

Moonee Valley Open Space Strategy 2024





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY



Moonee Valley City Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which Moonee Valley is located – the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People of the Kulin Nation; and we pay our respects to their Spirits, Ancestors, Elders and Community Members past and present. Council also extends this respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples who call Moonee Valley home.



Message from the Mayor

On behalf of Moonee Valley City Council, I am proud to present the Moonee Valley Open Space Strategy 2024.

The strategy provides a blueprint for enhancing our open space network. It commits Council to expanding our open space, improving its quality, and enriching its biodiversity and climate resilience. It acknowledges the past and ongoing role of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Peoples as traditional custodians of Moonee Valley open spaces.

Moonee Valley's open spaces are among our city's most treasured assets and are central to the life of our community. They connect us with nature and nourish our senses, enriching our lives with opportunities for sport and physical activity, natural spaces with habitat, parkland pathways, places to play and gather with others, to exercise our dogs, attend an event, to picnic, or just read a book under a tree.

The Maribyrnong River, Moonee Ponds Creek, Steele Creek and smaller waterways that run through Moonee Valley are valued features of our open spaces. We are grateful for the community's partnerships that are helping to naturalise and revitalise these spaces.

The Open Space Strategy 2024 lays out the many challenges facing open space in meeting the needs of our diverse and growing community. We need our open spaces to be more accessible, inclusive and to feel safe, so they are welcoming for all. It is essential that our open spaces play a greater role in mitigating the impacts of climate change, and the biodiversity crisis.

Council commits to meeting these challenges to realise the strategy's vision of *open spaces that welcome all*.

On behalf of Council, I thank all community members whose contributions have helped shape our Open Space Strategy. Let's continue to work together to achieve the full potential of our open spaces and contribute to their vibrant and diverse life, now and into the future.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pierce Tyson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Cr Pierce Tyson
Mayor of Moonee Valley

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Image: Riverside Park, Aberfeldie

Moonee Valley Open Space Strategy

1.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE STRATEGY

The Moonee Valley Open Space Strategy 2024 (the Strategy) sets the direction for Council's investment in public open space in Moonee Valley. It acknowledges challenges and opportunities, and provides a foundation for planning, delivering, and managing Moonee Valley's open space network.

The Open Space Strategy replaces the previous Moonee Valley Open Space Strategy 2011 and informs the collection and spending of public open space contributions via the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme. The Strategy underpins and guides advocacy and partnerships for new open space and open space improvements.

The Strategy aligns with Council's long-term strategic plan, MV2040, and its vision for a 'healthy and resilient city'.

Council has declared a climate emergency and acknowledges the importance of open space in mitigating and building resilience to the impacts of climate change.

An overarching principle of Reconciliation and Caring for Country embeds the recognition of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of Moonee Valley open spaces.

1.2 DEFINITION OF OPEN SPACE

Open space in Moonee Valley is defined as publicly owned or managed land that is set aside (or made available) primarily for outdoor recreation, sport, leisure, social and cultural connection, climate resilience, ecological biodiversity or access to nature. Open spaces include parks, gardens, reserves, waterways, linear trails in open spaces and plazas.

Some privately owned land such as racecourses, school grounds and privately owned plazas may also function as open space. These are not considered part of the primary open space network because there are restrictions to their public use.

The Open Space Strategy is the overarching document guiding planning and investment in open space. The Strategy will help guide the location and context of infrastructure within open space to support organised sport and other community services and activities. However the Strategy does not provide specific direction for facilities and services that are guided by other Council policies.



1.3 COUNCIL'S ROLE IN OPEN SPACE

Council has a range of roles in the planning, delivery and management of open space as outlined below:

1. Policy and planning:

Providing clear, evidence-based policy direction for open space. Planning for new and improved open space, and protection of existing open spaces and their natural values across Moonee Valley.

2. Design:

Preparing designs for new and existing open spaces to enhance access and quality, to develop resilience to the changing climate, and to enhance habitat value.

3. Delivery:

Constructing new and improved open spaces and infrastructure to meet community need.

4. Funding:

Collecting contributions from developers and using Council revenue and grants to fund new open space, and maintain and improve open space.

5. Engagement:

Listening to the community and stakeholders to identify open space opportunities and needs.

6. Land acquisition:

Purchasing, leasing and consolidating land for open space, to address open space gaps, improve access and connection, and for improved environmental outcomes.

7. Partnerships and advocacy:

Working with Traditional Custodians, Victorian government, other councils, agencies, developers and others to increase access to open space, maximise its benefit, and manage the land appropriately.

