinct	Category
30	Anderson Court Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Linkage (Minor)
236	Argyle Crescent Reserve	Alfredton-Delacombe	Water Body/Drainage
278	Ballarat Cemetery	Inner North East	Special Use
300	Ballarat Common/Airport	Miners Rest-Mitchell Park	Special Use
281	Ballarat Golf Course	Alfredton-Delacombe	Special Use
312	Ballarat Observatory	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Special Use
102	Ballarat Showgrounds	Wendouree	Special Use
19	Bridge Mall	Ballarat Central	Urban Space
240	Buninyong Cemetery	Buninyong Rural South	Special Use
280	Buninyong Golf Course	Buninyong Rural South	Special Use
101	Buninyong Pool Reserve	Buninyong Rural South	Special Use
253	Cathcart Street Reserve	Buninyong Rural South	Conservation Parkland
77	Cliff Kennet Park	Buninyong Rural South	Streetscape/Landscape Amenity
86	Clissold Street Linear Reserve	Inner North East	Water Body/Drainage
18	Dowling Forest Cemetery	Miners Rest-Mitchell Park	Special Use
301	Dowling Forest Race Course	Miners Rest-Mitchell Park	Special Use
164	Fernbank Court Reserve	Inner North East	Special Use
138	Franklin Court Strip	Alfredton-Delacombe	Linkage (Minor)
17	Glendaruel/Coghills Creek Cemetery	Rural West	Special Use
232	Haymes Road Park	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Water Body/Drainage
68	James Court Reserve	Miners Rest-Mitchell Park	Linkage (Minor)
150	Kensington Estate Buffer Reserve	Alfredton-Delacombe	Special Use
123	Kline Street Retention Basin	Inner North East	Water Body/Drainage
16	Learmonth Cemetery	Rural West	Special Use
248	Learmonth Railway Reserve	Rural West	Special Use
35	Llanberris Netball Centre Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Special Use
268	Macarthur Park Entry Reserve	Miners Rest-Mitchell Park	Streetscape/Landscape Amenity
115	Magpie Street Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Special Use
277	Midlands Golf Course	Inner North East	Special Use
311	Monte Christo Reserve	Rural East	Conservation Bushland*
211	Mt Bolton Reserve	Rural West	Special Use
116	Mt Xavier Golf Course	Inner North East	Special Use
237	Nerrina Reserve	Rural East	Special Use
210	North Common Wetland	Miners Rest-Mitchell Park	Water Body/Drainage
279	Old Ballarat Cemetery	Ballarat Central	Special Use
309	Pax Hill Scout Camp	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Special Use
247	Peel Street (Drainage Reserve)	Inner North East	Water Body/Drainage
105	Phoenix Mall	Ballarat Central	Urban Space
254	Redan Creek Reserve	Ballarat South	Water Body/Drainage
249	Rowland Street Reserve	Ballarat South	Special Use
262	Sailors Gully Bushland Reserve	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Conservation Bushland*
76	Waldie Park	Miners Rest-Mitchell Park	Special Use
153	Waller Avenue Reserve	Wendouree	Streetscape/Landscape Amenity
203	Wensleydale Drive Reserve	Alfredton-Delacombe	Water Body/Drainage
302	Whitehorse Road Landfill	GLDPoint-Mt Helen	Special Use
226	Wicklow Drive Reserve	Inner North East	Special Use
118	Wiggins Road Reserve	Miners Rest-Mitchell Park	Special Use
52	Windermere Views Linear Reserve	Rural West	Water Body/Drainage
173	Winter Street Park	Alfredton-Delacombe	Special Use
133	Woodside Court	Inner North East	Streetscape/Landscape Amenity
183	Wyndholm Reserve	Wendouree	Special Use

(*) = Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)

The totals of the various categories of open space across the City of Ballarat are:

Category Type Analysis (City of Ballarat)		
Category	Area (ha)	% of total
Recreation Parkland	703.74	29.5%
Formal Parkland	38.93	1.6%
Conservation Parkland	79.52	3.3%
Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)	496.97	20.9%
Linkage (Major)	206.01	8.6%
Linkage (Minor)	6.56	0.3%
Sport	201.16	8.4%
Special Use	436.79	18.3%
Streetscape / Landscape Amenity	2.18	0.1%
Urban Space	1.69	0.1%
Water body / drainage	209.19	8.8%
TOTAL	2382.73	99.9%

% figures have been rounded down or up to the nearest decimal point.

12. Precinct Analysis

There are ten precincts developed for the Open Space Strategy based on consolidating some of the City of Ballarat ID Forecasting precincts. The ten precincts have been grouped based on collection of demographic data, geographical location and recognition of unique qualities and similarities. The ten precincts are:

- Alfredton - Delacombe
- Rural West
- Miners Rest – Mitchell Park
- Rural East
- Inner North East (includes Ballarat North-Invermay Park, Soldiers Hill-Black Hill-Nerrina and Ballarat East-Brown Hill)
- Ballarat Central
- Wendouree (includes Wendouree, Lake Wendouree-Newington-Lake Gardens)
- Ballarat South (includes Redan and Sebastopol)
- Golden Point to Mount Helen (includes Golden Point, Mount Pleasant, Canadian, Mount Clear and Mount Helen)
- Buninyong-Rural South

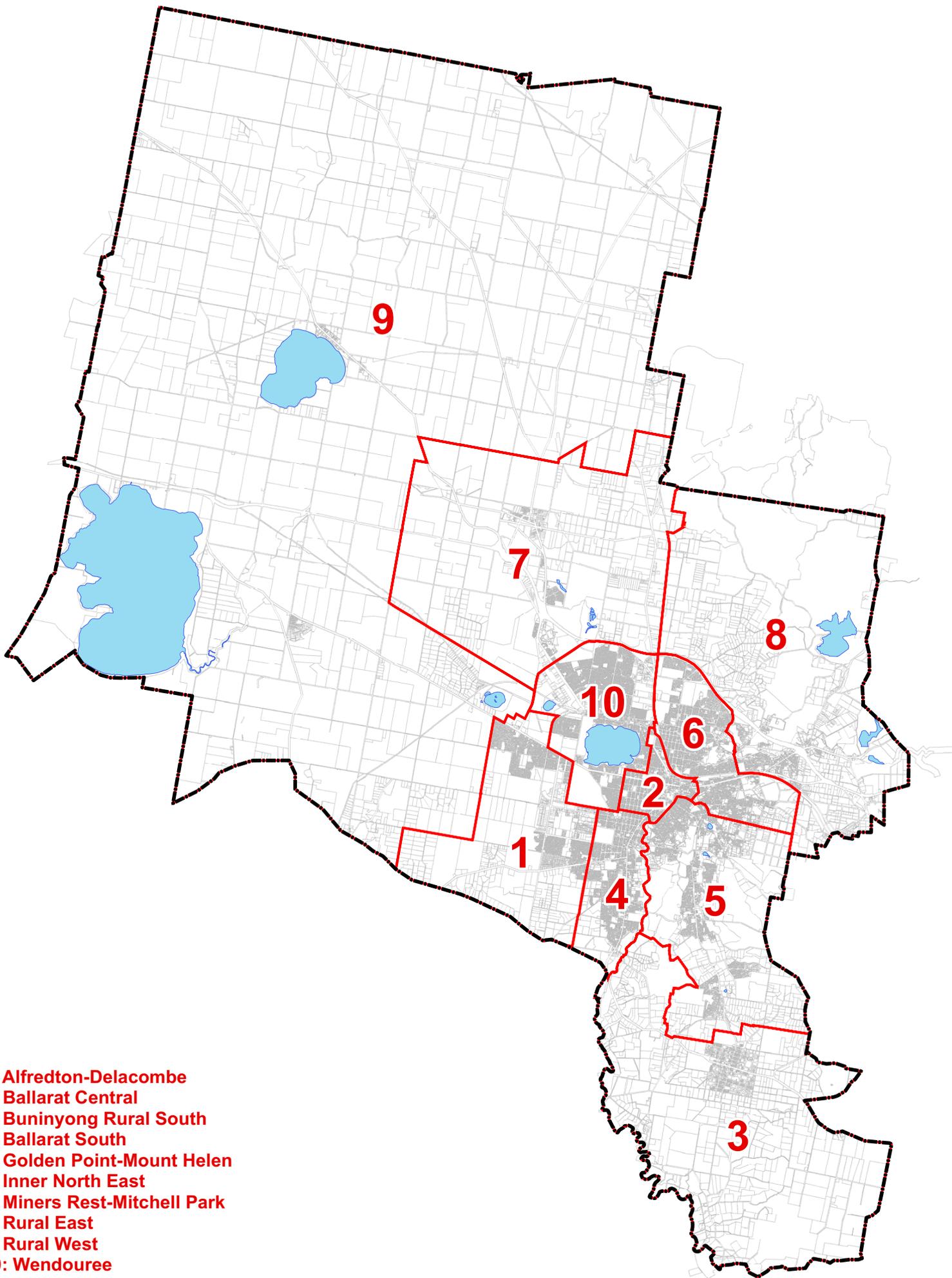
The following section provides a profile of each of the precincts and an analysis of the existing open space. It has not been possible to undertake a full analysis of all open space parcels throughout the City of Ballarat, but rather a snapshot of each precinct with key opportunities being identified. Further open space analysis, mapping and master planning will provide more detailed action plans in the future.

The analysis of the level of existing open space provision for each precinct has been undertaken based on the criteria which is:

- Population and demographic trends
- Quantity of open space
- Size of open space
- Quality of open space
- Community recreation needs
- Amenity and values
- Distribution of open space
- Environmental considerations

<p>Key</p> <p>✓ = Basic provision (opportunity for significant improvement)</p> <p>✓✓ = Satisfactory provision (opportunity for improvement)</p> <p>✓✓✓ = Excellent Provision (meets or exceeds criteria)</p>
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The following map defines the boundaries for each of the precincts that have been used to assess open space provision.



- 1: Alfredton-Delacombe**
- 2: Ballarat Central**
- 3: Buninyong Rural South**
- 4: Ballarat South**
- 5: Golden Point-Mount Helen**
- 6: Inner North East**
- 7: Miners Rest-Mitchell Park**
- 8: Rural East**
- 9: Rural West**
- 10: Wendouree**

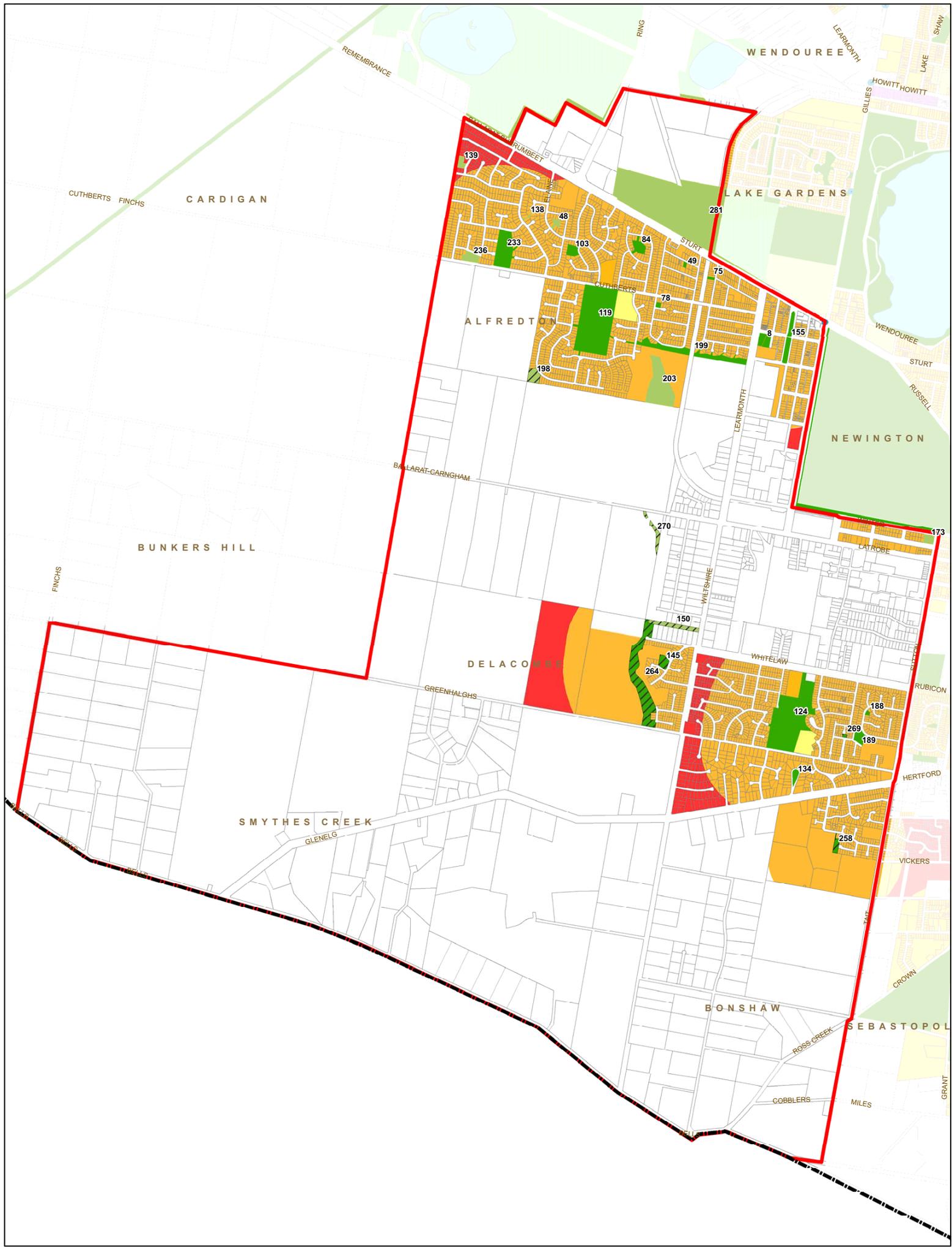
13. Precinct Map

 Lake / Water Body

1:120,000 at A3

0 0.5 1 2 Kilometers





14. Open Space Analysis for Precinct 1: Alfredton / Delacombe

- Recreational Open Space
- Additional Open Space
- Proposed Open Space
- School
- Safe Crossing Point
- Residential areas with access to Recreational Open Space
- Residential areas without access to Recreational Open Space
- Residential areas with access to Recreational Open Space via safe crossing point

- Access to Recreational Open Space is within 500 Metre catchment*
- Non Residential Areas
 - Lake / Water Body



Ballarat Open Space Strategy

1:25,000 at A3 0 120240 480 Metres



ALFREDTON – DELACOMBE (Precinct 1)

The Alfredton - Delacombe precinct is defined as the area bounded by Sturt Street, Ring Road, Gregory Street West and the cattle yards branch railway line in the north, Sturt Street and Gillies Street in the east, Winter Street, Learmonth Street and Ballarat - Carngham Road in the south and Heinz Lane in the west.

A comprehensive list of open space in Alfredton – Delacombe is detailed as follows:

Open Space Inventory (Alfredton - Delacombe)					
ID	Name	Hierarchy	Category	Management Status	Area (Ha)
8	Scout Hall Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.81
48	Elaine Avenue Reserve (formerly Arrandale)	Local	Special Use	Council	0.30
49	Almurta Street Reserve (formerly Balyarta)	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.09
75	Victory Avenue Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.08
78	Hume Crescent Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.13
84	Warwick Park Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.82
103	Horsham Crescent Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.61
119	Alfredton Recreation Reserve	District	Sport	Council / Rec Body	12.87
124	Doug Dean Reserve	District	Sport	Council / Rec Body	11.79
134	Woolway Court	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.35
138	Franklin Court Strip	Other	Linkage (Minor)	Council	0.08
139	Dyson Drive Reserve	Neighbourhood	Water Body/Drainage	Council	0.44
145	Kensington Estate Park (future)	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.60
150	Kensington Estate Buffer Reserve (future)	Other	Special Use	Council	1.16
155	Vale Street Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	1.19
173	Winter Street Park	Other	Special Use	Council	0.47
188	Leawarra Crescent Park	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.09
189	Leawarra Crescent Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.71

Open Space Inventory (Alfredton - Delacombe)					
ID	Name	Hierarchy	Category	Management Status	Area (Ha)
198	Lawrie Drive Reserve (future)	Local	Water Body/Drainage	Council	0.89
199	Lawrie Linear Reserve	Neighbourhood	Linkage (Major)	Council	3.09
203	Wensleydale Drive Reserve	Other	Water Body/Drainage	Council	5.12
233	Cuthberts Road Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	3.34
236	Argyle Crescent Reserve	Other	Water Body/Drainage	Council	0.80
258	Menzies Court Reserve (future)	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.41
264	Winter Creek Reserve (future)	District	Recreation Parkland	Developer	5.94
269	Manna Boulevard Park (future)	Local	Recreation Parkland	Developer	0.08
270	Carngham Road Linear Reserve (future)	Local	Linkage (Minor)	Developer	0.68
281	Ballarat Golf Course	Other	Special Use	Private	54.20

The totals of the various categories of open space in this precinct are:

Category Type Analysis (Alfredton - Delacombe)			
Category	Area (ha)	% of total OS in precinct	% of total in Ballarat
Recreation Parkland	15.27	14.2	0.3
Formal Parkland	-	-	-
Conservation Parkland	-	-	-
Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)	-	-	-
Linkage (Major)	3.09	2.9	0.05
Linkage (Minor)	0.76	0.7	0.01
Sport	24.67	23.0	0.4
Special Use	56.13	52.4	0.9
Streetscape / Landscape Amenity	-	-	-
Urban Space	-	-	-
Water Body / Drainage	7.26	6.8	0.1
TOTAL	107.18 ha	100%	1.76%

% figures have been rounded down or up to the nearest decimal point.

