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IMPLEMENTING BREATHING SPACE DELIVERING DAREBIN'S OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Prepared By HANSEN PARTNERSHIP | 2021



Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and waters we now call Darebin and pays respect to their elders, past, present and emerging. Council affirms that Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people have lived on this land for millennia, practising their ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal.

Council respects and recognises all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and their values, living culture and practices, including their continuing spiritual connection to the land and waters and their right to selfdetermination.

**Ngarrgma Wurrundjeri Woi-wurrung guljin
gurringanyinu bik wenerop Darebin dharri Ngarri
yana ngarnga bik, baan ba ngarrgu. Gahgook-al
nanggit bambuth, yalingbu ba gama-dji.**





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September 2019, Darebin City Council adopted *Breathing Space*, an ambitious strategy to improve the municipality's open space. Access to open space is critical to the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities, and the importance of open space has been highlighted through the COVID-10 pandemic.

As an inner urban municipality with strong levels of growth, the provision of appropriate open space for the municipality is a key challenge, particularly for a Council that has recognised the climate emergency.

This document establishes a framework for implementing *Breathing Space*. It prioritises the actions identified in *Breathing Space*, and identifies the indicative costs, responsibilities and timeframes associated with each action.

Section Two of the document includes definitions of open space used within this document and provides a comparison between all open space in the municipality and that identified as being available to the community in *Breathing Space*. This broadening of scope for open space access is an important consideration in assessing the priorities for the delivery of new open space.

The existing and future gaps in open space provision in Darebin provide a critical baseline from which *Implementing Breathing Space* addresses Actions set out in *Breathing Space*.

Section Three of the document provides a basis for how the differing 'gaps' in open space in Darebin can be understood holistically to guide future investment in open space assets. It sets out a Framework for addressing per capita provision gaps and access gaps and outlines a methodology for prioritising areas for new open space and for upgrades to existing open space.

Priority Investigation Areas are identified, where proactive program of open space delivery will be undertaken. The Framework also guides consideration of opportunities to add to the open space network in other areas, to meet the objectives of *Breathing Space*.

Upgrades to existing parks are prioritised at the Precinct level, and indicative costings are provided for delivery of the identified improvements. Preston West, Preston Central, Preston Industrial and Reservoir South are identified as priority upgrade Precincts as a result of their shortfalls in open space provision and anticipated high rates of future growth.

To provide a structure to support implementation, and to present costs in an organised manner, this document separates Breathing Space Actions into three key groups:

- Group One: Actions associated with the delivery of a network of open space
- Group Two: Other Actions with funding implications
- Group Three: Actions for which no additional funding requirements are identified.

Costs associated with the first two groups are as follows:

- **TOTAL GROUP ONE COSTS = \$158,315,093.00**

Group One costs attributable to the Open Space Levy (cash contributions) = \$148,146,693

- **TOTAL GROUP TWO COSTS = \$41,310,000.00**

Group Two costs attributable to the Open Space Levy (cash contributions) = \$20,600,000.00

The costs associated with the delivery of new open space in Darebin are derived from the companion document to this implementation plan, *Enhancing Open Space* which assesses opportunities for the delivery of new open space and provides costings and prioritisation of these.

The scale of the costs identified in this document is a testament to the challenges faced by many Councils. Through careful analysis of real life, on-the-ground, opportunities to deliver a range of types of open space, a rigorous assessment of the potential of existing areas of open space to work harder, and a clear system of prioritisation, *Implementing Breathing Space* is intended to help address this challenge.



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OPEN SPACE IN DAREBIN: BREATHING SPACE

In September 2019 Darebin City Council adopted *Breathing Space*, an ambitious strategy to improve the municipality's open space. *Breathing Space* took a broader view of what constitutes 'open space' than traditionally adopted. This wider view recognised the growing body of evidence and research highlighting the important contribution that streets and incidental nature within an urban context can make to delivery of a wide range of Council objectives.

The vision of *Breathing Space* is for more and better open space to meet the community's needs, with an emphasis on open space which delivers closer alignment with local culture and supports improved biodiversity and health outcomes.

As an inner urban municipality with strong levels of growth, the provision of appropriate open space for the municipality is a key challenge, particularly for a Council in the context of responding to the climate emergency. Darebin is, however blessed with a number of significant open space assets, not least of which are the two main waterways (the Merri and Darebin Creeks) which form the eastern and western boundaries of the municipality. The broader spatial context can be seen in Figure 3 overleaf.