8. Operations:

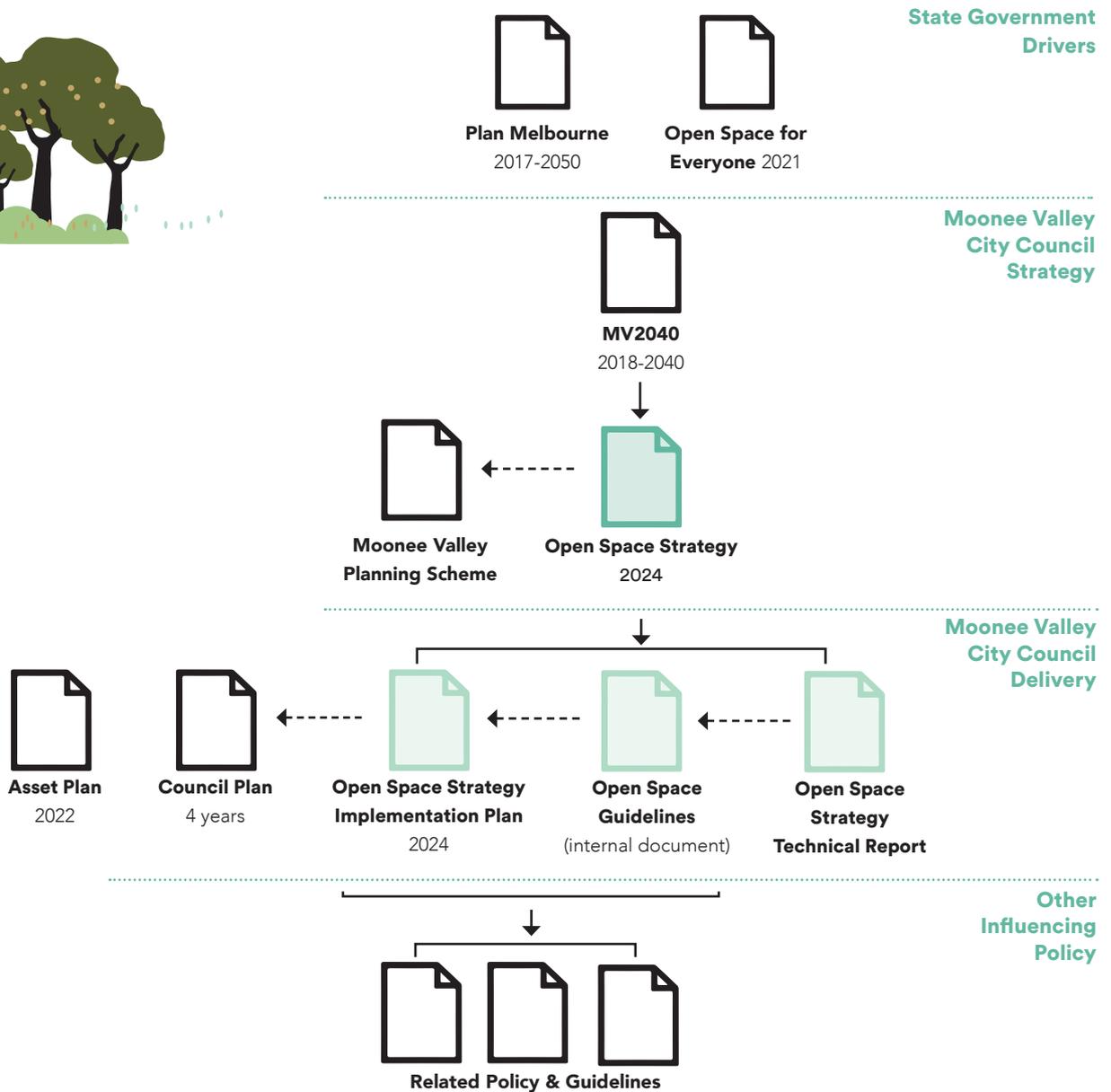
Maintaining and managing open space to provide quality, accessible, safe, beautiful and diverse open spaces for the community.

9. Programs and activation:

Supporting organised sport, events, and cultural, environmental and educational activities in open space.

1.4 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The relationship of the Open Space Strategy to state government and Council strategies is illustrated below.



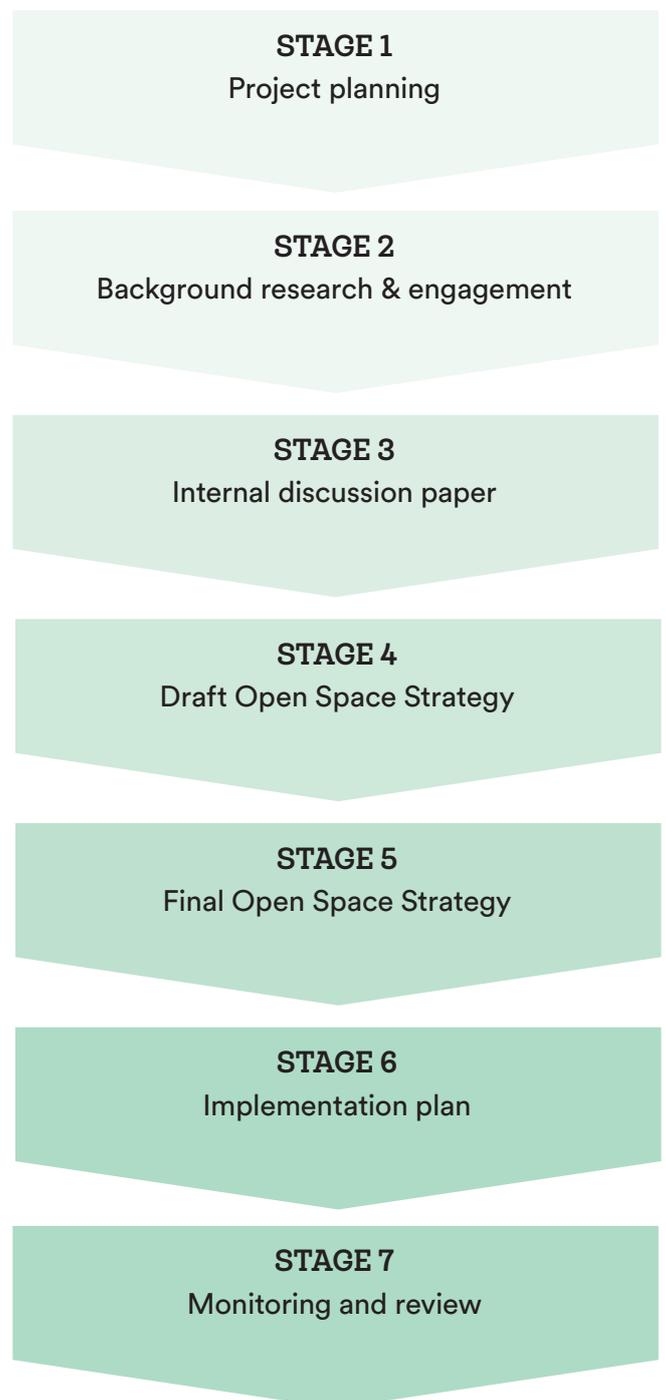
1.5 PREPARING THE STRATEGY

The development of the Moonee Valley Open Space Strategy 2024 has been guided by research and input from the community and stakeholders.