The analysis of open space for the Alfredton-Delacombe precinct is:

Population		↑
2007 (Projected)		
Resident		10,382
Young – 0-17 years	29.03%	3,014
Ageing - 70 years and greater	6.75%	701
2021 (Projected)		
Resident		17,502
Projected Young – 0-17 years	25.05%	4,386
Projected Ageing - 70 years and greater	9.05%	1,584

(Source: Based on City of Ballarat ID Forecasting)

Quantity <i>(Proposed Provision Ratio for this precinct - 4 ha per 1,000)</i>	✓✓
All open space	107.18 ha
Recreation open space	43.03 ha
Recreation open space per 1,000 resident population - 2007	4.14 ha
Recreation open space per 1,000 resident population – 2021 based on current OS Provision	2.46 ha
<p>The current provision of open space in this precinct suggests there is currently sufficient quantity with just over four hectares per 1000 population. However it is projected that with future population increasing to over 17,000, open space provision will need to be increased as residential development occurs to ensure an adequate provision of open space. This is reinforced through the outcomes of the Ballarat West Structure Plan.</p>	

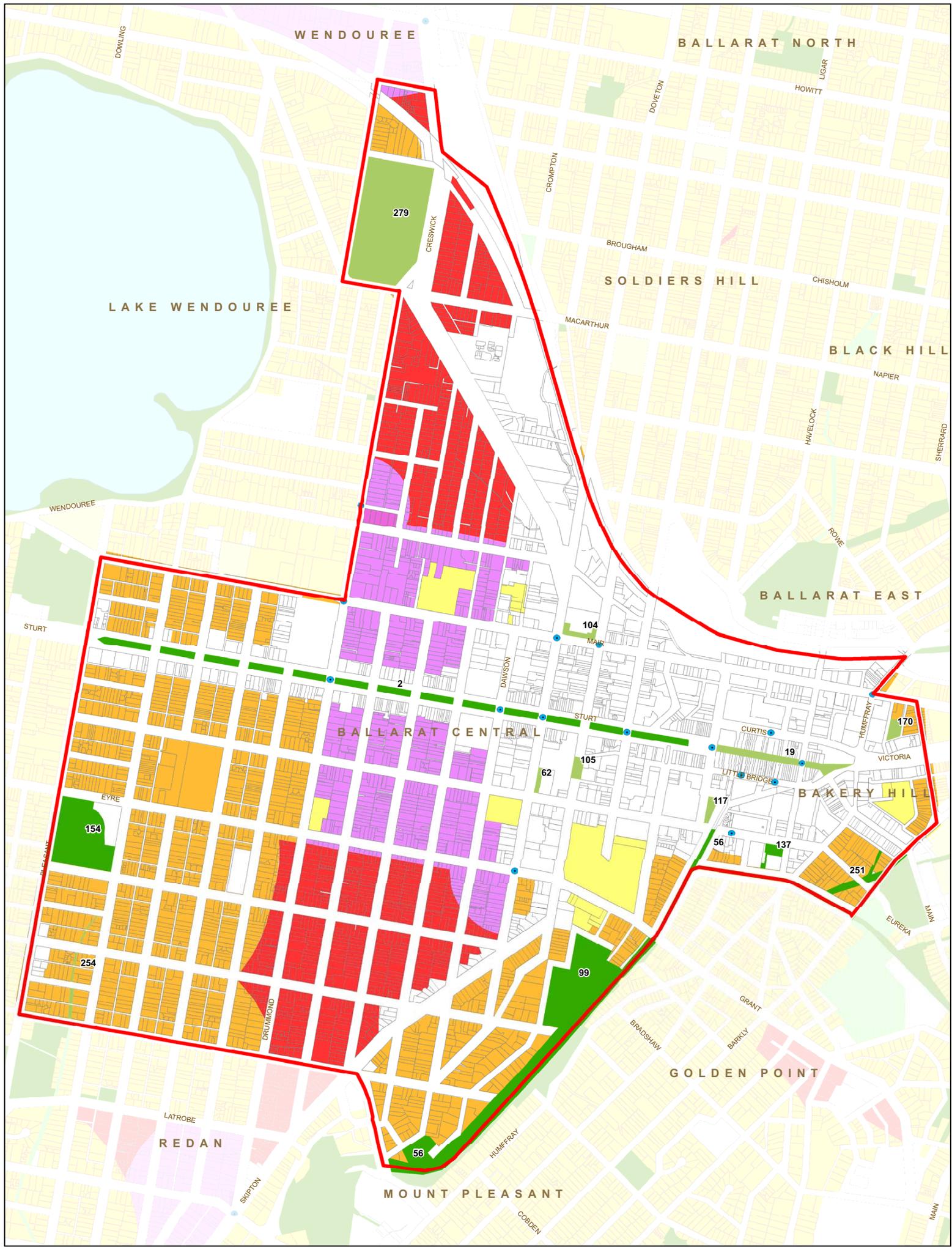
Size	✓✓
<p>Many of the parks in Alfredton – Delacombe are of an adequate size however, there are some 'local' parks within this precinct which are smaller than 0.1 ha (slightly under the typical size of 0.1 ha for a local park). These parks may provide some benefit for the local community (for example Almurta Street Reserve, Victory Avenue Reserve, Hume Crescent Reserve and Manna Boulevard Park), but are of an inadequate size to provide a range of opportunities.</p>	

Quality	✓
<p>Generally the quality of open space is poor and underdeveloped when parks are compared to development standards. There is a particular need to place an emphasis on planting and shade provision because the sites selected for parks are very open and largely flat open spaces.</p> <p>As new parks are being developed, it is necessary to ensure that developers understand the requirements for sustainable open space development. Designs should address the development standards with importance placed on landscape and infrastructure guidelines.</p> <p>A number of linear open space areas that provide good connectivity within urban areas are being developed as part of more recent developments but need to provide good connectivity within this precinct (north – south) and connecting to open space to the east, particularly in Victoria Park, Lake Wendouree, Botanical Gardens and the new Wendouree railway station to the north and also connecting to the Ballarat Central precinct.</p>	
Community Recreation Needs	✓✓
<p>Sporting and recreational opportunities are well provided through a range of sport, recreation parkland and major linkages at a local, neighbourhood and district level. It is anticipated that as further residential development occurs, there will need to be a balanced provision of the various categories of open space.</p> <p>Sporting reserves should consider shared use and partnerships with proposed community and education facilities.</p>	
Amenity and Values	✓
<p>Victoria Park, which has capacity for increasing its utilisation, is in close proximity to Alfredton and should be explored as a resource to connect to and service this precinct.</p> <p>The development of new open space areas in this precinct should aim to enhance connections to other open space and other destination points (for example shops, health services).</p> <p>Improvements to the quality of open space through appropriate design and development will improve the presentation and amenity of open space. In addition, there is an opportunity through linkages and connections, to define open space values that recognise various historic, cultural and environmental features that exist within the precinct.</p>	
Distribution	✓
<p>Alfredton is reasonably well provided for in open space currently, however there are three small sections to the west and north which do not have adequate access to ‘recreational open space’. Areas shown as deficient are residential zoned areas but as yet are undeveloped. Open space will be part of the future development of each residential subdivision.</p> <p>These areas are on the edge of current residential development. It is expected that as further residential growth occurs, open space will be provided that will address the deficiencies in these areas.</p>	
Environmental Considerations	✓
<p>There is currently very little vegetation in this precinct. Significant planting could be provided along creeks and water bodies to enhance the environmental value along the linear corridors.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to utilise the floodways, creeks and water courses as linear open space to connect the precinct.</p>	

Planning and Development Opportunities

- Master Plans:
 - Prepare a Master Plan for the Winter Creek Reserve which is designated as a district open space linkage.
 - Prepare a Master Plan for the Alfredton Recreation Reserve which is designated as a district sport open space.
 - Review the Doug Dean Reserve Master Plan as part of the Delacombe Renewal Project.
- Linkages:
 - Opportunities to link the precinct to Victoria Park should be identified such as along the former rail corridor.
 - Linear open space areas developed as part of new subdivisions need to provide good connectivity within this precinct to the north and south and to the east in particular to Victoria Park and open space in Wendouree and Ballarat Central.
 - Opportunities should be explored to link the suburbs of Delacombe and Alfredton along the existing Winter Creek Reserve as far north as Lawrie Linear Reserve.
 - The provision of developed pedestrian and cycling routes and linkages should be mandatory in all new residential areas.
 - Winter Creek Reserve provides opportunities for the future to create major linkages through the precinct.
 - Explore the rail corridor for potential north – south linkages.
 - Explore linkages through to Winter Swamp and Flaxmill Swamp and to the north of the precinct.

- Other:
 - Planning of future open space areas for this growth corridor will be critical to ensure a minimum provision of four ha per 1000 population is met. A well-balanced network of open space should be provided including recreation parkland, sporting reserves and strong, well-connected open space linkages.
 - Provision of open space in this precinct should be achieved as part of new open space through developer contributions and improving access to Victoria Park to maximise use of existing regional parkland.
 - Review small local parks like Almurta Street Reserve (formerly Balyarta), Victory Avenue Reserve, Hume Crescent Reserve and Manna Boulevard Park to consider how rationalisation of local parks to create larger neighbourhood parks might provide increased benefit to the community and the open space system.
 - Maximise the opportunities for open space development at Alfredton Recreation Reserve where land has been set aside adjacent to the reserve to allow for a second sports field.



15. Open Space Analysis for Precinct 2: Ballarat Central

- Recreational Open Space
- Additional Open Space
- Proposed Open Space
- School
- Safe Crossing Point
- Residential areas with access to Recreational Open Space
- Residential areas without access to Recreational Open Space
- Residential areas with access to Recreational Open Space via safe crossing point

- Access to Recreational Open Space is within 500 Metre catchment
- Non Residential Areas
 - Lake / Water Body



Ballarat Open Space Strategy

1:10,000 at A3

0 125 250 500 Metres

N

BALLARAT CENTRAL (Precinct 2)

The Ballarat Central is defined as the area bounded by Lexton Street, Gregory Street, Creswick Street and the Ararat/Maryborough railway line in the north, Humffray Street, Mair Street, East Street and Barkly Street South in the east, a creek that runs parallel to Steinfeld Street and Anderson Street, Hill Street and Sebastopol Street in the south and Pleasant Street South in the west.

A comprehensive list of open space in Ballarat Central is detailed as follows:

Open Space Inventory (Ballarat Central)					
ID	NAME	Hierarchy	Category	Management Status	Area (Ha)
2	Sturt Street Gardens	Regional	Streetscape / Landscape Amenity	Council	2.87
19	Bridge Mall	Other	Urban Space	Council	0.79
56	Yarrowee River Reserve	Regional	Linkage (Major)	Council	4.08
62	Multi Storey Carpark Reserve	Local	Urban Space	Council	0.10
99	White Flat	Neighbourhood	Sport	Council	3.02
104	Civic Hall Surrounds (Ballarat Skatepark)	Neighbourhood	Urban Space	Council	0.21
105	Phoenix Mall	Other	Urban Space	Council	0.20
117	Civic Park (Police & Law Courts)	Local	Urban Space	Council	0.17
137	Albert H Graham Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.20
154	Western Oval	District	Sport	Council / Rec Body	3.05
170	Lakeland Square	Local	Urban Space	Council	0.21
250	Canadian Creek Reserve	Regional	Linkage (Major)	Council	0.25
251	Specimen Vale Creek Reserve	Neighbourhood	Linkage (Major)	Council	0.34
279	Old Ballarat Cemetery	Other	Special Use	Private	7.30

The totals of the various categories of open space in this precinct are:

Category Type Analysis (Ballarat Central)			
Category	Area (ha)	% of total OS in precinct	% of total in Ballarat
Recreation Parkland	0.20	0.9	0.003
Formal Parkland	-	-	-
Conservation Parkland	-	-	-
Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)	-	-	-
Linkage (Major)	4.67	20.4	0.07
Linkage (Minor)	-	-	-
Sport	6.07	26.6	0.1
Special Use	7.30	32.0	0.1
Streetscape / Landscape Amenity	2.87	12.6	0.04
Urban Space	1.69	7.4	0.02
Water Body / Drainage	-	-	-
TOTAL	22.8	100%	0.3%

% figures have been rounded down or up to the nearest decimal point.

The analysis of open space for the Ballarat Central precinct is:

Population		=
2007 (Projected)		
Resident		6,482
Young – 0-17 years	20.11%	1,304
Ageing - 70 years and greater	7.83%	508
2021 (Projected)		
Resident		6,817
Projected Young – 0-17 years	16.54%	1,128
Projected Ageing - 70 years and greater	10.72%	731

(Source: Based on City of Ballarat ID Forecasting)

Quantity	✓
<i>(Proposed Provision Ratio for this precinct - 4 ha per 1,000)</i>	
All open space	22.8 ha
Recreation open space	13.8 ha
Recreation open space per 1,000 resident population - 2007	2.13 ha
Recreation open space per 1,000 resident population – 2021 based on current OS Provision	2.02 ha

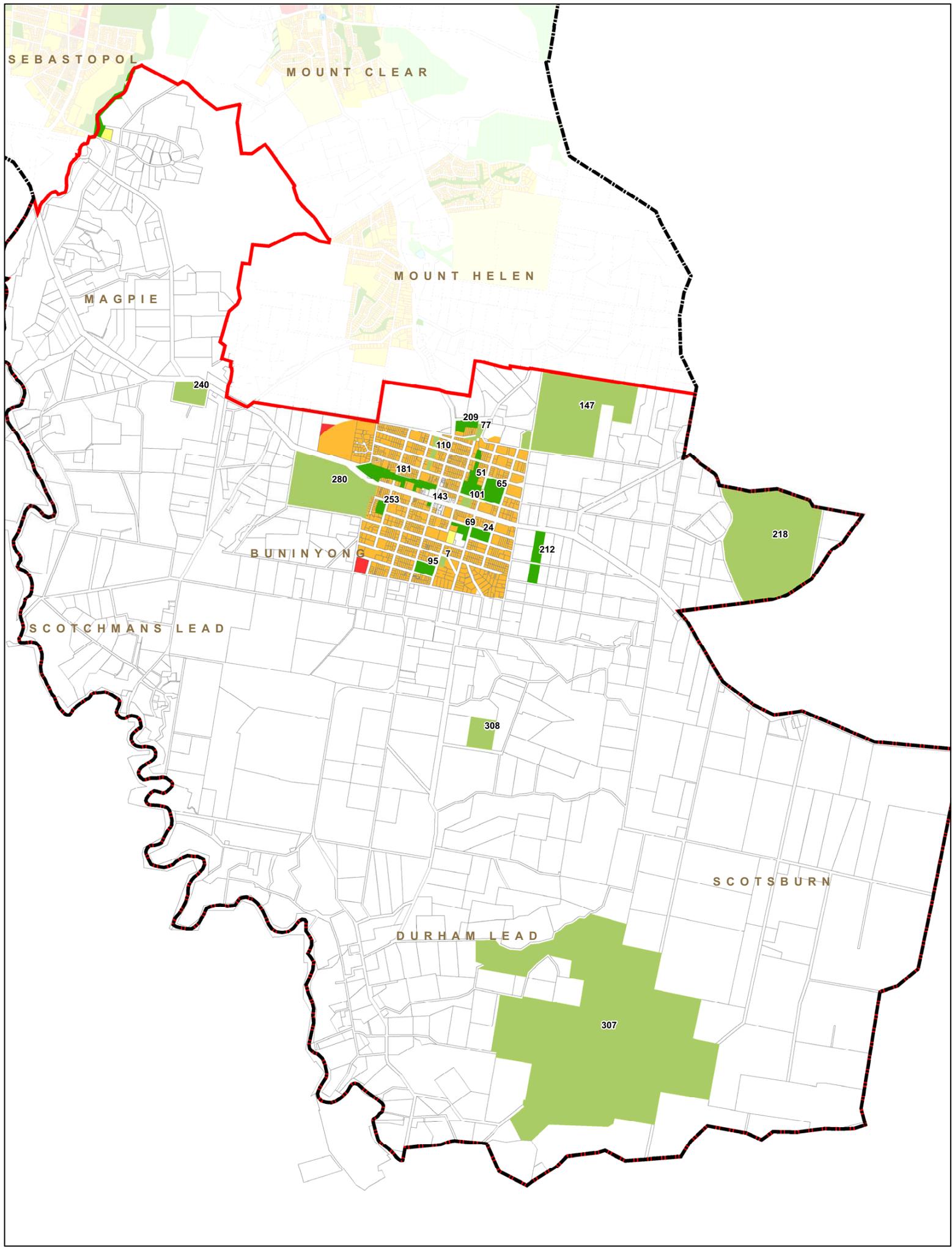
The current and future projected provision of open space in this precinct falls short of the target of four hectares per thousand people. Even though residents living in this precinct often seek an urbanised lifestyle with higher density living than in other suburban areas, there is a need for places to socialise, take children to play, walk and relax. The deficiency of recreation parkland is reinforced by the assessment of the other criteria for this precinct.

Size	✓
<p>The size of open space will vary, however there are some larger sporting reserves servicing the neighbourhood and district level. There is also the formal streetscape of Sturt Street and major linear parks. There are limited neighbourhood open space parks within this precinct.</p>	
Quality	✓✓
<p>The open space areas that exist within the central city are well-developed and maintained. However because there are few open space opportunities for residents and visitors in this precinct, the quality of open space provision is poor.</p>	
Community Recreation Needs	✓✓
<p>The recreational opportunities within this precinct are provided with sport, recreation, linkages and formal parkland. Generally a range of recreation needs of the community from this precinct are serviced by the nearby Lake Wendouree and City Oval (outside the precinct).</p> <p>There is a deficiency in recreation parkland open space within the precinct and this limits the range of recreation opportunities that are required for local communities – e.g.: meet friends in the park, take children to play somewhere small and local, etc.</p> <p>There are also urban malls and streetscapes that provide some opportunities for the community within this precinct.</p>	
Amenity and Values	✓
<p>There is a need to significantly enhance the amenity and open space values of the precinct as open space provision is improved. Environmental values can be created through development of appropriate landscapes and cultural/heritage values can be identified from central Ballarat's rich history.</p>	
Distribution	✓
<p>The Sturt Street Gardens stretches from east to west orientation and separates this precinct into a northern and southern section. There is a large central portion of the area, from Drummond Street to Dawson Street and stretching from the northern to the southern boundaries, which lacks adequate access to open space.</p> <p>The northern section has very little recreation open space, however is in close proximity to Lake Wendouree.</p> <p>The southern section is in close proximity to White Flat and Yarrowee River Reserve but separated by a major road.</p>	

Environmental Considerations	✓
<p>The Yarrowee River Reserve is an important major linkage and environmental corridor connecting to the Ballarat South precinct.</p> <p>There are opportunities to create improved biodiversity and habitat outcomes through further enhancement of the Yarrowee River corridor.</p> <p>The lack of capacity to irrigate parklands (eg Sturt Street Gardens, Civic Park) and lack of natural rainfall is having a significant impact upon the presentation of open space, and the decline of established trees in the CBD area.</p>	

Planning and Development Opportunities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Master Plans:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Prepare a Master Plan for the Western Oval which is designated as a district sport open space.◦ Implement the Management Plan for the Sturt Street Gardens which is designated as a regional streetscape open space.◦ Maintain Bridge Mall in its current condition now that the Master Plan is implemented.◦ Continue to implement the Master Plan for the Yarrowee River Reserve which is designated as a regional open space linkage.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Linkages:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Consider opportunities such as safe road crossings and shared paths for improving pedestrian or cycle access to open space areas in adjacent precincts such as Lake Wendouree, White Flat and Yarrowee River Reserve, particularly connecting to the Yarrowee River north and south of the precinct.	