1.2 WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT?

Implementing Breathing Space complements the *Breathing Space* strategy by providing detail on each of the implementation tasks required to achieve the open space objectives, including responsibilities, cost estimates and priorities.

It responds to Planning Practice Note 70: Open Space Strategies (PPN 70) which recommends that Open Space Strategies have an implementation plan.

As recommended by *Breathing Space*, Council is also pursuing an amendment to the Darebin Planning Scheme to increase the amount that developers in Darebin must contribute to fund the municipality's network of public open space, above the current level required at Clause 53.01.

Recent feedback provided to other Councils through the independent Planning Panel process has suggested that an increase in the rate of contributions should be based on a 'high level' understanding of the costs involved in delivering public open space in the local context. *Implementing Breathing Space* assists in identifying these costs.

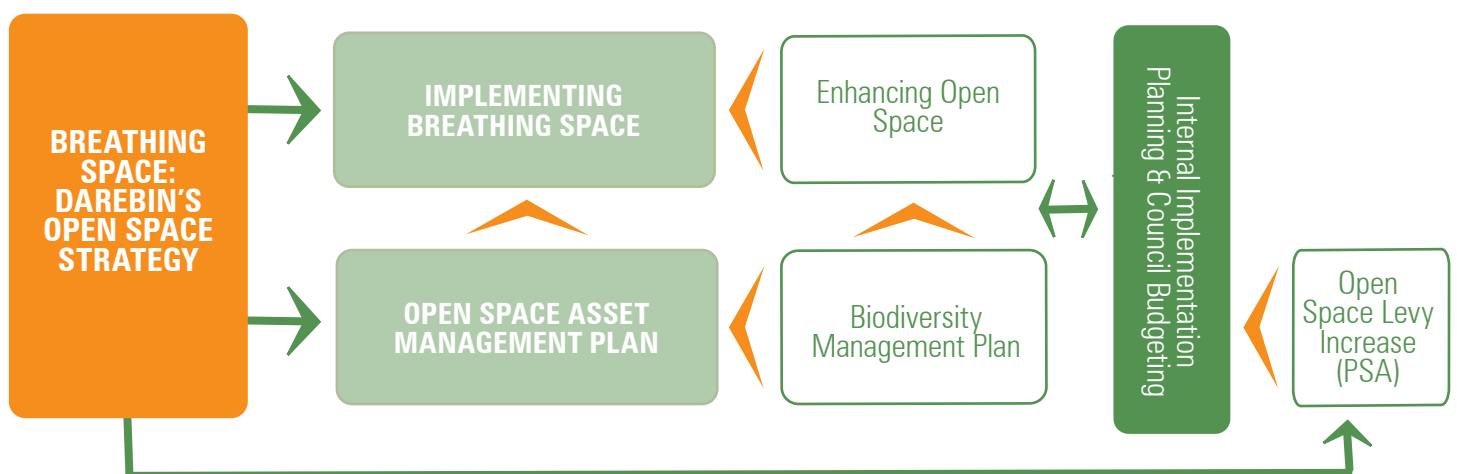


Figure 1: Breathing Space Implementation Components



1.3 SCOPE OF IMPLEMENTING BREATHING SPACE

Implementing Breathing Space is not comprehensive. It has been prepared at a 'point in time' and is intended to provide a framework within which further internal processes and work can be undertaken to deliver individual actions identified by *Breathing Space*. In particular, at the time of writing Council is preparing to undertake further work on a *Levels of Service framework and Asset Management Plan*, which will guide continued investment in Council owned open space assets.

The preparation of this document has involved a number of key stakeholders, both internal and external, in determining priorities.

In particular feedback on priorities for implementation has been sought from the Darebin Nature Trust (one of Council's independent advisory groups) and Darebin's Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people, both directly in engagement through the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, and guidance provide by the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

1.4 PROCESS

The preparation of this document has involved a number of key stakeholders, both internal and external, in determining priorities.

In particular feedback on priorities for implementation has been sought from the Darebin Nature Trust (one of Council's independent advisory groups) and Darebin's Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people, both directly in engagement through the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, and guidance provide by the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

This document was prepared as a collaborative effort between the consultant and Council's designated internal Project Working Group.

The project was overseen by a Project Control Group which included key staff from the Parks and open Space, Property and Business improvement and Strategic Planning teams.

The key steps in the process of the Plans preparation are outlined in Figure 2.