The diagram (right) indicates the steps to develop and implement the Strategy.

This has included:

- Review of the existing Moonee Valley Open Space Strategy (2011) and other relevant strategies and background documents to understand the key drivers which will influence the planning of open space in Moonee Valley.
- Community engagement to gather ideas for how open space could be improved.
- Open space network data analysis and mapping of open space gaps, and consideration of projected population growth.
- Preparation of an internal discussion paper identifying opportunities and recommendations.
- Key stakeholder workshops to test the draft principles, opportunities and recommendations.
- Development of vision, principles, strategic directions and objectives.
- Preparation of draft Strategy.
- Community consultation on the draft Strategy.
- Finalisation of the Strategy incorporating consultation findings.
- Development of Implementation Plan.



Existing Network of Open Space

2.1 EXISTING OPEN SPACE

Moonee Valley comprises approximately 220 open spaces covering 528 hectares, with Council managing around 435 hectares and the remainder managed by other agencies.

There is a diversity of open space ranging from large reserves along the Maribyrnong River; linked linear open space reserves along Steele Creek and Moonee Ponds Creek; large mixed-use sporting reserves such as Boeing Reserve; large and medium sized parklands with a mix of facilities and uses such as Rosehill Park; formal gardens such as Queens Park; urban plazas such as Pridham Plaza and numerous small local open spaces with seating, shade and play areas.

The majority of open spaces are located along waterways — the Maribyrnong River, Moonee Ponds Creek, and Steele Creek — serving both Moonee Valley residents and visitors from neighbouring municipalities.

Moonee Valley's open space is classified based on its hierarchy or size, its function or character, and its level of public accessibility. Providing a range of open space sizes and types allows us to cater to a range of activities and provide various benefits such as recreation, social interaction and access to nature.

2.2 OPEN SPACE HIERARCHY

Moonee Valley's open space hierarchy classifies four different open space sizes (refer following diagram and map overleaf).

Regional/municipal open space makes up 86% of Moonee Valley's total open space area. These are larger reserves providing diverse amenities. Neighbourhood open space consist of mid-sized parks and make up 8% of the total open space area. Local and Small Local open spaces make up over half of the total number of open spaces but only comprise 6% of the land area.

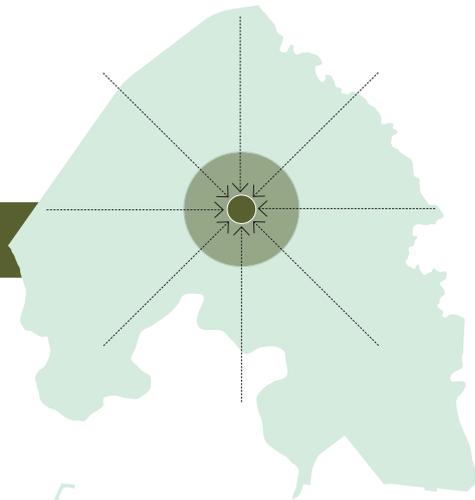


Image: Maribyrnong River, Aberfeldie

REGIONAL/MUNICIPAL

Size: minimum 3 hectares.

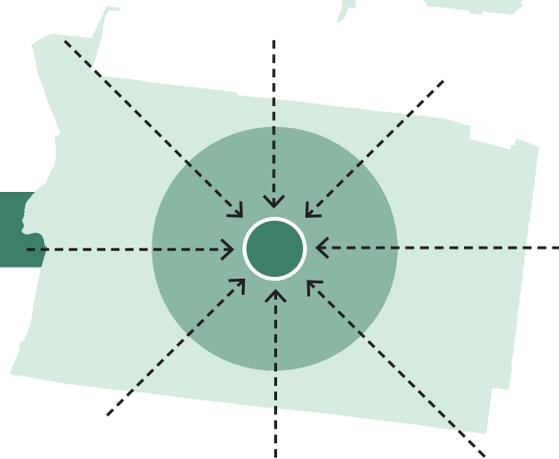
Regional and Municipal open spaces service users within a one kilometre catchment, although they may also attract and cater to visitors from across Moonee Valley and other parts of Melbourne. They include places of regional environmental value such as linear open spaces and trails along waterways that extend beyond Moonee Valley.



NEIGHBOURHOOD

Size: minimum 1 hectare.

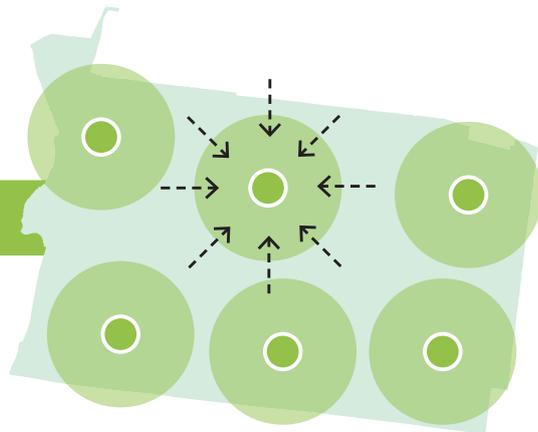
Neighbourhood open spaces service users within a 500 metre catchment area. They provide a range of open space facilities.



LOCAL

Size: 0.26 to less than 1 hectare.

Local open spaces service users within a 300 metre catchment area. They provide up to two uses e.g. small playspace, seat, mown grass area.



SMALL LOCAL

Size: 0.03 to 0.25 hectares.

Small local open spaces have a service catchment of 150m. They tend to offer a single use such as seating.



Existing Open Space Network



2.3 OPEN SPACE FUNCTION

Moonee Valley open spaces vary in character and function, influencing the way they are used. The images below illustrate the variety of ways open spaces function in Moonee Valley, from parklands that combine informal recreation, to mixed use sporting reserves, urban plazas, waterway trails and conservation reserves.