- Other:
 - Seek opportunities to enhance the Sturt St Reserve to allow for social interaction and meeting places that are provided in accordance with the cultural significance of the site.
 - Seek opportunities to create recreation parkland in areas of the precinct that are identified as deficient. This can be provided through options such as partnerships, changing the nature of use of land (e.g. redevelopment of land adjacent to the Old Cemetery) and enhancement of adjoining open space to the precinct (e.g. extension of the foreshores of Lake Wendouree for increased passive use/capacity).
 - Opportunities for community access to school open space should be pursued as a way to increase the amount of recreation open space.
 - Recognise the role and collective value of small urban open spaces (e.g. Civic Hall surrounds, Alfred Deakin Place, Phoenix Mall, Civic Park, and University of Ballarat campus and seek opportunities to provide additional urban spaces or improve the quality of existing urban spaces as part of future planning and development within the CBD and precinct (e.g. particularly where deficiencies in open space are identified).



16. Open Space Analysis for Precinct 3: Buninyong Rural South

- Recreational Open Space
- Additional Open Space
- Proposed Open Space
- School
- Safe Crossing Point
- Residential areas with access to Recreational Open Space
- Residential areas without access to Recreational Open Space
- Residential areas with access to Recreational Open Space via safe crossing point

- Access to Recreational Open Space is within 500 Metre catchment*
- Non Residential Areas
 - Lake / Water Body



1:35,000 at A3

0 480 Metres



BUNINYONG-RURAL SOUTH (Precinct 3)

The Buninyong - Rural South precinct is defined as the area bounded by the Yarrowee River, a line running parallel to Ballarat-Buninyong Road, Hitchcock Road, a line running east-west to the north of Elizabeth Street and Wirreanda Drive in the north, the municipal boundary of the Shire of Moorabool in the east and south-east and the municipal boundary of the Shire of Golden Plains in the south-west and west.

A comprehensive list of open space in Buninyong Rural South is detailed as follows:

Open Space Inventory (Buninyong Rural South)					
ID	NAME	Hierarchy	Category	Management Status	Area (Ha)
7	Colemans Spring	Local	Water Body/Drainage	Council	0.58
24	The Gong (Buninyong Botanic Gardens)	District	Recreation Parkland	Council	2.03
51	Buninyong Recreation Park	District	Sport	Council / Rec Body	4.95
56	Yarrowee River Reserve	Regional	Linkage (Major)	Council	2.37
65	Buninyong Community Facility	District	Sport	Council / Rec Body	4.79
69	Buninyong Botanic Gardens	Regional	Formal Parkland	Council	1.64
77	Cliff Kennett Park	Other	Streetscape/Landscape Amenity	Council	1.30
95	Royal Park	District	Recreation Parkland	Council / Rec Body	2.21
101	Buninyong Pool Reserve	Other	Special Use	Council / Tenants	1.02
110	Buninyong Creek Reserve	Local	Water Body/Drainage	DSE	1.50
143	Buninyong RSL Memorial Park	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council / Tenants	0.20
147	Union Jack Reserve	Regional	Conservation Bushland*	Council	70.08
181	De Soza Park (Tannery Flat)	District	Recreation Parkland	Council	7.55
209	James Reserve	Neighbourhood	Conservation Parkland	Council	2.24
212	Mt Innes - (Birdwood Park & Hasties Springs)	District	Recreation Parkland	Council / DSE	5.42
218	Mt Buninyong	Regional	Conservation Bushland*	Council / Advisory	99.18
240	Buninyong Cemetery	Other	Special Use	Delegated C of M	7.36
253	Cathcart Street Reserve	Other	Conservation Bushland*	Council	1.26

280	Buninyong Golf Course	Other	Special Use	Private	43.12
307	King Gully Forest	Regional	Conservation Bushland*		363.67
308	DSE - managed by BEN	Neighbourhood	Conservation Bushland*		8.76

(*) = Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)

The totals of the various categories of open space in this precinct are:

Category Type Analysis (Buninyong Rural South)			
Category	Area (ha)	% of total OS in precinct	% of total in Ballarat
Recreation Parkland	17.40	2.8	0.3
Formal Parkland	1.64	0.3	0.03
Conservation Parkland	2.24	0.4	0.04
Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)	542.94	86.0	8.9
Linkage (Major)	2.37	0.4	0.04
Linkage (Minor)	-	-	-
Sport	9.74	1.5	0.2
Special Use	51.51	8.2	0.8
Streetscape / Landscape Amenity	1.30	0.2	0.02
Urban Space	-	-	-
Water Body / Drainage	2.09	0.3	0.03
TOTAL	631.23	100%	10.36%

% figures have been rounded down or up to the nearest decimal point.

The analysis of open space for the Buninyong Rural South precinct is:

Population		=
2007 (Projected)		
Resident		3,677
Young – 0-17 years	26.89%	989
Ageing - 70 years and greater	7.04%	259
2021 (Projected)		
Resident		4,152
Projected Young – 0-17 years	22.56%	937
Projected Ageing - 70 years and greater	10.59%	440

(Source: Based on City of Ballarat ID Forecasting)

Quantity <i>(Proposed Provision Ratio for this precinct – 2- 4 ha per 1,000)</i>	✓✓✓
All open space	631.23 ha
Recreation open space	34.66 ha
Recreation open space per 1,000 resident population - 2007	9.43ha
Recreation open space per 1,000 resident population – 2021 based on current OS Provision	8.35 ha
The quantity of open space within this precinct well exceeds the recommended ratio.	

Size	✓✓✓
There is a good mix of different size parks ranging from small local parks through to large regional bushland parks within this precinct.	

Quality	✓✓
The open space is well maintained with satisfactory infrastructure. Master plan development and implementation will improve the quality of open space further in accordance with development standards and agreed actions. Further partnership discussions with DSE and Parks Victoria may result in improved consistency of maintenance and management practices for open space in this precinct.	

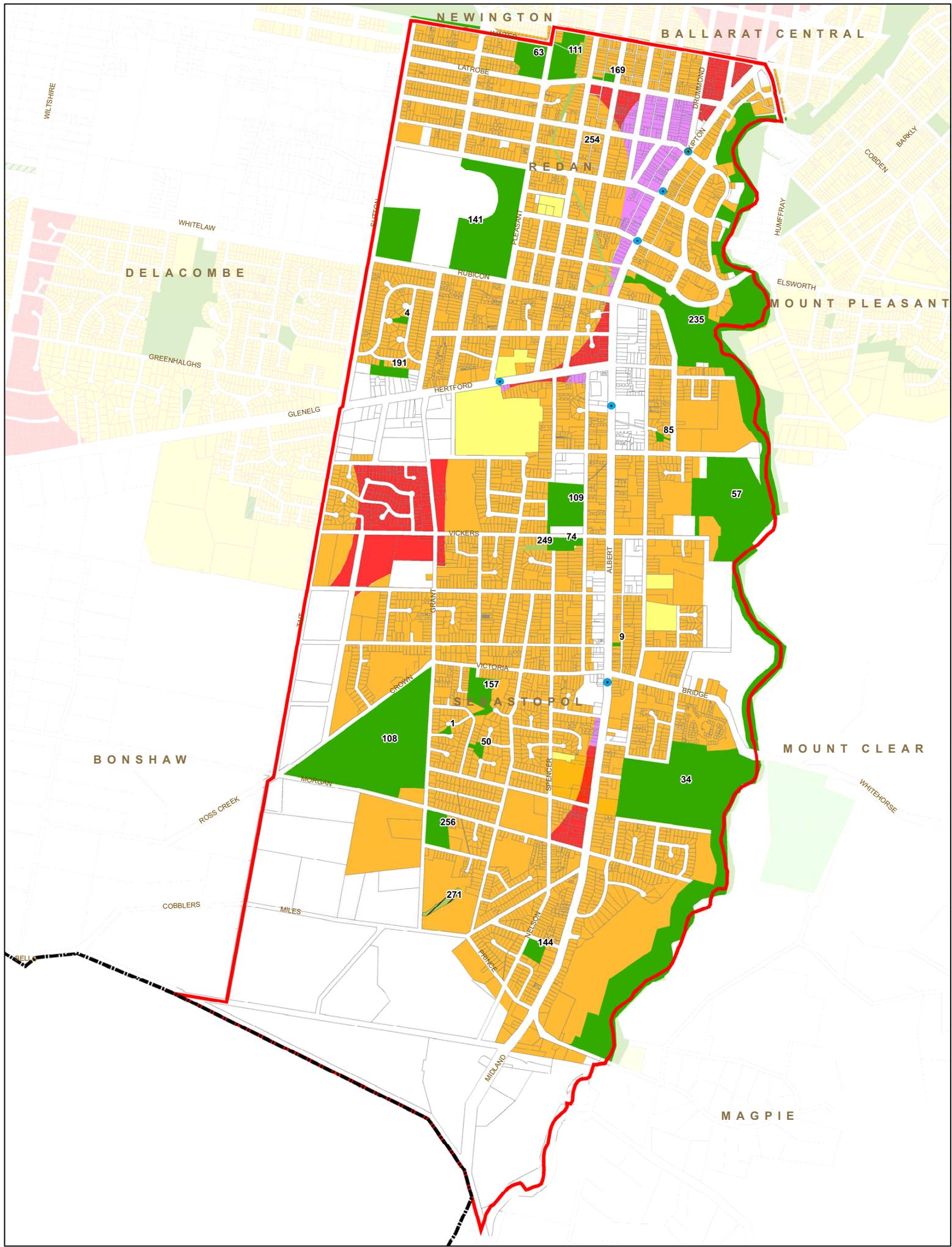
Community Recreation Needs	✓✓
The recreation opportunities within this precinct are provided with sport, recreation parkland, conservation and formal parkland. Linkages to Ballarat could be enhanced to increase walking / cycling opportunities further.	

Amenity and Values	✓✓
There is a balanced provision of open space types and amenity throughout the precinct. Preservation of environmental and heritage values remains a priority into the future.	

Distribution	✓✓
There are some residents that fall outside 500 metres of accessible open space particularly to the west of the residential development. Because there are larger allotments within this precinct where private open space is well provided, there may be less demand for nearby public open space. This is certainly true in the rural areas of this precinct where access to public open space in the Buninyong township is important to provide for the needs of the whole precinct.	

Environmental Considerations	✓✓
<p>Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland) needs are well serviced by open space areas that include the nearby Mt. Buninyong Reserve and Union Jack Reserve.</p> <p>There are sections of remnant vegetation and/or bushland within this precinct that should be the focus of retention.</p> <p>The Land Conservation Council Report (April 1982) on Crown land use classifies Mt. Buninyong as a scenic reserve.</p>	

Planning and Development Opportunities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Master Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Recommend to Parks Victoria that it continue to maintain Union Jack Reserve in accordance with the Conservation Reserve Management Strategy (Parks Victoria; 2003) and encourage the preparation of a site specific Management Plan for the reserve which is designated as a regional Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland) open space. ◦ Review the current Master Plan for De Soza Park. ◦ Prepare a Master Plan for Mt Innes which is designated as a district recreation parkland open space. ◦ Continue with the implementation of the Master Plan for Mt Buninyong which is designated as a regional Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland) open space. ◦ Implement the Master Plan for The Gong (Buninyong Botanic Gardens), which is designated as a district recreation parkland open space. ◦ Prepare a Master Plan for the Buninyong Recreation Park, inclusive of the adjoining Buninyong Community Centre and sports ground which is designated as a district sport open space. ◦ Implement the Master Plan for Buninyong Botanic Gardens which is designated as a regional formal parkland open space. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Linkages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Enhance and develop linkage opportunities to link Buninyong through Mt Helen to the central business district (including townships) consistent with the Canadian Valley Outline Development Plan. ◦ Investigate and consolidate major off road cycle and pedestrian linkages (eg creeks and old railway land) connecting through to existing open space areas (eg Mt Innes, Mt Buninyong, Union Jack Reserve, James Reserve, De Soza Park and Buninyong Recreation Park). 	



17. Open Space Analysis for Precinct 4: Ballarat South

- Recreational Open Space
- Additional Open Space
- Proposed Open Space
- School
- Safe Crossing Point
- Residential areas with access to Recreational Open Space
- Residential areas without access to Recreational Open Space
- Residential areas with access to Recreational Open Space via safe crossing point
- Non Residential Areas
- Lake / Water Body

Access to Recreational Open Space is within 500 Metre catchment



Ballarat Open Space Strategy

1:16,000 at A3 0 125 250 500 Metres



Map 17 – Map for Precinct 4: Ballarat South

BALLARAT SOUTH (Precinct 4) (includes Redan and Sebastopol)

The Ballarat South precinct includes Redan and Sebastopol and is defined as the area bounded by Winter Street East, Pleasant Street, Sebastopol Street and Hill Street in the north, the Yarrowee River in the east, Rubicon Street in the south and Sutton Street in the west.

A comprehensive list of open space in Ballarat South is detailed as follows:

Open Space Inventory (Ballarat South)					
ID	Name	Hierarchy	Category	Management Status	Area (Ha)
1	Teague Court Place	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.13
4	Tyar Court Park	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.20
9	N F Donald Park (Neville Donald Park)	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.08
34	Marty Busch Reserve	District	Sport	Council / Rec Body	18.37
50	Bedgegood Court Park	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.33
56	Yarrowee River Reserve	Regional	Linkage (Major)	Council	34.72
57	Yuille Station Park -Yarrowee River	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council / Advisory	11.76
63	Pleasant Street Reserve	Neighbourhood	Sport	Council / Rec Body	2.21
74	Victory Park	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.99
85	Wills Court Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.16
108	M R Power Park	District	Recreation Parkland	Council	22.07
109	St Georges Reserve	District	Sport	Council / Rec Body	3.71
111	Trekardo Park	District	Sport	Council / Rec Body	2.61
141	Morshead Park	District	Sport	Council	16.22
144	Wall Street Park	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.84
157	Victoria Street Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	1.96
169	Latrobe Street Playground	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.26
191	Lowan Street Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.89
235	Yarrowee-Redan Wetlands	District	Conservation Parkland	Council	7.15
249	Rowland Street Reserve	Other	Special Use	Council	0.31
254	Redan Creek Reserve	Other	Water Body/Drainage	Council	1.42
256	Grant Street Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	1.78
271	Grant Street Linear Reserve (future)	Local	Water Body/Drainage	Developer	0.53

The totals of the various categories of open space in this precinct are:

Category Type Analysis (Ballarat South)			
Category	Area (ha)	% of total OS in precinct	% of total in Ballarat
Recreation Parkland	41.42	32.2	0.7
Formal Parkland	-	-	-
Conservation Parkland	7.15	5.6	0.1
Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)	-	-	-
Linkage (Major)	34.72	27.0	0.6
Linkage (Minor)	-	-	-
Sport	43.12	33.5	0.7
Special Use	0.31	0.2	0.01
Streetscape / Landscape Amenity	-	-	-
Urban Space	-	-	-
Water Body / Drainage	1.95	1.5	0.03
TOTAL	128.67	100%	2.14%

% figures have been rounded down or up to the nearest decimal point.

The analysis of open space for the Ballarat South precinct is:

POPULATION		↑
2007 (Projected)		
Resident		11,585
Young – 0-17 years	22.77%	2,638
Ageing - 70 years and greater	14.53%	1,684
2021 (Projected)		
Resident		13,210
Projected Young – 0-17 years	18.57%	2,454
Projected Ageing - 70 years and greater	18.03%	2,383

(Source: Based on City of Ballarat ID Forecasting)

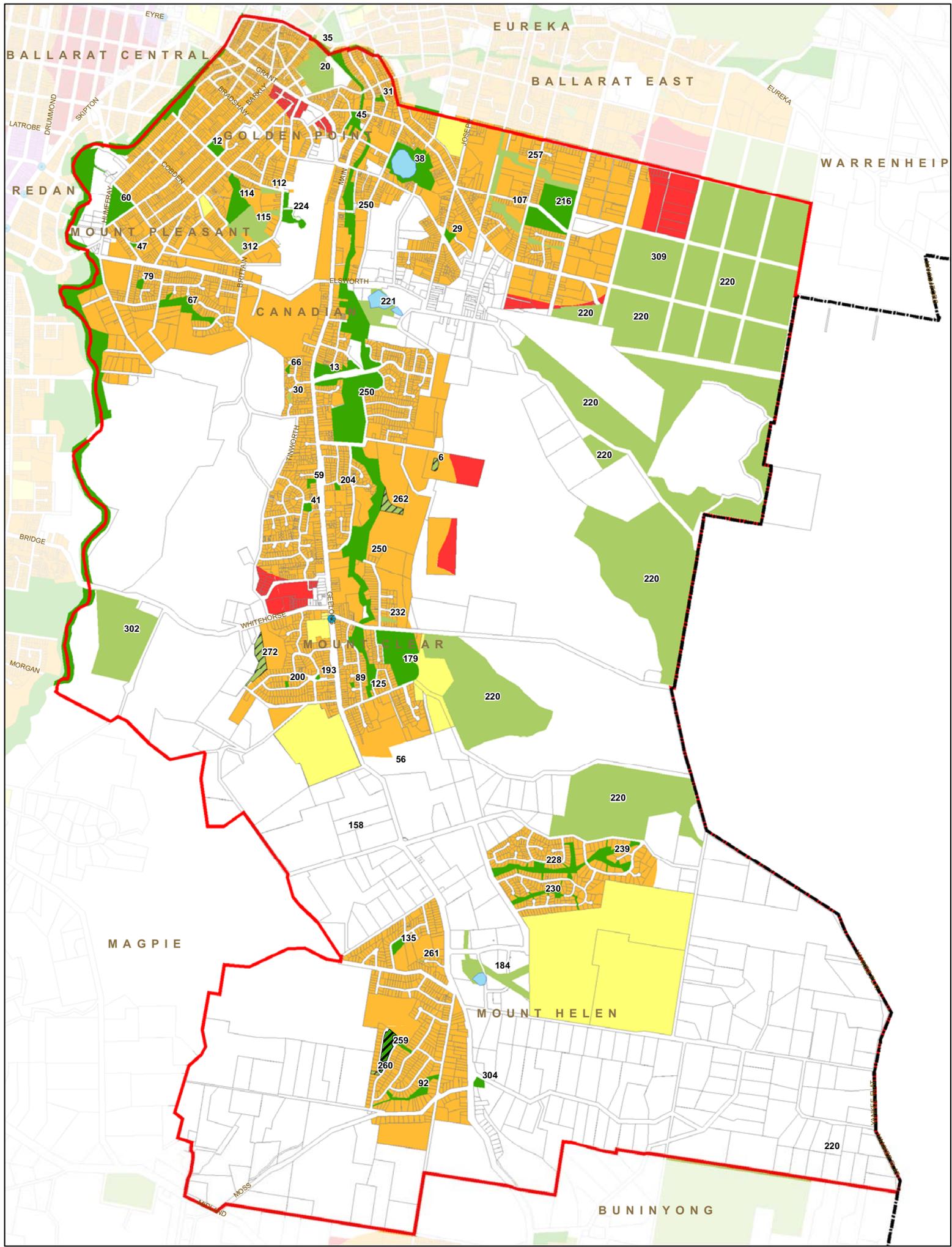
Quantity	✓✓✓
<i>(Proposed Provision Ratio for this precinct is 4 ha per 1,000)</i>	
All open space	128.67 ha
Recreation open space	126.41 ha
Recreation open space per 1,000 resident population – 2007	10.91 ha
Recreation open space per 1,000 resident population – 2021 based on current OS Provision	9.57 ha
The current quantity of open space within this precinct exceeds the recommended ratio and should continue to provide for the future population according to the projected figures.	