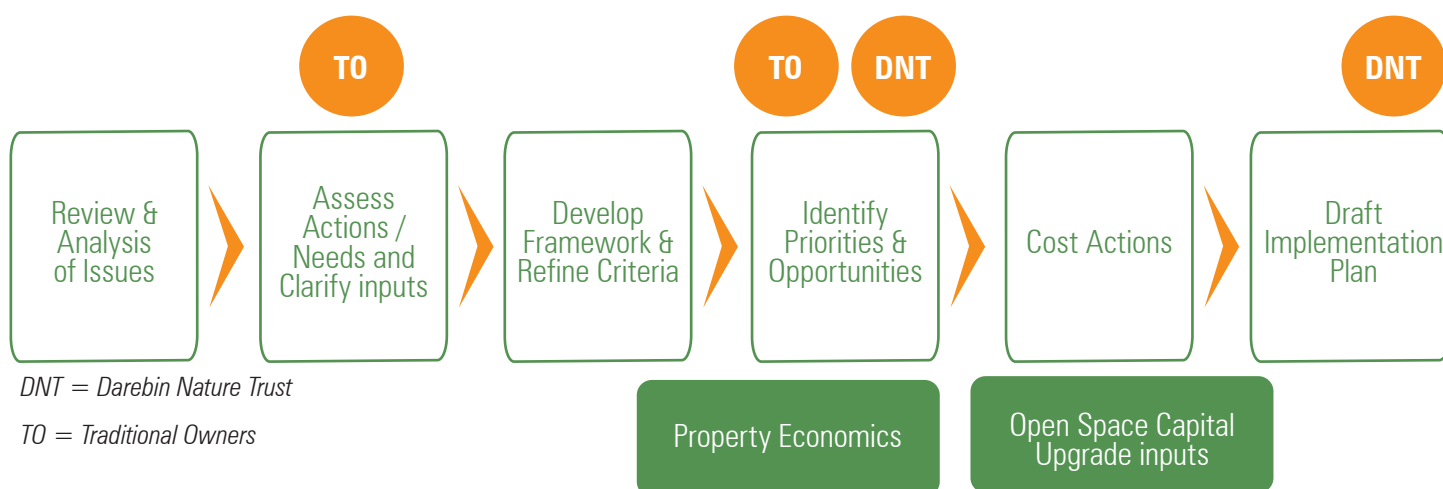


Figure 2: Project process



2.0 BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

2.1 WHAT IS OPEN SPACE?

While *Breathing Space* contains a number of descriptions of open space as it relates to particular uses, for the purposes of *Implementing Breathing Space* it is considered that the majority of open spaces within Darebin will not be 'single purpose' spaces but will serve multiple purposes (such as a linear open space which provides for active recreation such as jogging or bike riding, and a biodiversity purpose, or a large park which contains active and passive recreation opportunities as well as social and civic functions and a contribution to local biodiversity).

However, an understanding of the role of the varying spaces within the open space network, and more importantly, as part of the formal network of Public Open Space in Darebin is important in the context of funding avenues. Aligning definitions with other strategic plans and strategies also helps support effective implementation. As such, the following descriptions are adopted for this Plan:

- **Open space / the open space network** - As per *Breathing Space* - "open space includes not only parks and reserves, but also streetscapes, nature strips, productive food gardens, urban nodes, quasi-public space, parklets, transport corridors and overlapping uses of space with schools, public asset providers and other institutions"
- **Public Open Space** – As per Subdivision Act (1988) Section 18A
Public open space means land set aside in a plan or land in a plan zoned or reserved under a planning scheme –
 - a) For public recreation or public resort, or
 - b) As parklands
 - c) For similar purposes

It is important to recognise these two district definitions as *Breathing Space*'s definitions of open space is much broader than that with the potential to be funded through the legal mechanism of the *Subdivision Act* (currently implemented through Clause 53.01 of the Darebin Planning Scheme).

2.2 DAREBIN'S CONTEXT

Darebin's context is a municipality which ranges from a more intensively developed inner city area, to more traditional suburban landscapes extending up to Melbourne's northern growth areas. The creek corridors are defining features of the municipality and form the majority of the eastern, western and north boundaries of the municipality. These creek corridors provide many important open space opportunities but can also serve as barriers to open space in adjoining municipalities.