The planning and design of open space will continue to reflect the range of open space functions and needs across the community and within neighbourhoods.



Conservation and biodiversity



Informal leisure and recreation



Cultural heritage



Organised sport



Climate mitigation and adaption



Relaxation, socialising and play



Connection to nature



Walking and cycling connections



Exercising dogs

2.4 DEFINING ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE

Moonee Valley's open space network contains spaces with different levels of access which can be defined by the three categories shown on the right. 'Accessible' in this instance is about the extent to which the community can use the space rather than disability access.

Accessible open space includes land owned by state or federal government or their agencies, such as Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water.

Open spaces are considered 'restricted' when there is a barrier to use such as needing to be a member or paid entry. Examples of restricted open space include lawn bowls, tennis club facilities, golf courses and community gardens.

Spaces such as service easements may function as open space but are considered 'encumbered' as open space is not their primary function.

Privately owned open spaces, such as racecourses, school grounds and privately owned plazas can function as open spaces, but because their usage can be limited they are not considered part of the primary open space network.

Open space includes facilities that support open space use such as public toilets and pavilions. Other facilities located in open space such as

Accessible

Public land that has an open space function and is accessible to community at all times.

Restricted

Public land that has an open space function but there are restrictions to access.

Encumbered

Public land that may function as open space but is not its primary purpose.

community centres, early years centres, and other non-open space dependent sports facilities such as indoor sports courts are not considered part of the open space network.

Streetscapes and streetscape planting are not generally considered part of the open space network, however given their potential to contribute to increasing ecological biodiversity, greening and support open space connections, in some instances they may be encouraged to provide open space functions.



Image: Ascot Vale Library forecourt, Ascot Vale



Image: Afton Street Conservation Park, Aberfeldie

Open Space Context

3.1 INFLUENCES

Moonee Valley is impacted by a range of global social, environmental and economic factors.

Acknowledging, understanding and proactively addressing these influences will help us

provide a healthy, vibrant, and resilient open space network to support the Moonee Valley community now and in the years to come.



Bagarru Bagarru Djerring (Shoulder to Shoulder Together):

The Traditional Custodians of the land where Moonee Valley is located are the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Peoples of the Kulin Nation.

There are opportunities within open space for Moonee Valley to express its commitment, through its Bagarru Bagarru Djerring Reconciliation Plan, and to promote reconciliation, awareness, and understanding of shared history, historical injustices, and the place that Aboriginal Peoples hold in Australian society today.



Urban density and growth:

Moonee Valley is expected to experience population growth with greater urban intensification projected and encouraged by Victorian Government planning policy, particularly within activity centres.

Council aims to service its growing population equitably, provide diverse, adequately sized and quality open space for the community and balance the resulting pressures on the city's environment.



Changing demographics:

The global population is shifting, with people living longer and having fewer children. Moonee Valley's community is culturally and linguistically diverse, with an older population set to significantly increase by 2046.

These changes will have many implications for Moonee Valley and present challenges for the open space network to adapt to support changing needs.



Changing climate:

The world faces escalating risks from climate change. Climate forecasts predict intensified conditions like increased urban heat, flooding, and less frequent rainfall, which will impact the ways we can use and need to manage our open spaces.

Forward planning and innovation is crucial for addressing these impacts on public health and infrastructure, as well as for developing more climate-resilient open spaces.



Biodiversity crisis:

Australia continues to have one of the highest rates of species decline.

The region's native flora and fauna is unique and precious, and Moonee Valley has an important role to protect, expand and enhance resilient biodiversity corridors in its open spaces and waterways to build and rehabilitate threatened species and their habitat, and to provide opportunities for the community to access nature.



Contested space:

Open space supports a range of potentially conflicting uses. Space for informal recreation, shared paths, dogs, native habitat, events are considered alongside changing demands for sport, including new facility compliance standards and increased female participation.

Encouraging shared use in line with guidelines can help balance the diverse open space needs of the community.



Social equity and inclusion:

Promoting social equity is fair and vital for building stronger, more resilient communities.

Public places such as open spaces help build community trust, supporting a healthy democracy. They can also provide a focal point for communities and neighbourhoods.

Moonee Valley will continue to increase equity by seeking new ways to improve access, inclusion and safety of our open space for all residents.



Health and wellbeing:

Physical inactivity, chronic disease and mental health issues are on the rise. Access to high-quality public open space encourages people to be active, to walk, exercise, play and cycle, and supports mental and physical health, and opportunities for social interaction.

Our increasingly digital society can lead to disconnection from nature. Open spaces provide access to nature in the city and support an active and healthy community.



Living, working and playing locally:

Creating well-designed, walkable neighbourhoods that are connected through a mix of land-uses, housing types, quality transport, including active transport, and accessible open space can create healthier, more liveable communities.

Moonee Valley's neighbourhood planning approach provides the basis for delivering new and improved open space which supports 'living locally'.



New technology:

Keeping pace with technology is crucial as it reshapes the city and the way we live and interact. Mobile devices are increasingly becoming the 'remote controls' of our lives.

New sensors, technical data and digital information will allow us to plan, engage, design and deliver open space in new, innovative, and more efficient ways.

3.2 POPULATION GROWTH

The Moonee Valley population increased steadily in the 2010s. The impact of COVID-19 resulted in population stagnation however population is now again forecast to grow with the resumption of overseas migration.

Between 2023 and 2040 an additional 28,000 people are expected to call Moonee Valley home, increasing the population by 22% from the 2023 population of 127,000 (REMPPLAN 2023). These forecasts may increase further, given Victorian Government 2023 policy announcements encouraging housing growth in our activity centres, to address the housing crisis.

As the number of residents increases, the demand for open space also grows. At the same time, the area of private open space and urban tree canopy is reducing. These changes place pressure on land availability and suitability, infrastructure provision, and the preservation of existing local amenity values. There is demand to expand built infrastructure in open space for sport, to be inclusive and meet updated facility requirements, as well as non-open space

dependent community facilities. This reduces space for informal uses and environmental values. Additional open space will be required, along with protection and enhancement of existing open spaces to cater to the needs of the growing community.