Size	✓✓
<p>There are various types of open space in this precinct including recreation parkland, sport and major linkage reserves. The open space reserves vary in size ranging from 0.08 ha (N F Donald Park) through to 22.07 ha (M R Power Park) providing a good spread of open space across the precinct.</p> <p>This precinct has some large and relatively under-utilised pieces of open space (for example parts of Martyr Bush Reserve and Power Park).</p> <p>There are six 'local' parks within the precinct that provide a benefit for the local community even though they are very small parcels. They assist with the overall distribution of open space across the precinct and provide good access for residents. However, overall, there is a need to consider the role of some local parks given the limited opportunities created by such small spaces. The preference for future provision is that parks are developed as neighbourhood open space with a minimum area of 0.5 hectare.</p>	
Quality	✓✓
<p>The presentation of the open space within this precinct is satisfactory. Improvements will be achieved through the implementation of Master Plans in accordance with development standards for open space.</p>	
Community Recreation Needs	✓✓
<p>Sporting and recreational opportunities are provided through a range of sport and recreation parkland at a local, neighbourhood and district level. Gaps in the provision of open space, where neighbourhoods do not achieve the 500 metres walkable distance to open space, have led to community needs not being fully met.</p>	
Amenity and Values	✓✓
<p>There is a good balance of open space areas with a diversity of opportunities and values. There are good connections particularly to the east of the precinct with the Yarrowee River Reserve which extends the majority of the length of the precinct. Further improvements to the open space system in this precinct will improve the amenity and presentation of open space.</p>	
Distribution	✓✓
<p>A number of major roads are barriers to access open space within the precinct, particularly the area to the west of Skipton Street at the north of the Ballarat South precinct. This area is also in close proximity to the Reden Creek which has the potential to connect Trekardo Park to the Yarrowee River Reserve.</p> <p>An area to the north and south of Vickers Street (west of Grant Street) and a small section east of Midland Highway has no access to open space.</p> <p>There is also a small area to the south of this precinct with inadequate access to neighbourhood open space.</p>	

Environmental Considerations	✓✓
<p>There are sections of remnant vegetation and/or bushland within this precinct that should be the focus of retention or enhancement, for example the Yarrowee River Reserve (noting that most of the vegetated parks are not remnant plantings, but planted landscapes).</p>	

Planning and Development Opportunities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Master Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Continue to implement the Master Plan for the Yarrowee River Reserve which is designated as a regional open space linkage. ◦ Prepare a Master Plan for Morshead Park which is designated as a district sport open space. ◦ Maintain Yarrowee-Redan Wetlands in its current condition now that the Master Plan has been implemented. ◦ Prepare a Master Plan for Marty Busch Reserve which is designated as a district sport open space. ◦ Prepare a Master Plan for M R Power Park which is designated as a district recreation parkland open space. ◦ Prepare a Master Plan for St Georges Reserve which is designated as a district sport open space. ◦ Prepare a Master Plan for Trekardo Park which is designated as a district sport open space. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Linkages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Open space along the western boundary of this precinct will provide future major linkages for residential developments in the Alfredton / Delacombe precinct particularly providing connections through to the Yarrowee River corridor. ◦ There are opportunities to provide minor off-road linkages connecting Trekardo Park through to the Yarrowee River via the Redan Creek Reserve. 	

- Other:
 - Consider opportunities to establish partnerships with local schools to improve access to those areas that currently have inadequate access to recreation open space.
 - Provision of a safe crossing point on the Midland Highway near Latrobe Street and Hertford Street may improve access to open space in the north of this precinct.
 - Consider the role of Teague Court Place, Bedgegood Court Park, Tyar Court Park and Wills Court Reserve in the overall provision of open space across the precinct and the municipality.
 - Council is exploring the opportunity to develop a major sports precinct for the south of Ballarat at Marty Busch Reserve given the proximity to the southern treatment plant for recycled water and relatively underutilised adjoining open spaces.
 - Consider opportunities to provide open space in the vicinity of Vickers Street and Tait Street or to provide safe crossing points to access new open space in new growth areas to the west of the precinct (e.g. west of Tait Street).



18. Open Space Analysis for Precinct 5: Golden Point / Mount Helen

- Recreational Open Space
- Additional Open Space
- Proposed Open Space
- School
- Residential areas with access to Recreational Open Space
- Residential areas without access to Recreational Open Space
- Residential areas with access to Recreational Open Space via safe crossing point
- Safe Crossing Point

- Access to Recreational Open Space is within 500 Metre catchment*
- Non Residential Areas
- Lake / Water Body



GOLDEN POINT to MOUNT HELEN (Precinct 5)

The Golden Point to Mount Helen precinct includes Golden Point, Mount Pleasant, Canadian, Mount Clear and Mount Helen. It is bounded by a line running parallel along Anderson Street East, Steinfeld Street South, Callow Street, Larter Street and Wilson Street in the north, a line running north-south east of Boundary Road in the east, a line running east-west continuous along Hocking Avenue, Canadian Gully Court, Ballarat-Buninyong Road, Brittain Street and a line running east-west south of Green Drive in the south and the Yarrowee River in the west.

A comprehensive list of open space in Golden Point – Mount Helen is detailed as follows:

Open Space Inventory (Golden Point – Mount Helen)					
ID	Name	Hierarchy	Category	Management Status	Area (Ha)
6	Sailors Gully Neighbourhood Park (future)	Neighbourhood	Special Use	Developer	0.34
12	Pearces Park	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.72
13	Canadian Gully Reserve (Canadian Creek)	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	1.78
20	Llanberris Athletics Reserve	Regional	Special Use	Council / Rec Body	4.65
29	Alex Mills Park	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.38
30	Anderson Court Reserve	Other	Linkage (Minor)	Council	0.10
31	Apex Park	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.22
35	Llanberris Netball Centre Reserve	Other	Special Use	Council / Rec Body	1.62
38	Lake Esmond	District	Recreation Parkland	Council	7.10
41	Glenvale Road Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.31
45	Poverty Point (Canadian Creek)	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.72
47	Tress Street Reserve Pryor/Tress St Res	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.09
56	Yarrowee River Reserve	Regional	Linkage (Major)	Council	21.91
59	Soyuz Court Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.27
60	Mt Pleasant Reserve	Neighbourhood	Sport	Council	2.51
66	Simone Court Park	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.11
67	McManus Drive Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	2.21
79	Kenworthy Place Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.29
89	Pearl Court Park (Bradby Avenue Park)	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.07
92	Eddy Avenue Reserve (Nevett Crescent Reserve)	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	1.41
107	Canadian Springs Linear Reserve	Local	Water Body/Drainage	Council	3.22

112	Gladstone Street Reserve	Local	Streetscape/ Landscape Amenity	Council	0.37
114	Peady Street Reserve	Neighbourhood	Conservation Parkland	Council / Dept of EDU	2.78
115	Magpie Street Reserve	Other	Special Use	Council / Tenants	4.69
125	Olympic Avenue Reserve	Local	Linkage (Major)	Council	0.10
135	Yarana Drive Park	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.55
179	Mt Clear Recreation Reserve (Mt Clear Tech Res)	District	Sport	Council	7.61
184	Technology Park Wetlands	Local	Water Body/Drainage	DEECD	5.26
193	Dallas Avenue Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.06
200	Marina Drive Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.08
204	Semillion Grove Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.15
216	Sparrow Ground Reserve	Neighbourhood	Conservation Parkland	Council	7.66
220	Canadian Forest	Regional	Conservation Bushland*	DSE	318.16
221	Soapy's Dam Reserve	Neighbourhood	Water Body/Drainage	Council	3.96
224	Golden Point Lookout (Sov. Hill Lookout)	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	1.33
228	GreenHill Linear Reserve	Neighbourhood	Conservation Parkland	Council	3.41
230	The Horizon Linear Reserve	Local	Conservation Parkland	Council	1.30
232	Haymes Road Park	Other	Water Body/Drainage	Council	0.27
239	Timbertop Bush Reserve	Neighbourhood	Conservation Parkland	Council	2.35
250	Canadian Creek Reserve	Regional	Linkage (Major)	Council	35.13
257	Pennyweight Gully Reserve	Local	Linkage (Minor)	Council	3.29
259	Sanctuary Bushland Reserve (future)	Neighbourhood	Conservation Parkland	Delegated C of M	1.86
260	Zoe Drive Reserve (future)	Local	Conservation Bushland*	Developer	0.12
261	Eilish Court Linear Reserve	Local	Linkage (Minor)	Council	0.02
262	Sailors Gully Bushland Reserve (future)	Other	Conservation Bushland*	Developer	1.11
272	Whitehorse Road Conservation Reserve (future)	Local	Conservation Bushland*	Developer	1.87
302	Whitehorse Road Landfill		Special Use		19.37
304	Mt Helen Tennis Courts	Neighbourhood	Sport		0.41
309	Pax Hill Scout Camp		Special Use		16.53
312	Ballarat Observatory		Special Use		1.22

(*) = Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)

The totals of the various categories of open space in this precinct are:

Category Type Analysis (Golden Point – Mount Helen)			
Category	Area (ha)	% of total OS in precinct	% of total in Ballarat
Recreation Parkland	17.85	3.6	0.3
Formal Parkland	-	-	-
Conservation Parkland	19.36	3.9	0.3
Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)	321.26	65.4	5.3
Linkage (Major)	57.14	11.6	0.9
Linkage (Minor)	3.41	0.7	0.1
Sport	10.53	2.1	0.2
Special Use	48.41	9.9	0.8
Streetscape / Landscape Amenity	0.37	0.08	0.01
Urban Space	-	-	-
Water Body / Drainage	12.70	2.6	0.2
TOTAL	491.03	100%	8.11%

% figures have been rounded down or up to the nearest decimal point.

The analysis of open space for the Golden Point – Mount Helen precinct is:

Population		↑
2007 (Projected)		
Resident		12,110
Young – 0-17 years	23.44%	2,839
Ageing - 70 years and greater	7.45%	902
2021 (Projected)		
Resident		14,252
Projected Young – 0-17 years	20.05%	2,858
Projected Ageing - 70 years and greater	8.91%	1,271

(Source: Based on City of Ballarat ID Forecasting)

Quantity	✓✓✓
<i>(Proposed Provision Ratio for this precinct - 4 ha per 1,000)</i>	
All open space	491.03 ha
Recreation open space	104.88 ha
Recreation open space per 1,000 resident population - 2007	8.66 ha
Recreation open space per 1,000 resident population – 2021 based on current OS Provision	7.36 ha
The current quantity of open space within this precinct well exceeds the recommended ratio and is expected to continue to be well above targets into the future according to projected population.	

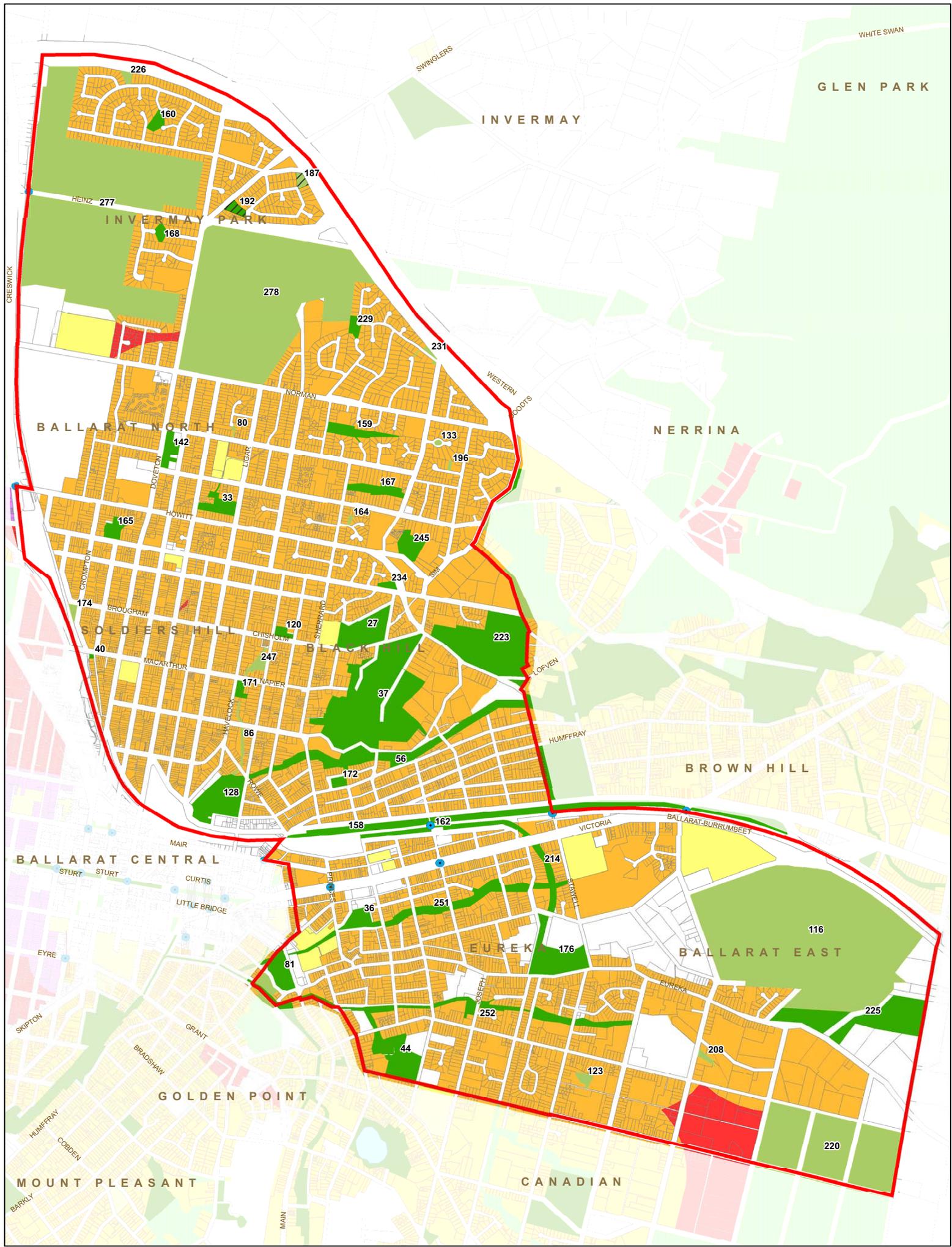
Size	✓✓
There is a good mix of different size parks ranging from small local parks through to large regional bushland parks within this precinct.	
Quality	✓✓
The presentation of open space is very good within this precinct. Implementation of Master Plans in accordance with development standards and agreed actions will improve the quality and presentation of open space further.	
Community Recreation Needs	✓✓
Sporting, recreational and environmental needs are well serviced with the range of function types of open space within this reserve. Gaps in the accessible recreation open space network suggest that for some residents, recreation needs for open space may not be met.	
Amenity and Values	✓✓
Environmental values are very important in this precinct given the significance of the Yarrowee River Reserve. The Canadian Forest also contains significant environmental and habitat values.	
Distribution	✓✓
Open space is generally well distributed throughout the precinct although there are three small pockets within this precinct which are not within 500 metres of accessible open space. Each small pocket has access to either 'additional open space', recreation parkland or linear open space, however is separated by a major road.	
Environmental Considerations	✓✓
<p>The open space in the precinct provides good environmental value particularly with the conservation parkland (e.g. Sparrow Ground, Sanctuary Bushland Reserve), Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland) (e.g. Canadian Forest), and the linear open space (e.g. Canadian Creek).</p> <p>The precinct has significant habitat value particularly for koalas within the eastern region of the municipality which should be protected.</p> <p>There are sections of significant vegetation and/or areas of high conservation and biodiversity value within this precinct that should be protected, enhanced and added to the open space network. These sites provide linkages to existing and proposed recreation open space or they can be effectively managed in accordance with the management model matrix.</p>	

Planning and Development Opportunities

- Master Plans:
 - Implement the LINC'S Plan for the Canadian Creek Reserve which is designated as a regional open space linkage.
 - Continue to implement the Master Plan for the Yarrowee River Reserve which is designated as a regional open space linkage.
 - Implement the Master Plan for Mt Clear Recreation reserve which is designated as a district sport open space.
 - Encourage DSE to continue to maintain Canadian Forest in accordance with the Forest Management Plan – Midlands Forest Management Area (DNRE; 1996) and encourage the preparation of a site specific Management Plan for Canadian Forest which is designated as a regional Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland) open space.
 - Review the Llanberris Athletics Reserve Master Plan in consideration of providing public access.
 - Maintain Lake Esmond in its current condition now that the Master Plan is implemented.