In addition to the creek corridors the strong north / south characteristics of Darebin are also reflected in the major road corridors of St Georges Road / Spring Street, High Street and Plenty Road. High Street and Plenty Road in particular are major development corridors. Bell Street is the major defining east / west corridor. Darebin has a legacy of a number of large industrial estates which are generally located adjoining the creek corridors to both the north-west and south-east. The area around Latrobe University Campus, extending south to include Northland and Summerhill Shopping Centres, is a designated National Employment & Innovation Cluster under Plan Melbourne.

In addition to the open space along Darebin's creek corridors, which also include Edgars and Central Creeks, larger scale open space assets are mostly located in the north-east, around the La Trobe University Campus, including Bundoora Park and key environmental assets. Other notable spaces include golf courses, Edwardes Lake, the sports complexes at JC Donath Reserve, and around the Darebin International Sports Centre and All Nations Park.

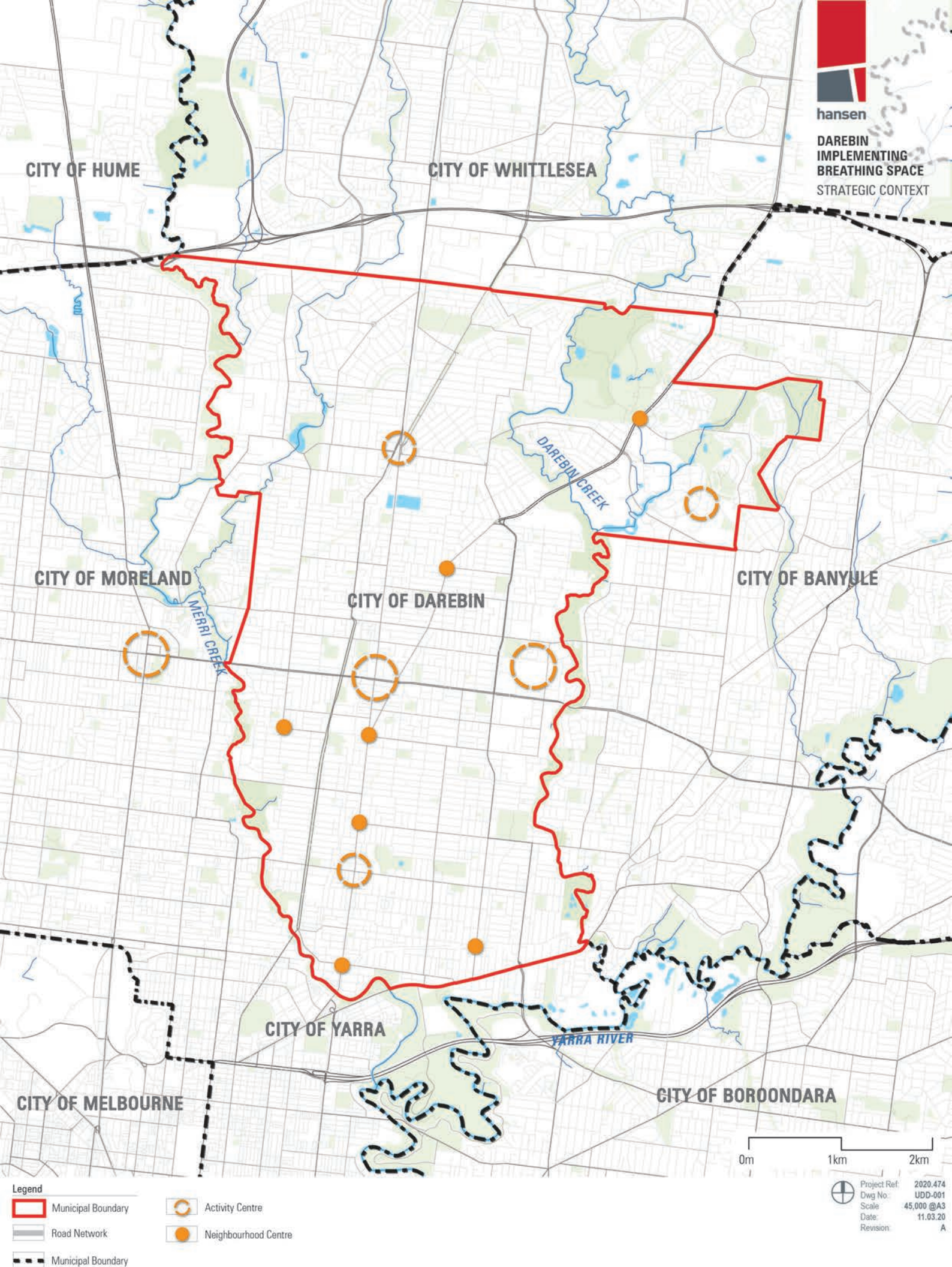


Figure 3: City of Darebin context



2.3 BREATHING SPACE STRUCTURE & KEY OBJECTIVES

The vision for Open Space in Darebin articulated by *Breathing Space* is as follows:

We see a future city that has more and better open space. Where we share multifaceted, contemplative, biodiverse, inspiring and active spaces that promote health, wellbeing, and social and cultural connections.

Our streets, reserves, nature strips and medians are lush and rewilded with bushland trees, flowers and plants.

Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy seeks to achieve a place where we work together to protect local species and extend their habitat, celebrate our unique natural character and where everyone in the community feels a deep sense of ownership and responsibility towards our beautiful natural world.

The strategy will achieve its vision of more and better open space through increasing the quantity of open space by working towards all residents having access to open space within 500m walking distance of their homes and improving the quality of open space to meet the three key directions of the strategy:

Key Direction 1: Meeting community open space needs

Key Direction 2: Rewilding Darebin: improving biodiversity

Key Direction 3: Creating a Green Streets Network

Both the 'quality' and 'quantity' of open space in Darebin are key challenges identified by *Breathing Space* and the strategy seeks to address them both.

The three Key Directions outlined in the Vision which form the structure of the document are supported by 15 Objectives.

Key Direction 1: Meeting community open space needs

- *Objective 1: Make the distribution of open space equitable*
- *Objective 2: Recognise local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities, particularly Traditional Owners*
- *Objective 3: Designing for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities*
- *Objective 4: Reflect diverse needs*
- *Objective 5: Provide facilities that make open spaces more appealing and useable by more people*
- *Objective 6: Balance the needs of different users*
- *Objective 7: Make all open spaces multi-use*
- *Objective 8: Make open spaces places for expression and art*

Key Direction 2: Rewilding Darebin: improving biodiversity

- *Objective 9: Increase appreciation for biodiversity*
- *Objective 10: Protect local species*
- *Objective 11: Engage the community as partners in biodiversity protection*
- *Objective 12: Make indigenous bushland character the default choice*

Key Direction 3: Creating a Green Streets Network

- *Objective 13: Develop a network of green streets in Darebin*
- *Objective 14: Enable walking and cycling*
- *Objective 15: Build best practice across Council, the community and public asset owners*



2.4 IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

QUALITY, QUANTITY AND PROXIMITY

One of the major issues in implementing *Breathing Space*, or any open-space strategy, is the need to consider open space not only in terms of the *quantity* of open space available to the community but also to consider issues of both *access* and *quality* of available open space. One of the strengths of the *Breathing Space* strategy is that it acknowledges that more effective utilisation of existing open space, as well as the provision of new open space, is critical to meeting community needs. *Breathing Space* reflects an acknowledgement that, particularly in inner-city areas with more density and high land values, the large-scale delivery of new open spaces is constrained.

It is important to acknowledge that open-space strategies are prepared in a range of ways and there is no consistent or standardised way of measuring either quality, quantity or proximity. *Breathing Space* adopts a 30m² rate per person for 'quantity' and a 500m distance from open space for 'proximity'. These definitions are adopted in the absence of any state mandated standards. *Breathing Space* also identifies what may be expected in terms of 'quality' based on the intensity of usage and other *Breathing Space* objectives by allocating 'Types' with associated facilities, to existing parks (noting these are being confirmed as part of the review of Councils *Open Space Asset Management Plan* (Action 5.10)).

While traditionally open space plans and funding have focused on the delivery of new open spaces (the *quantity*) and to lesser degree on *proximity*, the *quality* of existing open spaces needs to be considered meaningfully as part of any implementation plan.

Within Darebin, land is heavily utilised and there is little 'spare' land which can be converted to new areas of open space. The vast majority of land is also in private ownership which creates issues both in the cost of acquiring new land, and in the timely acquisition of land, given the reliance on land being offered up for sale. The emphasis in *Breathing Space* on upgrading existing areas of open space, alongside the provision of new areas when and where these can be delivered responds to the realities of many local governments in delivering open space for their communities.

COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS AND THE IMPACT OF COVID 19

Also influencing any implementation of Darebin's open-space strategy are considerations of changing expectations from the community in terms of what open spaces will deliver, and an increasing awareness of the importance of open space. More specifically, there is an increasing importance placed on high-quality locally accessible

open space highlighted by lockdowns in 2020 which in Darebin saw increased pressure on linear open spaces in particular, noting over 200% increases in usage in some places. For many, patterns of usage established at the time are continuing and these increases in usage, as well as community expectations have significant implications for Council's delivery and funding of open spaces. There is a current disconnect between the importance placed by the community on open space and the mechanisms available for Council to deliver open space

As noted, *Breathing Space* identified that open space is more than just formal parks. The way people experience open space varies - it encompasses linear pathways with vegetation and canopy trees such as the St George's Road corridor, more 'natural' and biodiverse spaces such as Merri Creek and also more formal sporting and recreation facilities. Open space also needs to be considered in terms of what it provides and the scale at which it provides it. Considerations of the range of scales of open space available were also highlighted during the pandemic, with the use of the Northcote Golf Course for a range of uses by the local community an often cited example.

FUNDING CONSTRAINTS

Importantly for implementation of any open space strategy the definition of what can be funded through the main mechanism used by Council to deliver open space (the Open Space Levy linked to subdivision) does not necessarily reflect contemporary understanding of 'open space'. *Implementing Breathing Space* therefore needs to be clear on what aspects are available to be funded through the open space levy according to the relevant definitions and what will be funded through other sources. *Implementing Breathing Space* documents indicative costs to deliver appropriate open space within the municipality. Due to funding constraints, it is not anticipated that all of these will be able to be met, and a process of prioritisation will therefore need to occur.

The critical issue which must be acknowledged is that meeting identified benchmarks in terms of 'quality', 'proximity' and 'quantity' (not to mention community expectations) will result in funding needs which far exceed anything that can be reasonably delivered by Council, even with a significant increase in the open space levy as proposed by *Breathing Space*. This is even more notable in the current rate capped context in which Councils are seeking to rectify existing shortfalls and meet future needs in relation to open space.

Darebin, like many inner-city municipalities, has an existing shortfall in open-space. The municipality is also anticipated to accommodate significant future growth which will increase pressure on these open space assets. While Darebin is lucky to have a number of high quality open spaces, it lacks significant large-scale open space



assets and there are parts of the municipality which have very little open space. Consistent with other inner city municipalities, addressing shortfalls by increasing the quantity of open-space provision is significantly constrained by the cost of land which makes purchase of land (particularly large-scale parcels) a difficult proposition. This requires more 'innovative' approach to the delivery of open space which is not always compatible with the available funding sources, and associated mechanisms. *Enhancing Open Space* addresses these challenges by identifying a wide range of opportunities for the delivery of open space.

INTEGRATION OF BIODIVERSITY VALUES

Breathing Space also places a strong emphasis on the role of open spaces, not just as formal public open space networks (designed as social infrastructure) but also the contribution open spaces make in terms of ecosystem services and protection and enhancement of biodiversity. Darebin's declaration of a climate and biodiversity emergency means this aspect of open space planning is of critical importance in terms of integration of biodiversity related matters with the open-space network. There are however, current gaps in understanding of the context which must be addressed in order to appropriately implement *Breathing Space* aspirations. Some of these are addressed through *Implementing Breathing Space* - of particular note is the need to prepare a Biodiversity Management Plan which can highlight opportunities for the delivery of habitat linkages and wildlife corridors beyond those provided by the creek corridors. Until this work is undertaken it is difficult to fully integrate the objectives of *Breathing Space* with any expansion of the broader public open space network. However, significant work is underway and addressed through *Implementing Breathing Space* to ensure considerations of biodiversity are central to the delivery of all open spaces.

INTEGRATION OF CULTURAL VALUES

Recognising the importance of landscapes within Darebin, and in particular waterway corridors, to the cultural values of Darebin's Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people and culture, as well as the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, is also critical. While the preparation of *Implementing Breathing Space* has been informed by conversations with the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, this is just the beginning of the process of more fully integrating the cultural values which are embedded in Darebin's open spaces. The important opportunity that open space can provide in increasing the visibility of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history, in increasing the broader community's understanding and appreciation of cultural values, has been highlighted during engagement sessions.