The growth in population is not expected to be evenly distributed across Moonee Valley, as shown in the figure overleaf. Forecast growth ranges from 54% (an additional 8,763 residents) in the Moonee Ponds neighbourhood to 3% (146 new residents) in the Aberfeldie neighbourhood. Significant population increases are expected by 2040 in the neighbourhoods of Keilor Road/ Essendon North (35%), Ascot Vale (31%) and Airport West (28%).

Understanding future changes in population in different neighbourhoods allows a tailored approach for identifying the future need and opportunities for open space. For example, higher density areas may require more compact and multi-functional open spaces that cater for higher levels of visitation.

POPULATION 2023

127,000

FORECAST
POPULATION 2040

154,800

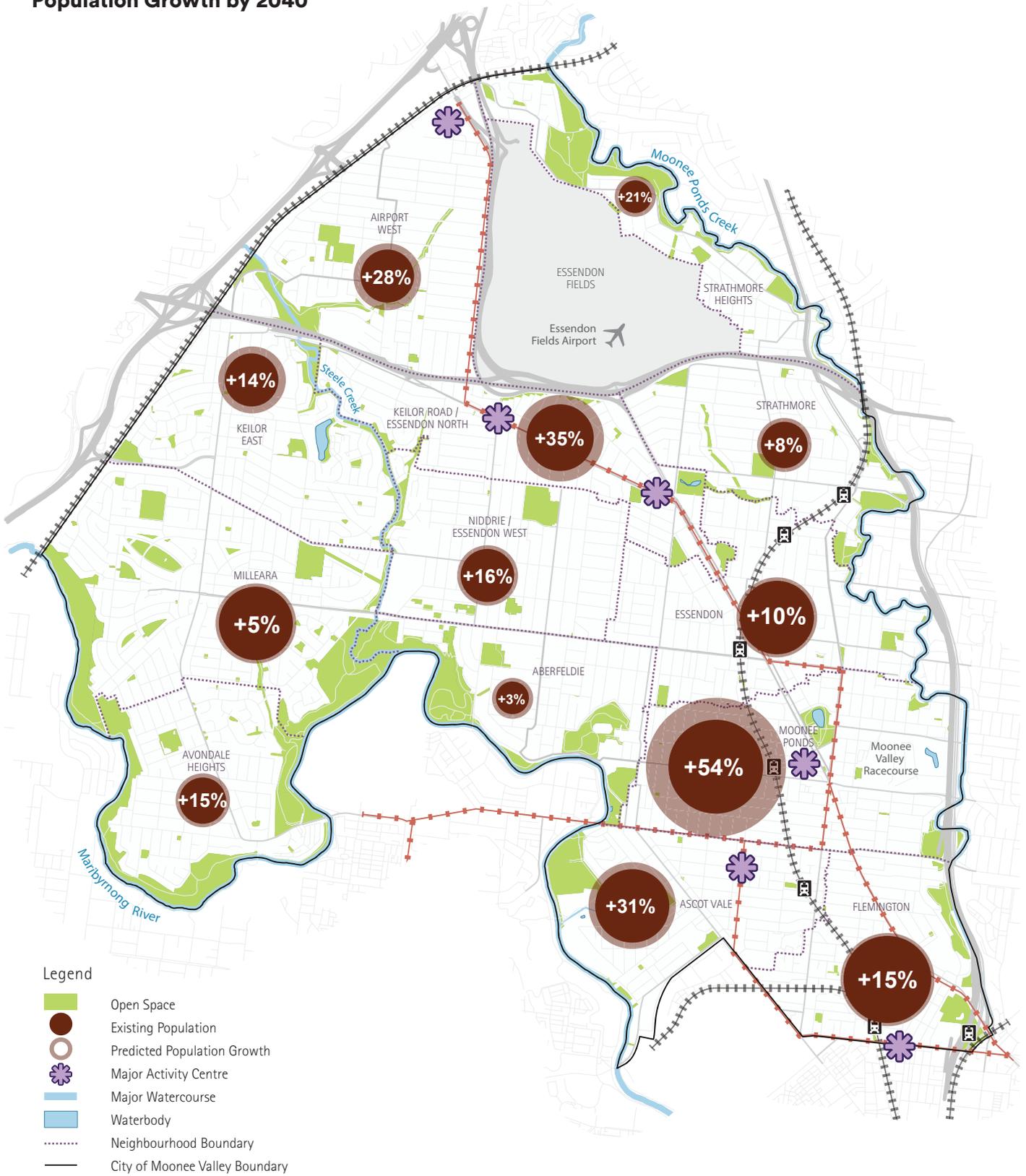
CHANGE 2023-2040

22% ↑



Image: Windy Hill (Essendon Cricket Ground), Essendon

Predicted Neighbourhood Population Growth by 2040



Source: Population data - REMPLAN 2023 (remplan.com.au).



3.3 PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE

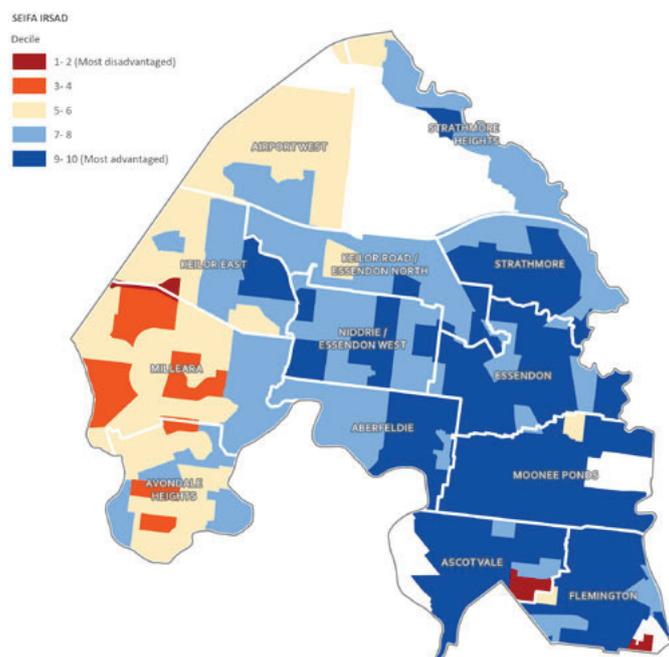
Some areas of Moonee Valley currently have limited access to any type of accessible public open space, as shown in the following map.