- Linkages:
 - Extend the Canadian Creek reserve and walking trail to provide safe off road linkages between the Canadian Creek, the University of Ballarat (Mt Helen Campus) and the township of Buninyong.
 - Develop walking paths through and connecting open space areas (e.g. Green Hill Linear Reserve, Timbertop Bush Reserve and The Horizon Linear Reserve, and Eddy Avenue Reserve, Sanctuary Bushland Reserve and Zoe Drive Reserve) and between the Yarrowee River and Canadian Creek (perhaps via Whitehorse Road).

- Other:
 - Improve access to the small pockets of residents that do not fall within 500 metres of accessible open space by providing, where feasible; safe crossing points at the major barriers in particular roads, linkages to other recreation open space or future opportunities to acquire land through residential development.
 - Investigate options to make Llanberris Athletics Reserve 'Recreation parkland' by making it accessible to public use.
 - Opportunities to retain and preserve existing bushland and provide further bushland biodiversity through retention of forest areas and application of relevant environmental policies.
 - Enhance the wildlife corridor where possible through management practices (for example additional plantings, vegetation offsets, etc.)



19. Open Space Analysis for Precinct 6: Inner North East

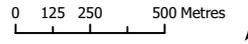
- Recreational Open Space
- Additional Open Space
- Proposed Open Space
- School
- Safe Crossing Point
- Residential areas with access to Recreational Open Space
- Residential areas without access to Recreational Open Space
- Residential areas with access to Recreational Open Space via safe crossing point

- Access to Recreational Open Space is within 500 Metre catchment*
- Non Residential Areas
- Lake / Water Body



Ballarat Open Space Strategy

1:18,000 at A3



INNER NORTH EAST (Precinct 6) (includes Ballarat North-Invermay Park, Soldiers Hill-Black Hill-Nerrina and Ballarat East-Brown Hill)

The Inner North East precinct includes Ballarat North - Invermay Park, Soldiers Hill-Black Hill - Nerrina and Ballarat East - Brown Hill. It is defined as the area bounded by the Western Freeway in the north, Doodts Road, Simpson Street, Boundary Road, Caledonian Place, Blairs Lane and the Western Freeway in the east, Wilson Street, Larter Street and Callow Street in the south and Creswick Road, Barkley Street South, East Street, Mair Street, Humffray Street and the railway line in the west.

A comprehensive list of open space in the Inner North East is detailed as follows:

Open Space Inventory (Inner North East)					
ID	Name	Hierarchy	Category	Mgt_Status	Area (Ha)
27	Binney Reserve (Binney Street Reserve)	Neighbourhood	Sport	Council	3.92
33	Marks Reserve	Neighbourhood	Sport	Council / Rec Body	1.50
36	McKenzie Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council / Dept of EDU	0.82
37	Black Hill Reserve (Black Hill Lookout)	District	Recreation Parkland	Council	20.75
40	Macarthur Street Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.05
44	Pennyweight Park	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	4.14
56	Yarrowee River Reserve	Regional	Linkage (Major)	Council	7.49
80	Kinnane Court	Local	Linkage (Minor)	Council	0.07
81	Len T Fraser Reserve	District	Recreation Parkland	Council	1.86
86	Clissold Street Linear Reserve	Other	Water Body/Drainage	Council	0.47
116	Mt Xavier Golf Course	Other	Special Use	Other	70.55
120	Peel Street Park	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.40
123	Kline Street Retention Basin	Other	Water Body/Drainage	Council	0.46
128	Eastern Oval	Regional	Sport	Council	4.58
133	Woodside Court	Other	Streetscape/ Landscape Amenity	Council	0.08
142	Midlands Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	1.21
159	Bullock Gully	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	1.63
160	Rizal Park	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.68
162	Dytes Parade Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	1.63
164	Fernbank Court Reserve	Other	Special Use	Council	0.09
165	Gregory Street Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.99
167	Inkerman Gully	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	1.37
168	Jack Toohey Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.43
171	Walter Jones Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.45
172	Webb Avenue Park	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.42
174	Crompton Street Reserve	Local	Water Body/Drainage	Council	0.24
176	Eureka Stockade Reserve	Regional	Formal Parkland	Council / Advisory	4.63

187	Harrier Drive Reserve (future)	Local	Special Use	Council	0.38
192	Falcon Drive Reserve (future)	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.51
196	Lakeview Court Park	Local	Streetscape/ Landscape Amenity	Council	0.09
208	Fussell Street Reserve	Local	Conservation Bushland*	Council	0.27
214	Bunny Trail	Neighbourhood	Linkage (Minor)	Council	1.77
220	Canadian Forest	Regional	Conservation Bushland*	DSE	23.04
223	Chisholm Street Reserve (Old Black Hill Tip)	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	12.05
225	Pryor Park	Neighbourhood	Conservation Parkland	Council	9.21
226	Wicklow Drive Reserve	Other	Special Use	Council	0.31
229	Pinewood Court Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.53
231	Pinevale Way Reserves	Local	Conservation Bushland*	Council	0.18
234	Maddern Street Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.29
245	Trigg Station Reserve	Neighbourhood	Conservation Parkland	Council	1.63
247	Peel Street (Drainage Reserve)	Other	Water Body/Drainage	Council	0.67
251	Specimen Vale Creek Reserve	Neighbourhood	Linkage (Major)	Council	5.39
252	Warrenheip Creek Reserve	Neighbourhood	Linkage (Major)	Council	5.05
277	Midlands Golf Course	Other	Special Use	Private	69.12
278	Ballarat Cemetery	Other	Special Use	Private	57.12

(*) = Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)

The totals of the various categories of open space in this precinct are:

Category Type Analysis (Inner North East)			
Category	Area (ha)	% of total OS in precinct	% of total in Ballarat
Recreation Parkland	50.22	17.2	0.8
Formal Parkland	4.63	1.6	0.1
Conservation Parkland	10.84	3.7	0.2
Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)	0.45	0.2	0.01
Linkage (Major)	17.0	5.8	0.3
Linkage (Minor)	0.07	0.02	0.001
Sport	10.01	3.4	0.2
Special Use	197.58	67.5	3.2
Streetscape / Landscape Amenity	0.17	0.1	0.003
Urban Space	-	-	-
Water Body / Drainage	1.84	0.1	0.03
TOTAL	292.81	100%	4.84%

% figures have been rounded down or up to the nearest decimal point.

The analysis of open space for the Inner North East precinct is:

Population		↑
2007 (Projected)		
Resident		19,192
Young – 0-17 years	23.56%	4,523
Ageing - 70 years and greater	11.75%	2,256
2021 (Projected)		
Resident		20,278
Projected Young – 0-17 years	19.80%	4,015
Projected Ageing - 70 years and greater	13.65%	2,768

(Source: Based on City of Ballarat ID Forecasting)

Quantity <i>(Proposed Provision Ratio for this precinct - 4 ha per 1,000)</i>	✓✓✓
All open space	292.81 ha
Recreation open space	100.17 ha
Recreation open space per 1,000 resident population - 2007	5.22 ha
Recreation open space per 1,000 resident population – 2021 based on current OS Provision	4.94 ha
The current quantity of open space within this precinct exceeds the preferred ratio. Based on population projections the open space will meet the proposed provision ratio into 2021.	

Size	✓✓
There is a good mix of different size parks ranging from small local parks through to large regional bushland parks within this precinct. The smaller parks that fit within the definition of 'local' are well distributed but often too small to be developed to a level to offer sufficient opportunities.	

Quality	✓✓
The presentation of open space is generally satisfactory within this precinct. Plans to prepare and implement Master Plans will improve the overall quality of open space.	

Community Recreation Needs	✓✓
A wide range of recreation opportunities exist within the precinct. Sporting, recreation and environmental needs are offered with the range of sport, recreation parkland, conservation, linkages and formal parkland within this precinct. Some gaps will exist in a small number of locations where open space is not within the accessible 500 metres walking distance for residents.	

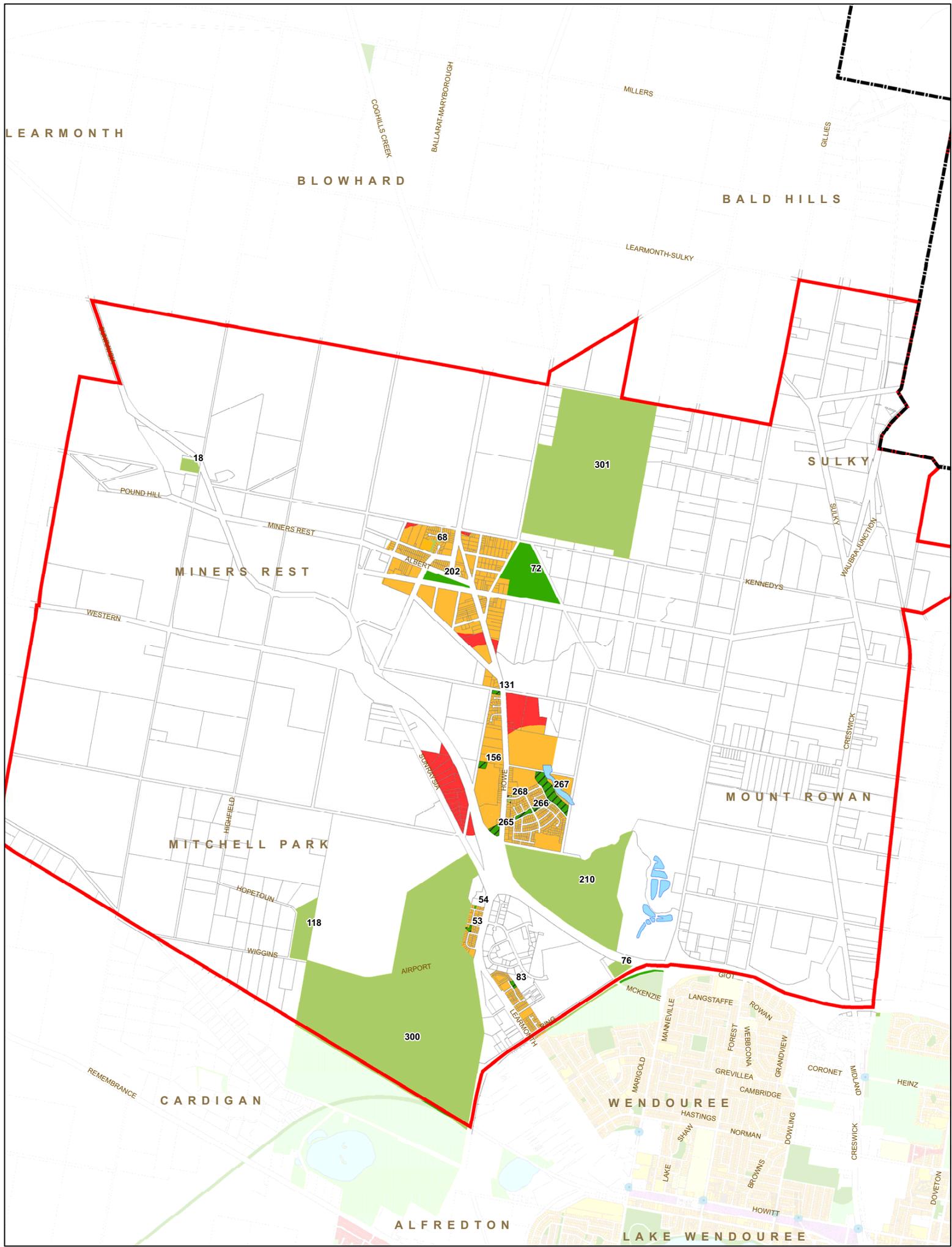
Amenity and Values	✓✓
<p>The open space in this precinct has a reasonable level of amenity and is generally well-connected. There are a range of environmental values, particularly in the forest and waterway corridor areas. There is an opportunity for open space areas such as the golf courses and cemetery to offer more effective environmental and habitat values through planting and landscape.</p>	
Distribution	✓✓
<p>This precinct has a good distribution of open space.</p> <p>There is a small deficiency in the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ northern section of this precinct adjacent to a closed down school ▪ southern section of this precinct which is adjacent to the Canadian Forest. 	
Environmental Considerations	✓✓
<p>This precinct is located adjacent to the Canadian Forest and has within it sections of the Yarrowee River Reserve and the Specimen Vale and Warrenheip Creek Reserves. Consequently, environmental values are high. There are sections of significant vegetation and/or areas of high conservation and biodiversity value within this precinct that should be protected, enhanced and added to the open space network. These sites provide linkages to existing and proposed recreation open space or they can be effectively managed in accordance with the management model matrix. The Inner North East precinct also has significant habitat value particularly for koalas within the eastern region of the municipality and should be protected.</p>	

Planning and Development Opportunities

- **Master Plans:**
 - Continue to implement the Master Plan for the Yarrowee River Reserve which is designated as a regional open space linkage.
 - Encourage DSE to continue to maintain Canadian Forest in accordance with the Forest Management Plan – Midlands Forest Management Area (DNRE; 1996) and encourage the preparation of a site specific Management Plan for Canadian Forest which is designated as a regional Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland) open space.
 - Maintain Eureka Stockade Reserve in its current condition now that the Master Plan is implemented.
 - Implement the Specimen Vale Creek Reserve priorities in accordance with the LINCS Strategy.
 - Implement the Warrenheip Creek Reserve priorities in accordance with the LINCS Strategy.
 - Prepare a Master Plan for the Black Hill Reserve which is designated as a district recreation parkland open space.
 - Maintain Len T Fraser Reserve in its current condition now that the Master Plan is implemented.
 - Review, prepare and implement a Landscape Master Plan for Eastern Oval which is designated as a regional sport open space.

- **Linkages:**
 - Provision in the south eastern section of this precinct (near Canadian Forest) should consider linkages to nearby recreation open space.
 - There are significant linear reserves running east-west through the precinct – continue to provide and extend where practical linear connections to the existing Yarrowee River, Specimen Vale and Warrenheip Creeks and their tributaries.
 - As significant areas of open space are ‘special use’ (e.g. Mt Xavier and Midlands golf courses), explore opportunities for connections for walking and cycling, enhancement of habitat corridors, and integration of passive recreation opportunities into these sites where possible.

- Other:
 - Explore opportunities with the former school site to provide better open space access to the small pocket of residences in the north western section of Invermay Park area bordered by the Western Freeway and the railway line.
 - As there are several Recreation Parkland areas that also function as retention basins (e.g. Bullock Gully and Inkerman Gully), continue to develop these parks with facilities and amenities in accordance with development standards to encourage maximum use for passive recreation.



20. Open Space Analysis for Precinct 7: Miners Rest / Mitchell Park

- Recreational Open Space
- Additional Open Space
- Proposed Open Space
- School
- Safe Crossing Point
- Residential areas with access to Recreational Open Space
- Residential areas without access to Recreational Open Space
- Residential areas with access to Recreational Open Space via safe crossing point

- Access to Recreational Open Space is within 500 Metre catchment
- Non Residential Areas
- Lake / Water Body



MINERS REST – MITCHELL PARK (Precinct 7)

The Miners Rest – Mitchell Park Area is defined as the area bounded by Davenport Road, BATTERY ROAD, ROSS ROAD, Gillies Street and Jubilee Road in the north, Boundary Road, Taronga Road and the Ballarat-Maryborough railway line in the east, Western Freeway, Ring Road and the Ballarat-Ararat railway line in the south and a line running north-south from Draffins Road in the west.

A comprehensive list of open space in Miners Rest – Mitchell Park is detailed below:

Open Space Inventory (Miners Rest – Mitchell Park)					
ID	NAME	Hierarchy	Category	Mgt Status	Area (Ha)
18	Dowling Forest Cemetery	Delegated C of M	Other	Special Use	2.26
53	Caldwell Street Park (future)	Council	Local	Recreation Parkland	0.28
54	Winifred Street Park	Council	Local	Recreation Parkland	0.08
68	James Court Reserve	Council	Other	Linkage (Minor)	0.37
72	Miners Rest Wetland	Council	District	Conservation Parkland	22.50
76	Waldie Park	Council	Other	Special Use	2.30
83	Waltham Drive Reserve (future)	Council	Local	Recreation Parkland	0.31
118	Wiggins Road Reserve	Council	Other	Special Use	11.54
131	Cummins Road Reserve (future)	Council	Local	Recreation Parkland	0.34
156	Sunraysia Heights Neighbourhood Park (future)	Developer	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	0.63
202	Miners Rest Park	Council	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	2.86
210	North Common Wetland	Council	Other	Water Body/ Drainage	88.11
265	Sunraysia Heights Reserve (future)	Developer	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	0.95
266	Macarthur Park - Central Park (future)	Developer	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	1.41
267	Macarthur Park Wetlands (future)	Developer	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	4.81
268	Macarthur Park Entry Reserve (future)	Developer	Other	Streetscape/ Landscape Amenity	0.21
300	Ballarat Common/Airport		Special Use		449.72
301	Dowling Forest Race Course		Special Use		181.01

The totals of the various categories of open space in this precinct are:

Category Type Analysis (Miners Rest – Mitchell Park)			
Category	Area (ha)	% of total OS in precinct	% of total in Ballarat
Recreation Parkland	11.67	1.5	0.2
Formal Parkland	-	-	-
Conservation Parkland	22.50	2.9	0.4
Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)	-	-	-
Linkage (Major)	-	-	-
Linkage (Minor)	0.37	0.1	0.01
Sport	-	-	-
Special Use	646.82	84.0	10.6
Streetscape / Landscape Amenity	0.21	0.03	0.003
Urban Space	-	-	-
Water Body / Drainage	88.11	11.4	1.4
TOTAL	769.68	100%	12.61%

% figures have been rounded down or up to the nearest decimal point.

The analysis of open space for the Miners Rest – Mitchell Park precinct is:

Population		↑
2007 Projected Population		
Resident		2,511
Young – 0-17 years	28.47%	715
Ageing - 70 years and greater	5.89%	148
2021 Projected Population		
Resident		3,759
Projected Young – 0-17 years	25.88%	973
Projected Ageing - 70 years and greater	8.45%	318

(Source: Based on City of Ballarat ID Forecasting)

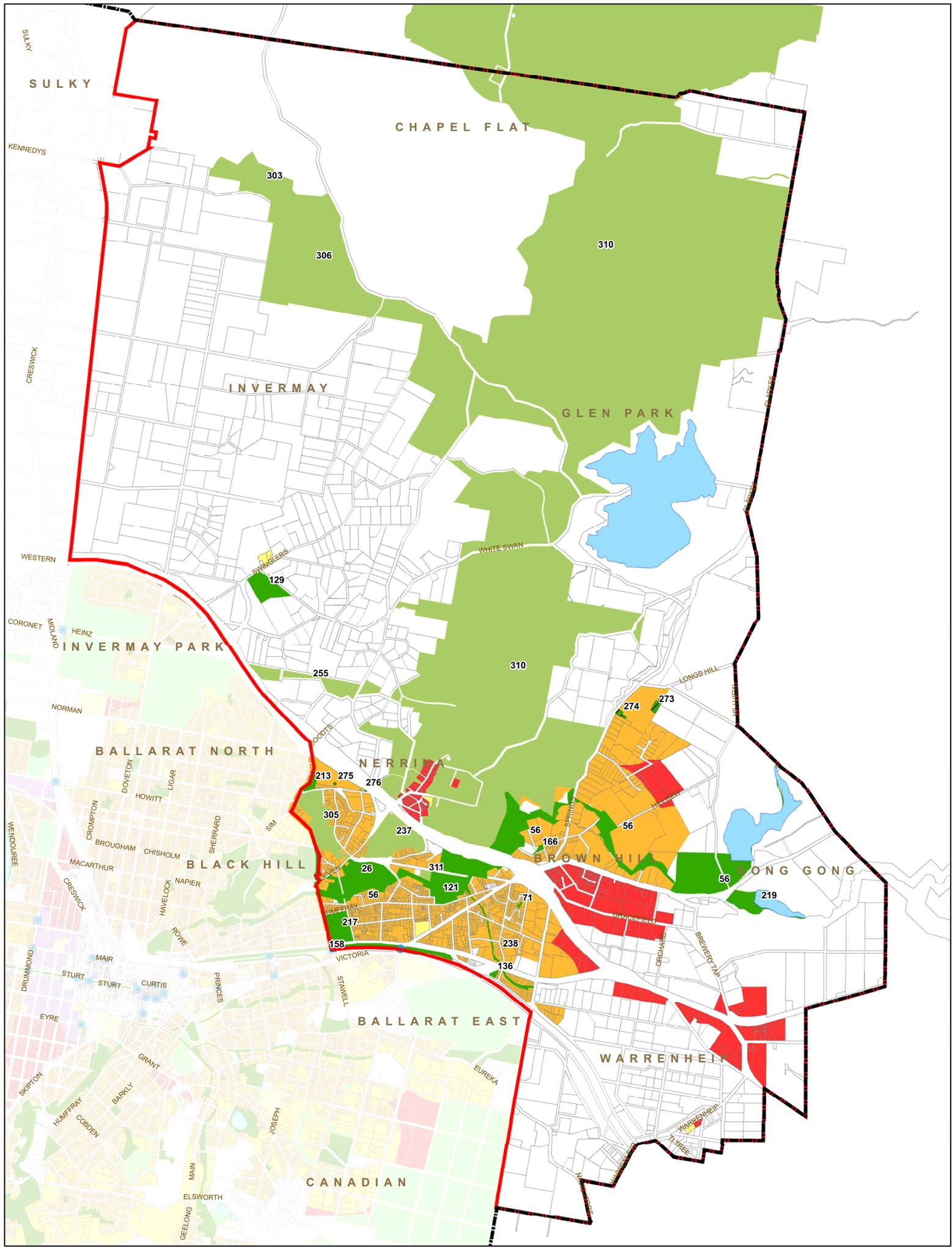
Quantity (Proposed Provision Ratio for this precinct - 4 ha per 1,000)	✓✓
All open space	769.68 ha
Recreation open space	34.17 ha
Recreation open space per 1,000 resident population - 2007	13.61 ha
Recreation open space per 1,000 resident population – 2021 based on current OS Provision	9.09 ha

The current quantity of open space within this precinct well exceeds the recommended ratio. Miners Rest Wetland is a significant parcel of open space, that has been categorised as recreation parkland, but doesn't offer extensive accessibility. Therefore, consideration of additional recreation open space in this precinct will be required to ensure adequate provision is achieved by 2021.

Size	✓✓
<p>There is a good mix of different size parks ranging from small local parks through to large regional bushland parks within this precinct.</p>	
Quality	✓✓
<p>The presentation of open space is satisfactory within this precinct. Implementation of development standards and priorities in Master Plans will increase the quality of open space in the future.</p>	
Community Recreation Needs	✓
<p>There are a number of unmet needs of residents within this precinct that can be addressed through improvements to the open space system.</p> <p>Sporting opportunities for residents of Miners Rest and Mitchell Park are restricted to travelling to Learmonth, Wendouree or other parts of the City of Ballarat. Improved off-road linkages to these areas will provide improved access to regional or district level recreation facilities and recreation parkland.</p>	
Amenity and Values	✓
<p>The existing open space is primarily centralised within the township with limited connections within the precinct or to the Wendouree precinct where other regional recreational opportunities exist. Environmental values are high in the Miners Rest Wetland and further development of open space should consider the importance of environmental, habitat, social and heritage values.</p>	
Distribution	✓
<p>There are pockets of residents on either side of Howe Street that have inadequate access to open space. Some of these pockets do have access to 'additional open space' which may meet the local and district open space requirements.</p> <p>The district and regional open space requirements of Miners Rest residents are currently adequately catered for by Lake Wendouree, Lake Learmonth, Learmonth Recreation Reserve, CE Brown Reserve and Victoria Park, all of which are within a short travelling distance.</p>	
Environmental Considerations	✓
<p>The Burumbeet Creek is a significant environmental open space resource for the local township and highly valued by the community.</p> <p>The Miners Rest wetland contains significant environmental values including recreation opportunities. Future management of the wetlands should consider the protection of these environmental values.</p>	

Planning and Development Opportunities

- **Master Plan:**
 - Prepare a Master Plan for the Miners Rest Wetland which has been designated as a district conservation parkland open space.
- **Linkages:**
 - There are opportunities for improved linkages for walking and cycling to a range of open space and community destinations in Miners Rest, Mitchell Park and Wendouree.
 - Consider linkages through the availability of large reserves and wide road verges (e.g. along Ballarat-Maryborough Road)
 - Seek opportunities to create connections through the Miners Rest township from north to south and connecting to Dowling Forest Racecourse via the old railway line where possible.
- **Other:**
 - The Miners Rest ODP identifies that whilst current provision is satisfactory in terms of broader recreation provision standards, projected population growth at capacity may require additional land for recreation purposes and development, particularly where it can be developed and managed in partnership with the Department of Education.
 - Burumbeet Creek provides an opportunity to establish a linear park and wildlife corridor through the township. Consider acquisition of land as required to provide suitable reserves and protection of the Burumbeet Creek environment.



21. Open Space Analysis for Precinct 8: Rural East

- Recreational Open Space
- Additional Open Space
- Proposed Open Space
- School
- Safe Crossing Point
- Residential areas with access to Recreational Open Space
- Residential areas without access to Recreational Open Space
- Residential areas with access to Recreational Open Space via safe crossing point

- Access to Recreational Open Space is within 500 Metre catchment
- Non Residential Areas
 - Lake / Water Body



RURAL EAST (Precinct 8)

The Rural East precinct is defined as the area bounded by the municipal boundary of the Shire of Hepburn in the north, the municipal boundary of the Shire of Moorabool in the east, Boundary Road, Blairs Lane and the Western Freeway in the south and the Ballarat - Maryborough railway line in the west.

A comprehensive list of open space in Rural East is detailed as follows:

Open Space Inventory (Rural East)					
ID	Name	Hierarchy	Category	Management Status	Area (Ha)
26	Nerrina Wetlands (Yarrowee River)	Neighbourhood	Conservation Parkland	Council / Advisory	13.74
56	Yarrowee River Reserve	Regional	Linkage (Major)	Council	54.94
71	Summit Crescent Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.19
121	Brown Hill Reserve (Progress Park)	District	Sport	Council	3.23
129	Invermay Recreation Reserve	District	Sport	Council / Rec Body	7.51
136	Strickland Parade Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.43
152	The Gong Reservoir	Regional	Recreation Parkland	CHW	32.09
158	Scotts Parade Linear Reserve	Neighbourhood	Linkage (Major)	Council	4.26
166	Hearns Road Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.38
213	Nerrina/Doodts Reserve	Local	Conservation Parkland	Council	1.11
217	Russell Square	District	Sport	Council / Rec Body	7.37
219	Kirks Reservoir	Regional	Recreation Parkland	CHW	11.35
237	Nerrina Reserve	Other	Special Use	Other	17.75
238	Warrenheip Gully Reserve	Neighbourhood	Linkage (Major)	Council	2.13
255	Nerrina Bushland Reserve	Neighbourhood	Conservation Bushland*	DSE	10.95
273	Coorabin Ridge Neighbourhood Park (future)	Neighbourhood	Conservation Parkland		0.80
274	Springs Road Wetlands Reserve (future)	Local	Conservation Parkland	Developer	0.52
275	Local Park (future)	Local	Recreation Parkland		0.07
276	Drainage Reserve (future)	Local	Water Body/Drainage	Developer	0.16
303	Creswick State Forest	State	Conservation Bushland*		29.72
305	Nerrina Gully	District	Conservation Bushland*		16.09
306	Creswick State Forest	State	Conservation Bushland*		101.26
310	Creswick State Forest	State	Conservation Bushland*		2435.72
311	Monte Christo Reserve		Conservation Bushland*		1.08

(*) = Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)

The totals of the various categories of open space in this precinct are:

Category Type Analysis (Rural East)			
Category	Area (ha)	% of total OS in precinct	% of total in Ballarat
Recreation Parkland	44.51	1.6	0.7
Formal Parkland	-	-	-
Conservation Parkland	16.17	0.6	0.3
Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)	2594.81	94.3	42.6
Linkage (Major)	61.33	2.2	1.0
Linkage (Minor)	-	-	-
Sport	18.11	0.7	0.3
Special Use	17.75	0.6	0.3
Streetscape / Landscape Amenity	-	-	-
Urban Space	-	-	-
Water Body / Drainage	0.16	0.01	0.003
TOTAL	2,752.84	100%	45.2%

% figures have been rounded down or up to the nearest decimal point.

The analysis of open space for the Rural East precinct is:

Population		=
2007 (Projected)		
Resident		2,232
Young – 0-17 years	25.40%	567
Ageing - 70 years and greater	6.36%	142
2021 (Projected)		
Resident		2,419
Projected Young – 0-17 years	23.72%	574
Projected Ageing - 70 years and greater	10.87%	263

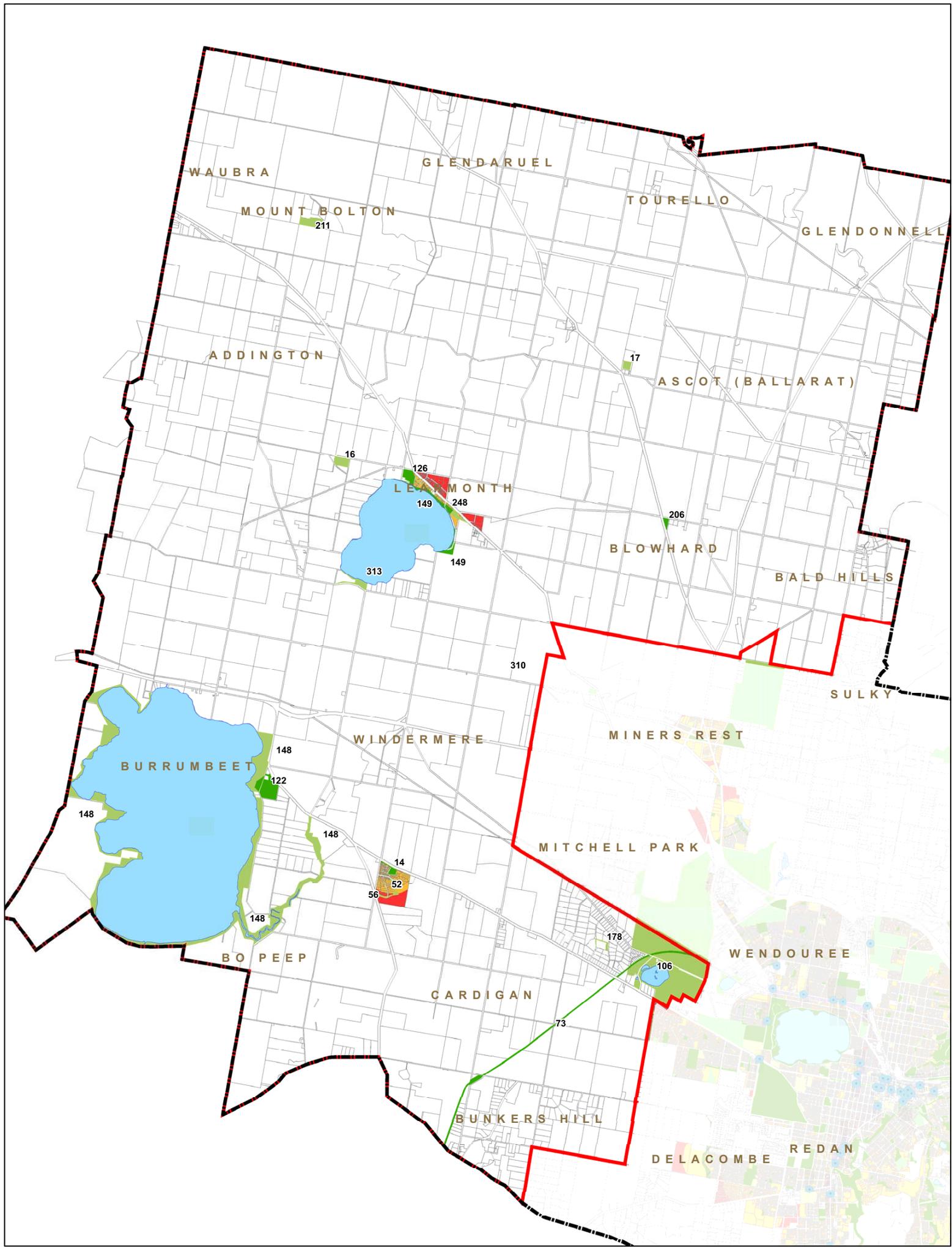
(Source: Based on City of Ballarat ID Forecasting)

Quantity	✓✓✓
<i>(Proposed Provision Ratio for this precinct – 2-4 ha per 1,000)</i>	
All open space	2,752.84 ha
Recreation open space	89.99 ha
Recreation open space per 1,000 resident population - 2007	40.32 ha
Recreation open space per 1,000 resident population – 2021 based on current OS Provision	37.20 ha
The current quantity of open space within this precinct well exceeds the recommended ratio and based on population projections, it is expected that the amount of open space will continue to be adequate.	

Size	✓✓
<p>There is a good mix of different size parks ranging from small local parks through to large regional recreation parkland within this precinct. There is a couple of very small parks that struggle to provide a sufficient range of infrastructure and opportunities (e.g. Summit Crescent Reserve)</p>	
Quality	✓✓
<p>The presentation and size of open space is satisfactory with this precinct. It is anticipated that Council's and other relevant agencies' efforts to implement Master Plans and maintenance priorities will improve the quality of open space.</p>	
Community Recreation Needs	✓✓
<p>A wide range of recreation opportunities exist within the precinct. Sporting, recreational and environmental needs are well serviced with the range of sport, recreation parkland, conservation and linkages within this precinct. Gaps in accessible open space limit the ability of the open space system to cater for all local community needs.</p>	
Amenity and Values	✓✓
<p>The precinct has a wide range of open space types with and range of values, good level of amenity and some excellent connections. There are opportunities to continue to improve open space values, particularly in relation to the environment, habitat and heritage.</p>	
Distribution	✓
<p>Access to open space within the higher density residential areas is generally adequate. Connections along the Yarrowee River corridor is good. Lower density residential and rural residential areas at Nerrina, north of the Western Freeway, and at Brown Hill, between the Western Freeway and Daylesford / Ballarat Road have access to open space restricted by road barriers. Some developing residential areas in Brown Hill and Warrenheip have poor provision of and access to recreational open space.</p>	
Environmental Considerations	✓✓
<p>Significant open space areas in this precinct include the Yarrowee River Reserve, Warrenheip Gully Reserve, Nerrina Wetlands, Gully and Bushland Reserve and The Gong Reservoir. The northern part of this precinct has a considerable area dedicated to the Creswick State Forest. As a result, retention of areas of remnant vegetation and bushland is a priority for many of these sites. The precinct also has significant habitat value particularly for koalas within the eastern region of the municipality and should be protected. The overall open space provision in this precinct offers good environmental values across the diverse range of bushland, conservation and linear open space areas.</p>	

Planning and Development Opportunities

- **Master Plans:**
 - Continue to implement the Master Plan for the Yarrowee River Reserve which is designated as a regional open space linkage.
 - Encourage Central Highlands Water to maintain The Gong Reservoir and Kirks Reservoir in their current condition to preserve the existing open space and environmental values.
 - Review the draft Master Plan for Russell Square which is designated as a district sport open space.
 - Maintain Nerrina Wetlands in its current condition now that the Master Plan is implemented.
 - Prepare a Master Plan for Brown Hill Reserve which is designated as a district sport open space.
 - Prepare a Master Plan for the Invermay Recreation Reserve which is designated as a district sport open space.
- **Linkages:**
 - Consider developing strong linkages around the Invermay Reserve along the Yarrowee River tributary.
 - Opportunities to continue the Scotts Parade Linear Reserve to the Ballarat Central District along the rail corridor.
 - Develop and extend linkages along the Warrenheip Gully Reserve connecting the Yarrowee River with the residential area on the south east section of the precinct.
 - Seek opportunities to develop linkages throughout the precinct to the Creswick and Canadian State Forests.
- **Other:**
 - Consider future opportunities to meet the needs of those residents who have inadequate access to recreation open space, particularly north of the Western Freeway, through partnerships with local schools, requiring open space contributions as part of future residential subdivision or the acquisition of recreation open space.