The table to the right compares accessible open space available by neighbourhood. The 2041 column shows the decline in open space per person that would occur if no new land was acquired or repurposed for open space, but population growth occurred as forecast. Note that there is currently no nationally agreed standard for provision of open space area per person.

Neighbourhoods and activity centres with projected population growth and increased density (see map below) are predicted to experience intensified demand for open space over time. Areas forecast to have the highest levels of population growth are located in areas with existing open space gaps.

Disadvantaged populations may have greater needs for access to quality open space to support improved community health outcomes. The map below shows levels of relative social disadvantage across Moonee Valley.

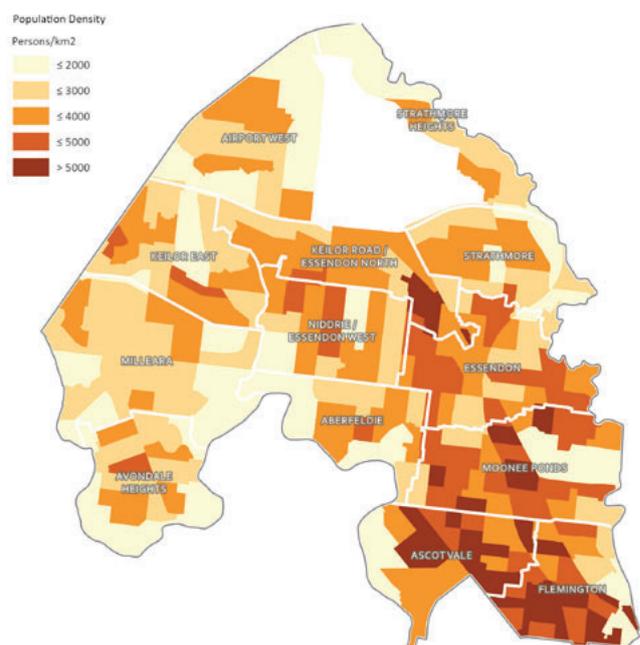
Improving walking, cycling, mobility device links to open space, and providing green, pedestrian friendly streets enables greater access to existing open space.



Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD), 2021

Areas (square metres) of open space per person by Neighbourhood		
Neighbourhood	2021	2041
Aberfeldie	147	140
Airport West	31	24
Ascot Vale	32	23
Avondale Heights	101	86
Essendon	6	5
Flemington	14	12
Keilor East	29	24
Keilor Rd/Essendon Nth	16	11
Milleara	85	79
Moonee Ponds	10	6
Niddrie / Essendon West	22	18
Strathmore	40	36
Strathmore Heights	116	93
City of Moonee Valley	40	31

As of October 2023. Population numbers: REMPLAN. Accessible open space - as per section 2.4. Forecasting based on current areas of accessible open space.

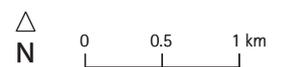


Population Density (based on ABS, 2021, usual place of residence)

Gaps in Open Space Provision



Note: Open Space indicates Accessible open space (refer section 2.4). Areas with open space provision are within the catchment of at least one open space type (refer section 2.2). Gaps indicate areas where there is no open space within the catchment of any open space type (refer section 2.2).



3.4 COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Consultation was undertaken with the community on the draft Moonee Valley Open Space Strategy in late 2023 with feedback received from individuals, community groups, Council advisory groups, and the Wurundjeri Cultural Heritage Unit. The following provides a summary of outcomes.

Feedback indicated high support for both the vision (72%) and the strategic directions (80%) of the draft Strategy.

Survey responses ranked Council actions very highly for: increasing habitat and trees in open space, improving the health of waterways, and establishing a park upgrade program for smaller parks. In addition, there was moderate support for acquisition or repurposing land for new open space.

The most popular themes in the free text responses included:

- More/improved open space facilities especially for dogs, informal active recreation elements and playgrounds.
- Make open space more inclusive and accessible (both to and within).
- Improve open space amenity such as improved maintenance and more toilets.
- Increase vegetation - support for increasing biodiversity, and more trees and shade.
- Increase new /repurposed open space.
- Comments about building and materials including requesting reduced buildings in open space and more use of natural and sustainable materials.

Submissions from stakeholder groups and individuals reinforced a desire for more

inclusiveness, improved waterway health, concern about loss of green space and encroachment into public open space, balancing sporting activities with other public open space uses, and protection and enhancement of existing open space and open space facilities.

A Community Advisory Panel in 2023 considered how Council could achieve biodiversity in public open spaces, and the panel prepared the following vision for biodiversity in Moonee Valley:

Beyond 2040, Moonee Valley has biodiversity that...Leverages and integrates all public open spaces and policies so that all species (especially indigenous ones) can thrive to:

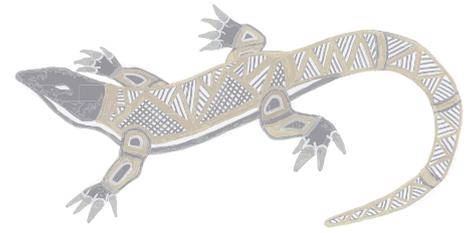
- Improve health and wellbeing
- Lessen the impact of climate change
- Enable access for everyone
- That sets a high benchmark
- Increase education and engagement

Council consulted on its Family and Children Framework in 2023, for which themes relating to open space were the most popular, including: accessibility; safety, fencing and dogs; improved, more diverse, accessible playspaces; access to toilets; improved sport and recreational facilities; increased shade; improved maintenance; more walking/cycling paths and more parks.