22. Open Space Analysis for Precinct 9: Rural West

- Recreational Open Space
- Additional Open Space
- Proposed Open Space
- School
- Safe Crossing Point
- Residential areas with access to Recreational Open Space
- Residential areas without access to Recreational Open Space
- Residential areas with access to Recreational Open Space via safe crossing point

- Access to Recreational Open Space is within 500 Metre catchment*
- Non Residential Areas
 - Lake / Water Body



RURAL WEST (Precinct 9)

The Rural West precinct is defined as the area bounded by the municipal boundary of the Shire of Hepburn in the north, Gillies Street, Jubilee Road, Ross Road, Buttery Road, a road running east-west continuous along Blind Creek Road, Ring Road, Ballarat - Burumbeet Road, Heinz Lane, Greenhalghs Road and a line that runs north-south east of Hayes Drive in the east, the municipal boundary of the Shire of Golden Plains in the south and the municipal boundary of the Shire of Pyrenees in the south-west and west.

A comprehensive list of open space in Rural West is detailed as follows:

Open Space Inventory (Rural West)					
ID	Name	Hierarchy	Category	Management Status	Area (Ha)
14	Cardigan Village Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	3.17
16	Learmonth Cemetery	Other	Special Use	Delegated C of M	8.22
17	Glendaruel/Coghills Creek Cemetery	Other	Special Use	Delegated C of M	4.03
52	Windermere Views Linear reserve	Other	Water Body / Drainage	Council	3.48
73	Ballarat-Skipton Rail Trail	Regional	Linkage (Major)	Council / Advisory	29.90
106	Winter Swamp Reserve	Regional	Conservation Bushland*	Council	73.37
122	Burumbeet Recreation Park (Burumbeet Reserve)	District	Sport	Council / Tenants	25.65
126	Learmonth Recreation Reserve	District	Sport	Council / Rec Body	8.04
148	Lake Burumbeet	Regional	Water Body/Drainage	Council / Advisory	374.22
149	Lake Learmonth	Regional	Recreation Parkland	Council	12.82
178	Launchley Drive Reserve	Local	Linkage (Minor)	Council	1.83
206	Mt Blowhard Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	2.32
211	Mt Bolton Reserve	Other	Special Use	Council	13.77
248	Learmonth Railway Reserve	Other	Special Use	Council	4.40

(*) = Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)

The totals of the various categories of open space in this precinct are:

Category Type Analysis (Rural West)			
Category	Area (ha)	% of total OS in precinct	% of total in Ballarat
Recreation Parkland	18.31	3.24	0.3
Formal Parkland	-	-	-
Conservation Parkland	-	-	-
Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)	-	-	-
Linkage (Major)	29.90	5.3	0.5
Linkage (Minor)	1.83	0.3	0.03
Sport	33.68	6.0	0.6
Special Use	30.42	5.4	0.6
Streetscape / Landscape Amenity	-	-	-
Urban Space	-	-	-
Water Body / Drainage	451.07	79.8	7.4
TOTAL	565.21	100%	9.43%

% figures have been rounded down or up to the nearest decimal point.

The analysis of open space for the Rural West precinct is:

Population		=
2007 (Projected)		
Resident		2,845
Young – 0-17 years	25.48%	725
Ageing - 70 years and greater	9.06%	258
2021 (Projected)		
Resident		3,257
Projected Young – 0-17 years	24.22%	789
Projected Ageing - 70 years and greater	11.70%	381

(Source: Based on City of Ballarat ID Forecasting)

Quantity	✓✓✓
<i>(Proposed Provision Ratio for this precinct: 2- 4 ha per 1,000)</i>	
All open space	565.21 ha
Recreation open space	81.90 ha
Recreation open space per 1,000 resident population - 2007	31.42 ha
Recreation open space per 1,000 resident population – 2021 based on current OS Provision	25.15 ha
The current quantity of open space within this precinct well exceeds the preferred ratio and is expected to into the future.	

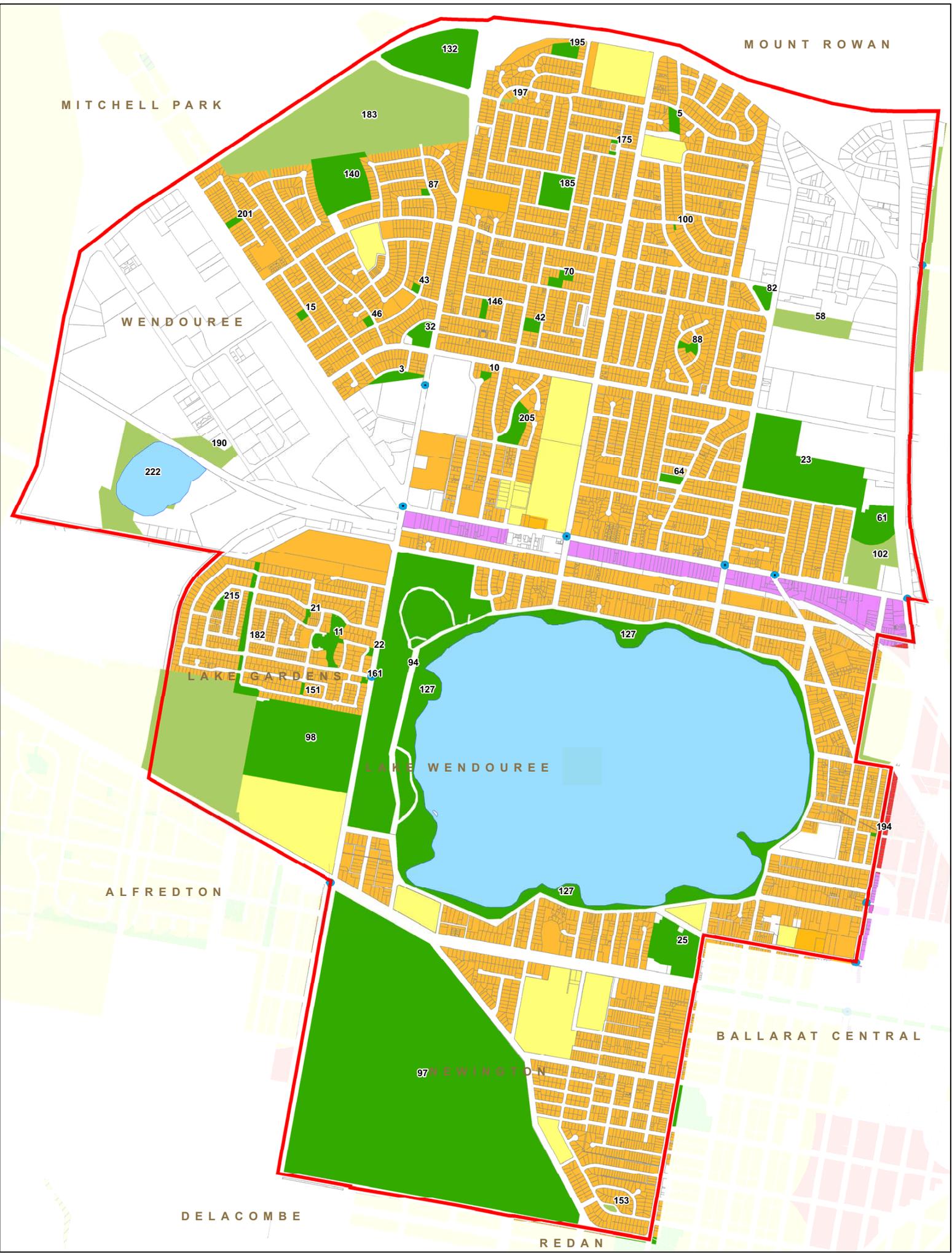
Size	✓✓✓
<p>There is a good mix of different size parks ranging from small local parks through to large regional recreation parkland within this precinct.</p>	
Quality	✓
<p>Due to the ongoing drought conditions, Lakes Burumbeet and Learmonth, which were once significant attractions with extensive recreational open space areas adjacent to them, have progressively had reducing lake levels, with a resultant drop in visitation and expenditure on the recreational facilities.</p> <p>Some of the parkland areas at Lake Learmonth still provide a significant open space resource for the surrounding residents.</p>	
Community Recreation Needs	✓✓
<p>Recreation open space needs are catered for within the centralised area of Learmonth and Cardigan Village, with significant sporting infrastructure at Learmonth.</p> <p>Opportunities for residents are restricted to travelling to the townships of Learmonth or Cardigan Village.</p>	
Amenity and Values	✓
<p>Generally a wide range of open space types are present, often within the one broader reserve, such as Lake Learmonth. Open space values have been compromised with the absence of water in the major lakes, and a review of future open space values and priorities will determine the focus for future Master Plans and development principles.</p>	
Distribution	✓✓
<p>Open space is generally centralised throughout the two rural townships of Learmonth and Cardigan Village.</p>	
Environmental Considerations	✓✓
<p>Climate Change and current and ongoing drought conditions have had a significant environmental impact upon this precinct, particularly evidenced by a dry Lake Learmonth, Lake Burumbeet and Winter Swamp, traditionally large regional water bodies with significant environmental and recreation values.</p> <p>There are opportunities within this precinct to enhance vegetation and habitat areas, particularly around Lake Burumbeet, Burumbeet Creek, Lake Learmonth, Winter Swamp and Mount Bolton.</p>	

Planning and Development Opportunities

- **Master Plans:**
 - Review the current Master Plan and management arrangements for Lake Burumbeet, given the probability that altered conditions are permanent.
 - Implement the Lake Learmonth Master Plan (May 2007) which is designated as a regional Recreation Parkland.
 - Implement the Ballarat-Skipton Rail Trail Master Plan which is designated as a regional open space linkage.
 - Encourage DSE to prepare a Master Plan for the Winter Swamp Reserve which is designated as a district water body/drainage open space and has high environmental values.
 - Maintain the Burumbeet Recreation Park in its current condition now that the Master Plan is implemented.
 - Prepare a Master Plan for the Learmonth Recreation Reserve which is designated as a district sport open space.

- **Linkages:**
 - Linkage opportunities include connecting Learmonth to Ballarat via the old Waubra railway line through Miners Rest and Dowling Forest racecourse, and linking and extending the Ballarat/Skipton Rail trail to Wendouree Station and Lake Wendouree via Flaxmill Swamp.
 - Consider developing an (on-road) cycle link from Central Ballarat to Learmonth.
 - Develop pathways within Cardigan Village along the Windermere Linear Reserve to provide connections to Cardigan Village Reserve (Recreation Parkland), and where possible, create safe pedestrian linkages to Lake Burumbeet foreshore and to Ballarat's western suburbs and growth corridor through Alfredton.

- Other:
 - There is an opportunity for Council to continue discussions with Department of Sustainability and Environment to negotiate the future management arrangements for all or part of Lake Learmonth and Lake Burumbeet.
 - Potential exists to improve access to both the former Skipton Rail Trail and Winter Swamp as part of an enhanced open space network to serve the Ballarat West area.
 - Installing safe crossing points on High Street (Sunraysia Highway) in the Learmonth township to give residents to the north side of the Highway safe access to recreation parkland on the south side of the Highway.
 - Consider the future management of Mount Bolton Reserve given its isolation and difficulties of management providing public access.



23. Open Space Analysis for Precinct 10: Wendouree

- Recreational Open Space
- Additional Open Space
- Proposed Open Space
- School
- Safe Crossing Point
- Residential areas with access to Recreational Open Space
- Residential areas without access to Recreational Open Space
- Residential areas with access to Recreational Open Space via safe crossing point

- Access to Recreational Open Space is within 500 Metre catchment*
- Non Residential Areas
 - Lake / Water Body



WENDOUREE (Precinct 10) (includes Wendouree, Lake Wendouree-Newington-Lake Gardens)

The Wendouree precinct includes Wendouree, Lake Wendouree – Newington - Lake Gardens. It is defined as the area bounded by the Western Freeway in the north, the Ballarat - Maryborough railway line in the east, the Ballarat - Ararat railway line, Howitt Street, Creswick Road and Gregory Street West in the south and Ring Road in the west.

A comprehensive list of open space in Wendouree is detailed as follows:

Open Space Inventory (Wendouree)					
ID	Name	Hierarchy	Category	Mgt Status	Area (Ha)
3	Tulip Crescent Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.84
5	Rowan View Park	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.57
10	Park Street Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.16
11	Central Park	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	1.76
15	Clover Street Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.18
21	Stirling Drive Park	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.14
22	St Glens Way Park	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.09
23	C.E Brown Reserve	District	Sport	Council / Rec Body	15.61
25	City Oval	Regional	Sport	Council / Rec Body	4.84
32	Weeramar Park	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	1.08
42	Margaret Street Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.47
43	Marigold Street Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.15
46	Primrose Street Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.17
58	Pauls Retention Basin	Neighbourhood	Water Body/Drainage	Council	3.24
61	Northern Oval	Regional	Sport	Council / Rec Body	3.21
64	College Street Park	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.42
70	Stamford Street Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.57
82	Walton Street Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.70
87	Boronia Grove Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.12
88	Bogart Drive Reserve (Boulevard Reserve)	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.38
94	Ballarat Botanical Gardens	Regional	Formal Parkland	Council / Advisory	29.80

97	Victoria Park	Regional	Recreation Parkland	Council / Rec Body	131.57
98	Prince Of Wales Park	District	Sport	Council / Rec Body	19.68
100	Harrow Street Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.02
102	Ballarat Showgrounds	Other	Special Use	Private	4.42
127	Lake Wendouree	State	Recreation Parkland	Council / Advisory	23.76
132	Pioneer Park	District	Recreation Parkland	Council	8.66
140	Wendouree West Recreation Reserve	District	Sport	Council	6.32
146	Romney Street Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.29
151	St Cedars Grove Park	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.08
153	Waller Avenue Reserve	Other	Streetscape/ Landscape Amenity	Council	0.12
161	The Conservatory Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.08
175	Carpenter Street Playground	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.10
182	St John Wood Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	1.58
183	Wyndholm Reserve	Other	Special Use	Council	34.64
185	Montgomery Street Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	2.46
190	Walsh Industrial Estate Wetlands	Local	Water Body/Drainage	Council	2.18
194	Drummond Street Playground	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.04
195	Ealing Avenue Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.89
197	Langstaffe Street Reserve	Local	Linkage (Minor)	Council	0.12
201	McNulty Drive Reserve	Local	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.24
205	Shaw Avenue Reserve	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	1.51
215	Village Green	Neighbourhood	Recreation Parkland	Council	0.25
222	Flax Mill Swamp	Regional	Conservation Bushland*	Parks Victoria	13.60

(*) = Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)

The totals of the various categories of open space in this precinct are:

Category Type Analysis (Wendouree)			
Category	Area (ha)	% of total OS in precinct	% of total in Ballarat
Recreation Parkland	179.34	56.6	2.9
Formal Parkland	29.8	9.4	0.5
Conservation Parkland	-	-	-
Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)	-	-	-
Linkage (Major)	-	-	-
Linkage (Minor)	0.12	0.04	0.002
Sport	49.67	15.7	0.8
Special Use	39.06	12.3	0.6
Streetscape / Landscape Amenity	0.12	0.04	0.002
Urban Space	-	-	-
Water Body / Drainage	19.02	6.0	0.3
TOTAL	317.13	100%	5.10%

The analysis of open space for the Wendouree precinct is:

Population		=
2007 (Projected)		
Resident		18,316
Young – 0-17 years	23.92%	4,383
Ageing - 70 years and greater	14.95%	2,739
2021 (Projected)		
Resident		18,209
Projected Young – 0-17 years	20.37%	3,710
Projected Ageing - 70 years and greater	17.12%	3,118

(Source: Based on City of Ballarat ID Forecasting)

Quantity	✓✓✓
<i>(Proposed Provision Ratio this precinct: 4 ha per 1,000)</i>	
All open space	317.13 ha
Recreation open space	270.75 ha
Recreation open space per 1,000 resident population - 2007	14.78 ha
Open space per 1,000 resident population – 2021 based on current OS Provision	14.87 ha
The current quantity of open space within this precinct exceeds the recommended ratio and is expected to continue exceeding this target with future population projections.	

Size	✓✓
<p>There is a good mix of different size parks ranging from small local parks through to large regional recreation parkland within this precinct. Very small parks like the Harrow Street Reserve are often too small to provide a range of recreation opportunities and facilities.</p>	
Quality	✓✓
<p>The presentation and size of open space is satisfactory although there are opportunities to focus on the general presentation in the southern section of Victoria Park.</p>	
Community Recreation Needs	✓✓
<p>A wide range of sporting and recreation opportunities exist within the precinct with the range of sport, recreation parkland, conservation, formal parkland and linkages within this precinct. Better linkages from this precinct to neighbouring precincts will contribute towards better community access to recreation open space.</p>	
Amenity and Values	✓✓
<p>Lake Wendouree and Victoria Park are highly valued open space areas within the municipality with a range of values. Environmental, heritage and social values can be further enhanced through development of open space in accordance with plans and agreed standards.</p>	
Distribution	✓✓✓
<p>Good access to open space throughout the whole precinct.</p>	
Environmental Considerations	✓✓
<p>The current drought conditions have created challenges to retain water in Lake Wendouree and other wetlands such as Flaxmill Swamp, altering the capacity of these assets to maintain habitat for avi-fauna (birdlife). Nevertheless, both Lake Wendouree and Flaxmill Swamp have significant capacity to be further developed with emphasis upon their current biodiversity values and potential.</p> <p>The lack of capacity to irrigate parklands (e.g. Botanical Gardens) and lack of natural rainfall is having a significant impact upon the presentation of open space and the decline of established trees in this precinct.</p> <p>Wyndholm Reserve is largely undeveloped and has significant potential to be developed as Regional Conservation Parkland.</p> <p>Victoria Park has significant native grasslands and it is important for this vegetation to be preserved and, where possible, enhanced.</p> <p>Council is exploring opportunities to develop a sporting precinct at Northern Oval given its proximity to the North Ballarat Treatment Plant and potential for sustainable practices for sport provision.</p>	

Planning and Development Opportunities

- Master Plans:
 - Prepare a Master Plan for the Wendouree West Recreation Reserve which is designated as a district sport open space.
 - Encourage DSE to prepare a Master Plan for the Flax Mill Swamp which is designated as a regional water body / drainage open space.
 - Prepare a Master Plan for the C E Brown Reserve which is designated as a district sport open space
 - Review the Master Plan for City Oval which is designated as a regional sport open space.
 - Maintain Weeramar Park in its current condition now that the Master Plan is implemented.
 - Prepare a Master Plan for the Northern Oval which is designated as a regional sport open space and the adjoining Ballarat Showgrounds.
 - Implement the Master Plan for the Ballarat Botanic Garden which is designated as a regional formal parkland open space.
 - Implement and maintain Victoria Park in accordance with the Management, Use and Development Framework and complete the Outline Development Plan for the southern precinct of Victoria Park.
 - Prepare a Master Plan for the Prince of Wales Park which is designated as a district sport open space.
 - Implement the Master Plan and maintain Lake Wendouree in accordance with the Master Plan.
 - Maintain Pioneer Park in its current condition now that the Master Plan is implemented.
 - Prepare open space development plans for significant neighbourhood parks including Walton Street Reserve, Shaw Avenue Reserve, Montgomery Street Reserve and Ealing Avenue Reserve to maximise their accessibility and development potential.

▪ Linkages:

- Victoria Park will provide recreational opportunities for the Alfredton – Delacombe precinct. Safe and accessible linkages should be pursued to facilitate these opportunities including linkages to destinations such as shops and public transport.
- Opportunity to provide strong connections into Victoria Park along the Rail corridor.
- Consider connections to the Wendouree railway station and Flaxmill Swamp via old railway corridors or off road cycle and walking paths.
- Explore opportunities to develop linkages to the Prince of Wales Park to encourage access to the range of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities.

▪ Other:

- Develop the southern section of Victoria Park (in particular the Ballarat Livestock Selling Centre and the residential property) in accordance with uses suitable for the southern precinct to enhance recreational opportunities for the community.
- Develop methods to encourage additional and appropriate use (e.g. promote cycling and pedestrian access and reduce inappropriate driver behaviour and dumping of rubbish) of Victoria Park to create a safe and enjoyable environment.
- Review the infrastructure in parks (e.g. Victoria Park and Lake Wendouree) to support and increase the capacity to host major events within the municipality. These Reserves are the number 1 and 2 recreational/sporting/cultural facilities in Ballarat.
- Improve access to open space for residents that do not fall within 500 metres of accessible open space through appropriate road crossing improvements and access to any useable open space area, south of Northern Oval.
- Expand the areas of passive open space in the Lake Wendouree foreshore near the Rowing Course to help address deficiencies of neighbourhood recreation parkland for nearby residents.
- Improve the provision of recreation opportunities, amenities and accessibility of neighbourhood parks in this precinct (e.g. Walton Street Reserve, Shaw Avenue Reserve, Montgomery Street Reserve and Ealing Avenue Reserve) .
- Council is exploring the opportunity for Northern Oval given the proximity to the Ballarat North Treatment Plant for recycled water.

13. Implementation

The implementation of the Ballarat Open Space Strategy will occur in a number of ways, ranging from specific actions to seeking opportunities as they arise through to planning applications, partnership initiatives and other avenues. Below is a list of some of the key implementation items to guide decision making and open space management.

13.1 Planning Scheme and Open Space Contributions

The Ballarat Open Space Strategy is an important resource to guide strategic landuse planning of urban and residential growth areas and statutory planning applications where open space contributions apply. Section 9.1.1. of this Strategy outlines the context of open space contributions and provides the rationale for an open space contribution for each precinct in the municipality. The following percentages are recommended for each of the precinct areas:

Precinct Number	Precinct Name	% contribution for precinct
1	Alfredton / Delacombe	10%
2	Ballarat Central	10%
3	Buninyong Rural South	5%
4	Ballarat South	10%
5	Golden Point / Mount Helen	10%
6	Inner North East	10%
7	Miners Rest / Mitchell Park	10%
8	Rural East	5%
9	Rural West	5%
10	Wendouree	10%

It is noted that the precincts that attract 5% contribution are at a lower level because they are generally rural, have minimum residential growth and allotment sizes are larger. Where urbanised residential sub-division extends from a precinct requesting 10% to one of these more rural precincts, the open space contribution for these applications should be 10%.

Open space contributions can be made by either allocating appropriate land for establishment of open space within a sub-division or development, or requesting a cash-in-lieu contribution.

Open space cash contributions apply to all geographic areas regardless of the status of open space provision in the vicinity of the subdivision or development. There does not need to be a direct relationship between a cash-in-lieu contribution and provision of local open space. This is based on the position that open space is provided on local, neighbourhood, district and regional levels. If neighbourhood open space is well provided in an identified area, resources for open space improvements will be allocated to district or regional open space (e.g. sporting precinct, regional linkage). Provided the allocation of open space funds benefit residents throughout the whole municipality in accordance with the various types of open space, then the connection between contribution and provision is demonstrated. Allocations for open space improvements that utilise funds collected as open space contributions will be decided based on implementation

of Master Plans and Park Plans and the strategic directions for open space as outlined in the Ballarat Open Space Strategy.

An Open Space Contributions Policy could be developed as a referenced document (by the Ballarat Planning Scheme) along with the Ballarat Open Space Strategy, or could be incorporated through an amendment into the Planning Scheme. Development of such a policy will consider the following:

- Acquisition of unencumbered and appropriate land for the development of recreation open space;
- Establishment of the percentage of open space to be provided to recreation purposes relative to the precinct analysis of the Ballarat Open Space Strategy.
- Inclusion of land that has as its primary purpose non recreation uses, (e.g. drainage, water retention, road reserve, vegetation protection or offset plantings) only where a valuable recreation use can be identified in addition to the non-recreation use;
- Provision and development of open space by the developer in accordance with the Development Standards in the Ballarat Open Space Strategy;
- Formal maintenance agreements following completion of landscape works for open space to ensure full establishment of the landscape in accordance with sustainable maintenance levels;
- Demonstrated compliance with all relevant Council policies that determine and guide open space provision (e.g. LiveSmartBallarat Sustainability Policy, Landscape Character Policy, etc);
- Compulsory acquisition overlays that may be required to improve open space provision, e.g. waterway frontages to complete / extend the open space corridor;
- Consideration of local structure plans and outline development plans in the assessment of requirements for open space provision;
- Importance of considering all open space provision criteria that allow open space to be provided based on factors such as projected population change, quantity, size, quality, community recreation needs, amenity and values, distribution and environmental considerations;
- Introduction of “Practice Notes” to guide developers’ design protocols, construction and establishment of open space;
- Opportunities for and application of ‘land swap’ arrangements to maximise quality of open space provision;
- Guidelines for the development of partnerships for the planning, development and management of open space; and
- Opportunities for concessions to private land owners who may be approached to provide access to significant open space through private land.

13.2 Open Space Policies

13.2 The development of policies will be an important implementation priority for the Open Space Strategy. Decision making will be guided by clear and concise policy directions that have been considered and endorsed by Council and other relevant government authorities and agencies.

As a starting point, the following policies are identified for short-term development and consideration by Council:

- Open Space Contributions Policy, possibly as an amendment to the Ballarat Planning Scheme;
- Open Space Landscape and Infrastructure Policy; and
- Open Space Management Policy.

Further detail about these policies can be found in Section 9.7.

13.3 Partnerships

A number of partnerships will need to be explored to maximise opportunities to implement the Ballarat Open Space Strategy and to improve the open space network. Council's partnership with the Department of Sustainability and Environment will be a critical relationship to continue to develop. Issues such as management of some areas of open space and strategies for dealing with native vegetation off-sets are just a couple of the important issues that require ongoing discussions and negotiations.

Partnerships with schools, both public and private are also important. There are some good examples of infrastructure sharing with an adjacent school (e.g. Doug Dean Reserve, Alfredton Recreation Reserve) and Council will continue to explore improvements in the open space network that can be realised through effective partnerships with the education sector. The important consideration in partnerships such as these is that there needs to be an identified mutual benefit for all parties.

13.4 Opportunities to improve / expand the open space network and linkages:

The map on the next page indicates a number of opportunities to improve and expand the open space system in the City of Ballarat. As subdivisions are planned, Crown land assigned or capital funds allocated to implement Master Plans, these opportunities can be actioned. The future opportunities that are shown on the map include:

- Linkages to adjoining municipalities and the Great Dividing Trail;
- Extensions of open space corridors along major waterways;
- Development of high quality open space in new subdivisions in accordance with structure plans;
- Linkages to bicycle paths, both on-road and off-road;
- Connections between recreation parkland and linear linkages where possible;
- Improved linkages via disused rail lines and waterways to major lakes that offer recreation opportunities; and
- Supporting a well connected open space system that extends from urban to rural areas and has both north-south and east-west linkages.

13.5 Master Planning

Each of the precincts discuss and recommend a number of master plan initiatives, that involves either preparing, reviewing, implementing master / management plans, or encouraging another agency to do the same.

The Open Space Strategy recommends that Master Plans be used as a planning and development tool for all state, regional and district open space. Capital works budgets should be allocated in line with projects that are endorsed by Master Plans.

For neighbourhood and local open space, park plans are recommended. These plans are brief documents that outline the details of ownership, classification of hierarchy and category and include a basic conceptual design of the park with recommended improvements. Park plans will be prepared in accordance with the approved development standards for open space.

Implementation of the recommendations for Master Plans and Management Plans is an important priority for Council to endorse. The table below summarises all the Master Plan recommendations for state, regional and district open space from each of the precincts:

Open Space	Action	Classification of Open Space
Alfredton Recreation Reserve	Prepare a Master Plan	District sport open space
Ballarat – Skipton Rail Trail	Implement Master Plan	Regional open space linkage
Ballarat Botanic Garden	Implement Master Plan	Regional formal parkland open space
Black Hill Reserve	Prepare a Master Plan	District recreation parkland
Bridge Mall	Master Plan outcomes to be maintained	Urban space
Brown Hill Reserve	Prepare a Master Plan	District sport open space
Buninyong Botanic Gardens	Implement the Master Plan	Regional formal parkland
Buninyong Recreation Park	Prepare a Master Plan, inclusive of the adjoining Buninyong Community Centre	District sport open space
Burumbeet Recreation Park	Maintain in current condition	District sport open space
C E Brown Reserve	Prepare Master Plan	District sport open space
Canadian Creek Reserve	Implement the LINC'S Plan	Regional open space linkage
Canadian Forest	Encourage DSE to maintain Forest and prepare a site specific Management Plan	Regional conservation (bushland, native grassland and wetland) open space
City Oval	Review Master Plan	Regional sport open space
De Soza Park	Review Master Plan	District recreation parkland
Doug Dean Reserve	Review Master Plan as part of Delacombe Renewal Project	District sport open space
Ealing Avenue Reserve	Prepare open space development plan	Neighbourhood recreation parkland

Open Space	Action	Classification of Open Space
Eastern Oval	Review, prepare and implement a Landscape Master Plan	Regional sport open space
Eureka Stockade Reserve	Master Plan outcomes to be maintained	Regional formal parkland
Flax Mill Swamp	Encourage DSE to prepare a Management Plan	Regional water body/drainage open space
Invermay Recreation Reserve	Prepare a Master Plan	District sport open space
Kirks Reservoir	Encourage Central Highlands Water to maintain and preserve existing values	Regional recreation parkland
Lake Burumbeet	Review Master Plan and management arrangements	Regional Water Body / Drainage
Lake Esmond	Master Plan outcomes to be maintained	District recreation parkland
Lake Learmonth	Implement Master Plan 2007	Regional recreation parkland
Lake Wendouree	Implement Master Plan	State recreation parkland
Learmonth Recreation Reserve	Prepare Master Plan	District sport open space
Len T Fraser Reserve	Master Plan outcomes to be maintained	District recreation parkland
Llanberris Athletics Reserve	Review Master Plan in consideration of providing public access	Regional Special Use
M R Power Park	Prepare a Master Plan	District recreation parkland
Marty Busch Reserve	Prepare a Master Plan	District sport open space
Miners Rest Wetland	Prepare a Master Plan	District conservation parkland
Montgomery Street Reserve	Prepare open space development plan	Neighbourhood recreation parkland
Morshead Park	Prepare and Master Plan	District sport open space
Mt Buninyong	Continue to implement Master Plan	Regional conservation (bushland, native grassland and wetland) open space
Mt Clear Recreation Reserve	Implement the Master Plan	District sport open space
Mt Innes	Prepare a Master Plan	District recreation parkland
Nerrina Wetlands	Master Plan outcomes to be maintained	Neighbourhood conservation parkland
Northern Oval	Prepare Master Plan	Regional sport open space
Pioneer Park	Maintain in current condition	District recreation parkland

Open Space	Action	Classification of Open Space
Prince of Wales Park	Prepare Master Plan	District sport open space
Russell Square	Review the draft Master Plan	District sport open space
Shaw Avenue Reserve	Prepare open space development plan	Neighbourhood recreation parkland
Specimen Vale Creek Reserve	Implement priorities in accordance with the LINCS Plan	Neighbourhood Linkage
St Georges Reserve	Prepare a Master Plan	District sport open space
Sturt Street Gardens	Implement Management Plan	Regional streetscape
The Gong (Buninyong Botanic Gardens)	Implement Master Plan	District recreation parkland
The Gong Reservoir	Encourage Central Highlands Water to maintain and preserve existing values	Regional recreation parkland
Trekardo Park	Prepare a Master Plan	District sport open space
Union Jack Reserve	Encourage Parks Victoria to prepare a site specific Management Plan	Regional conservation (bushland, native grassland and wetland) open space
Victoria Park	Implement Management, Use and Development Framework and complete ODP	Regional recreation parkland
Walton Street Reserve	Prepare open space development plan	Neighbourhood recreation parkland
Warrenheip Creek Reserve	Implement priorities in accordance with the LINCS Plan	Neighbourhood Linkage
Weeramar Park	Maintain in current condition	Neighbourhood recreation parkland
Wendouree West Recreation Reserve	Prepare Master Plan	District sport open space
Western Oval	Prepare a Master Plan	District sport open space
Winter Creek Reserve	Prepare a Master Plan	District open space linkage
Winter Swamp	Encourage DSE to prepare a site specific Master Plan	District water body/drainage open space
Yarrowee – Redan Wetlands	Master Plan outcomes to be maintained	District conservation parkland
Yarrowee River Reserve	Continue to implement Master Plan	Regional open space linkage

13.6 Environmental Targets

The City of Ballarat's LiveSmartBallarat is a sustainability policy which sets out a number of environmental targets on how to establish Ballarat as a sustainable city. There are many strategic documents and policies that will contribute to the environmental targets set out in the LiveSmartBallarat policy.

The Ballarat Open Space Strategy is one such strategic document that will contribute towards several environmental targets. This is demonstrated through the Strategy's principles and vision which sets out the commitment to achieve sustainable provision, development and management of open space in consideration of social, environmental and economic factors. The Ballarat Open Space Strategy also contributes to achieving the environmental targets through its strategic directions, maintenance standards and implementation plan.

The Ballarat Open Space Strategy will assist in addressing the following policy themes and objectives outlined in the LiveSmartBallarat policy:

Policy Theme	Objectives	Targets	Open Space Strategy Initiatives
WaterSmart	Enhance and protect our waterways and wetlands. Reduce water consumption	Reduction in water consumption	Irrigation restrictions and priorities Revegetation along waterways Support for WSUD initiatives in open space Support for retention basins in open space to prevent downstream erosion and flooding
EnergySmart	Reduce energy consumption Increase use of renewable energy sources Educate and assist the community to adopt energy conservation practices	30% below 2000 levels for energy consumption	Use of sustainable materials in open space development and construction (low toxicity, low embodied energy, reused, recycled and from renewable sources)
WasteSmart	Decrease consumption of products and materials Increased recycling of waste	Recovery of 75% of solid waste for recycling, reuse or conversion to energy	Through improved maintenance practices and open space management policy, require and encourage reduced consumption and increased recovery of waste
NatureSmart	Improve the extent and quality of biodiversity within the City of Ballarat. Prevent the loss of remnant native vegetation and fauna habitat. Increase community involvement in protecting and enhancing biodiversity	Zero net loss of native vegetation No further loss of threatened vegetation communities, flora and fauna	Application of Native Vegetation Framework – state legislation and Landscape Character Policy – local policy (to be reviewed as Open Space Landscape and Infrastructure Policy)

13.7 Maintenance of the GIS mapping and data

The Geographical Information System (GIS) is a crucial information tool to assist with the planning and development of Council's open space network and consequently plays an important role in the effective implementation of the Ballarat Open Space Strategy.

For this reason the maintenance of GIS data is extremely important. The GIS data should be kept up to date and monitored on a regular basis for its accuracy, to ensure the effective planning and development of the open space network.

In particular the maintenance of GIS data should:

- enable the detailed mapping of the network's landscape character;
- focus on creating a layer of biodiversity data; and
- be regularly updated (for example when new parcels of open space are included to the network).

Maintenance of GIS data is very important, as it provides Council with an up to date and accurate information tool to assist with high level planning of the City of Ballarat's open space network.

14. Review

It is critically important that the Open Space Strategy is reviewed regularly to ensure the successful implementation of strategic directions. It is strongly recommended that relevant implementation is reviewed annually.

A review of open space provision should be ongoing to keep data up-to-date and should include consideration of:

- More detailed categorisation of open space that may split a reserve into more than one category, and might define a secondary category as well as a primary definition;
- More detailed analysis of precincts that examines benefits and attributes of open space, and identifies specific actions for each open space site including any requirements for compulsory acquisition overlays;
- More detailed mapping of open space to reflect the greater analysis of categories and precincts; and
- Identification of specific initiatives and discussions with existing and potential project partners to improve provision of open space.

A major review with relevant Council Officers and the Department of Sustainability and Environment should be undertaken every five years throughout the life of the Strategy to monitor that the directions are consistent with the community's expectations and relevant corporate policies.