The various consultation findings confirm support for the strategic directions and objectives to increase open space, improve the quality of existing open space, strengthen climate resilience and enhance biodiversity, and planning actions to support the delivery of these.

The consultation findings are reflected in the Open Space Implementation Plan.





3.5 NARRAP - STARTING WITH COUNTRY

The Traditional Custodians of the land on which Moonee Valley is located are the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Peoples of the Kulin Nation.

The Moonee Valley Open Space Strategy 2024 acknowledges the importance of preserving Aboriginal cultural heritage and the particular importance of the Maribyrnong River, Steele Creek, Moonee Ponds Creek and other named and unnamed waterways of Moonee Valley to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Peoples.

The Open Space Strategy is aligned with the Bagarru Bagarru Djerring Reconciliation Plan that commits Council to:

- Acknowledge Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung culture, knowledge and heritage.
- Promote connections to Country and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung cultural values through land management practices, interpretation and protection of significant sites.
- Explore opportunities to care for Country together.

Moonee Valley Council respects the spiritual connection to the six layers of Country of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Peoples, and in order to maintain this connection we must care for Country and embed the ways of the past to secure culture for the future.

Tharangulk Biik – Star Country

Wurru Wurru Biik – Sky Country

Murnmut Biik – Wind Country

Bannj Biik – Water Country

Biik Dui – On Country

Biik Ut – Below Country



Image: Five Mile Creek Reserve, Essendon

Strategic Framework

4.1 STRATEGY ON A PAGE

Vision: describes the desired future state of the open space network

Moonee Valley’s open spaces welcome all. They are biodiverse and resilient, and nurture our community’s health and connection with nature. Woven into our neighbourhoods, our open spaces flourish with community life.

Every day we cherish the beautiful landscape and waterways that are Wurundjeri Country.

Open Space Strategy Framework Principles: and links to MV2040 themes



Strategic Directions: the Strategy’s four impact or focus areas



4.2 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS



1. Increased community access to open spaces and nature

Addressing open space gaps and providing adequate open space for areas of higher population density is key to delivering an equitable open space network. Providing new open space and enhancing access to existing open space will create a more connected network with adequate open space for the existing and future community. New and expanded open spaces along waterway corridors and other places of high environmental value will support connected habitat, access to nature, climate resilience and walking and cycling connections.



3. Strengthened ecological connectivity and climate resilient open spaces

Protecting, expanding and enhancing our green open spaces, the urban forest, habitat areas, waterways and their corridors and using climate resilient plants and environmentally sustainable infrastructure can support increased climate resilience, help manage stormwater and reduce urban heat. Promoting sustainable transport to open space whilst prioritising car parking for those who need it most will support sustainable open spaces.



2. Improved open space quality

Enhancing the quality of our open space network and providing a range of open space types will ensure we better meet the changing needs of our diverse and growing community. Improvements to elements that contribute to open space quality: assets, accessibility, safety, amenity (toilets, shade, park furniture, etc.), functionality, sense of place, and site activation, will deliver welcoming and attractive spaces for social connection and access to nature. Adaptable, inclusive and multi functional open space with varied facilities will increase opportunities for sport and informal recreation.



4. Well-planned, collaborative and community informed open spaces

Delivering an open space network for the community now and into the future requires a review of assets and an integrated planning approach across Council. This approach supports protection of existing open space and shared and multi-use functions to meet diverse community needs. It will be supported by partnerships with the community, Traditional Custodians, other levels of government, and other land owners and asset managers. Indigenous cultural heritage values and sites in open space will be protected.

4.3 OBJECTIVES

1. INCREASED COMMUNITY ACCESS TO OPEN SPACES AND NATURE

- 1.1 Communities in open space gap areas have greater access to open space.
- 1.2 Communities in higher density locations, including activity centres, have greater access to open space.
- 1.3 Ecological connectivity, climate resilience and the community's access to nature, is increased by new open space, especially along waterway corridors.
- 1.4 The community can access improved walking, cycling and mobility device connections to open space, and along open space linear trails.

2. IMPROVED OPEN SPACE QUALITY

- 2.1 The community can access more major parks of increased quality and diversity in line with community needs.
- 2.2 The community has access to open space with improved amenity, maintenance, sense of safety, inclusive access, and greater opportunity for social interaction.
- 2.3 Community members of all ages and abilities have access to range of quality sporting facilities, and increased access to varied opportunities for informal recreation and play.
- 2.4 The community has increased access to diverse events and activities in open space such as festivals, arts, education, community biodiversity activities and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung cultural practices.

3. STRENGTHENED ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENT OPEN SPACES

- 3.1 Open spaces of environmental value are protected and enhanced, and areas of ecological biodiversity are increased across Moonee Valley's open spaces.
- 3.2 The community and the open space network are more climate resilient to effects of flood, drought, and heat.
- 3.3 The community has access to cooler, greener, more climate resilient open spaces with protected and expanded tree canopy.
- 3.4 Waterway health is improved and community access to cool, green spaces is increased, through reuse of treated stormwater in open space.

4. WELL-PLANNED, COLLABORATIVE AND COMMUNITY INFORMED OPEN SPACES

- 4.1 Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung cultural heritage values and connections to Country are promoted in open space.
- 4.2 The community is engaged in open space planning.
- 4.3 Open space planning is supported by best practice, current research, and appropriate planning tools and guidelines.
- 4.4 The open space network is optimised by partnerships, advocacy, and effective internal Council processes.



4.4 OPEN SPACE PRINCIPLES

The following open space principles support the strategic directions and objectives of the Open Space Strategy and will underpin the Implementation Plan and internal guidelines.

Protection and expansion of open space:

- An adequate quantity of open space is provided for the existing and future community.
- There is no net loss of open space across Moonee Valley.
- New buildings in open space are limited to infrastructure that relies on or contributes to the use of open space.
- New open space is appropriate to meet open space needs.
- Aboriginal cultural heritage is acknowledged and protected.

Access to open space:

- Access to public land along waterways and other places of natural value is maintained and enhanced.
- Open spaces are connected, including walking, cycling and mobility device links within and between open spaces.

Improved open space:

- Natural values and existing trees are retained and enhanced.
- Social interaction, safety, and inclusion for the whole community is supported.
- Accessibility for all abilities is provided.
- The diversity of open spaces reflects and meet the community's needs.
- Improvements to open space are coordinated and in line with community need.
- Sustainable and environmental practices are maximised.

Use of open space:

- Formal and informal recreational use of open space is balanced, and opportunities for informal recreational use increased, where possible.
- Exclusive use is limited in line with master plans to enable broad community access.
- Adaptable, flexible, multi-use open spaces and facilities support shared, multiple use of and functions in open space.





Image: Queen Park, Moonee Ponds

Open Space Strategy Implementation

5.1 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The implementation of the Open Space Strategy will be undertaken across multiple areas of Council responsible for planning, design, acquisition, management, activation and maintenance.

Partnerships with other agencies will be needed to deliver certain initiatives. Moonee Valley will continue to advocate on behalf of the community to the state government in relation to new open space and for the upgrade and management of state government owned and managed open spaces and waterways.

This Strategy will provide a basis for liaison with stakeholders including Traditional Custodians, state government, asset managers, other councils, private landowners, property developers, schools and the broader community regarding expectations and achieving desired open space outcomes.

5.2 FUNDING

The future expenditure on public open space initiatives is subject to the Council annual budget processes. The annual program will typically be funded from the rates revenue, contributions from developers and/or grants revenue.

Public open space contributions (POSC) from property developers can be used for the acquisition of land for public open space and the improvement of public open space. POSC cannot be used for open space maintenance.

The POSC rate is set through the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme. The contribution can be either land or cash at Council's discretion and is levied at the time land is subdivided.

Where there is no subdivision of land there is no requirement to pay the POSC. Build to rent developments may not be subdivided but still generate demand for open space similar to a typical apartment development. This accommodation type needs to be defined in the Victoria Planning Provisions to enable contributions for open space to be captured.



Image: Brosnan Crescent Link, Strathmore

5.3 DELIVERY MODELS

The open space network can be optimised by protecting existing open space, increasing access to open space and improving existing open space. There are multiple ways this can be achieved as illustrated below.



Improved Access: provide additional and improved access points and connections, and remove barriers to accessing existing open space.



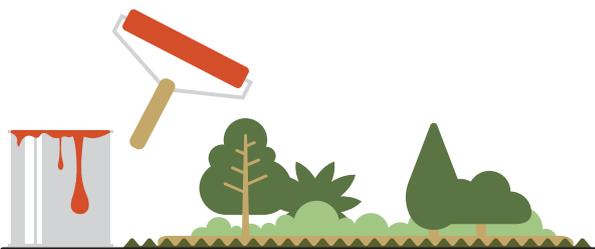
Expansion: expand existing open space to create a larger open space via repurposing adjacent land.



Purchase: provide new open space through property developer land contributions, land acquisition or compulsory purchase.



Repurpose: repurpose existing underutilised land into new open space e.g. rail reserves, roads or service easements.



Upgrade: upgrade existing open space to accommodate additional or varied usage or capacity.



Unlock: utilise private, restricted or encumbered land for open space use e.g. school grounds open for weekend use.

5.4 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

An Open Space Strategy Implementation Plan outlines programs and other initiatives to deliver the strategic directions and objectives of the Strategy across the open space network.

The plan identifies responsibilities, indicative timeframes and high level prioritisation.

The timing of delivery of initiatives will be over the short (1-4 years), medium (5-7 years), or long (8-10 years) term, or may be ongoing or future projects. The timing of initiatives is based on their prioritisation as well as alignment with other opportunities.

The Implementation Plan will be updated as required to be responsive to changes in the external environment, whether physical shocks (e.g. floods) or major government policy changes (e.g. increasing population growth), or new opportunities (e.g. delivery of a major infrastructure project in the municipality). That is, the program will be responsive and flexible, and priorities will be adjusted via annual budget and four-year Council plan processes.

Council will use the themes in the table opposite to prioritise implementation of open space projects.

5.5 PRIORITISATION CRITERIA

Strategic alignment	How well the initiative aligns with the objectives of the Open Space Strategy.
Equity	The extent to which the initiative addresses improvements for locations with open space gaps or with significant existing or projected population density or for the MV2040 target populations.
Urgency	The degree to which the initiative is responsive to the climate emergency or biodiversity crisis or other identified urgent reason.

Prioritisation will also consider opportunities for funding, partnership, and coordination with other Council projects. Implementation will be subject to Council's annual budgeting processes.



5.6 IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

Implementation will include:

- Translate the Open Space Strategy Implementation Plan into future 4-year Council Plans and annual capital works budgets.
- Consider any changes to the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme including revisions to public open space contributions.
- Integrate the Open Space Strategy with existing Council corporate documents, such as Council's Asset Plan and relevant guidelines.
- Develop a monitoring and reporting framework.
- Update the Implementation Plan at least every four years and more often as required.



Image: Green Spine, Airport West



Image: Maribyrnong River, Aberfeldie



Owner	Manager City Futures			Version	01
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Moonee Valley Language Line

العربية	Arabic	9932 1471	Ελληνικά	Greek	9932 1474	Español	Spanish	9932 1477
廣東話	Cantonese	9932 1472	Italiano	Italian	9932 1475	Türkçe	Turkish	9932 1478
Hrvatski	Croatian	9932 1473	Somali	Somali	9932 1476	Tiếng Việt	Vietnamese	9932 1479

All other languages 9932 1480

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