OVERLAPS AND INTEGRATION

Planning for open space is also made more complex by the diversity of interests, pressures and other influences which inform them. Open spaces are multifunctional and are often subject to contradictory ambitions. Equally open space planning has the opportunity to deliver on objectives related to a range of other matters including active transport, health and well-being, equity, inclusion and responses to climate change. Open space planning intersects with, and is critical to, the delivery of objectives well beyond those articulated in *Breathing Space*. As such, *Implementing Breathing Space* represents a 'whole of Council' approach and will require the involvement of the majority of Council departments.





3.0 GAPS IN THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

Implementing Breathing Space recognises that the core vision of *Breathing Space* vision is to provide 'more and better open space'. Actions 1.1 and 5.1 are broad actions that play a key role in achieving this vision.

'Key Direction 1: Meeting community open space needs', and its associated Objectives, Strategies and Actions relate to the provision of open space, and in particular, its equitable spatial distribution across the municipality.

Strategy 1.1 Work towards all Darebin residents having quality public open space within 500m of their homes.

Strategy 1.2 Over time, plan and deliver new open space where there are identified gaps in the open space network and where there is the greatest need.

Action 1.1 Acquire additional open space. This may be through purchase, joint use agreements and/or partnerships with public and private entities.

To implement Action 1.1, having regard to Strategies 1.1 and 1.2, requires a number of things be first understood. These are:

- Where the gaps in the existing open space network are, including a confirmation of existing available open space
- Where there is the greatest need for new open space
- What the various opportunities available are to 'acquire' additional open space
- What the funding mechanisms, potential barriers and practical steps to deliver this open space are.

These are addressed in this Section of the *Implementing Breathing Space* and the complementary document, *Enhancing Open Space*.

Importantly, under the same Key Direction, *Breathing Space* also identifies a need to 'upgrade' open spaces over time to improve their appeal and usability. This is expressed through

Strategy 5.1 Over time, plan and deliver open space improvements where there are gaps in the current level of service/amenity provision.

Action 5.1 Over time, upgrade open spaces in need of safety, quality and amenity improvements.

Breathing Space explicitly acknowledges that both quality and quantity of open space in Darebin are key challenges the strategy seeks to address. Direction 1 acknowledges that areas with high levels of growth will require high performing open spaces that support intensive use by the local community.

As such, gaps need to be identified in two ways -

- Gaps in the QUANTITY of open space, having particular regard for areas without current access to LOCAL parks.
- Gaps in the QUALITY of open space, where the current level of service does not correspond with *Breathing Space's* identified 'Type'. This is discussed further at Section 3.4.



3.1 EXISTING OPEN SPACE IN DAREBIN

Breathing Space identifies a range of existing open spaces in Darebin (Page 27). Importantly, *Breathing Space* makes a distinction between spaces which are owned / managed by Council and met certain parameters and those which did not. In *Breathing Space*, a broad definition of 'open space' was adopted generally, but in assessing the gaps in the existing network of Public Open Space available to Darebin's resident, a narrower definition was used. As stated in *Breathing Space* (Page 29), accessible open space was considered as follows:

This includes access to Council managed and/or publicly accessible open spaces within Darebin. Golf courses, schools and conservation reserves with limited public access are excluded from the analysis. Open spaces in neighbouring municipalities are also excluded (standard planning practice is to exclude any land over which Council does not have direct ownership and control and is therefore unable to guarantee its future use and availability).

Figure 4 identifies open spaces across Darebin and their role as identified in *Breathing Space*.

As part of this project areas defined as Public Open Space were reviewed. Figure 5 identifies an updated appreciation of existing open space assets in and adjoining Darebin, as well as the relevant 'categorisation' of those assets.

In response to the parameters established in *Breathing Space*, areas of open space which were not owned / managed by Council and which are not 'publicly accessible' are identified separately. As noted, *Breathing Space* does not identify all of these open spaces as contributing to the network of Public Open Space available to Darebin's residents.

However, as can be seen by comparison between the two plans, there are a large number of other open space assets which *may* be available to residents, albeit in a less secure or formalised manner.

3.2 OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGIES

Breathing Space also defined parks in Darebin according to their hierarchy (size) and role. These include:

- **local** parks - small parks drawing visitors within walking distance from the location or suburb. Lower level of use / service.
- **district** parks - draw visitors from surrounding suburbs as well as people who live within walking distance. Moderate level of use / service.
- **regional** parks - draw visitors from across the municipality and beyond. High level of use / service.

In addition to hierarchical classifications of open space, *Breathing Space* classifies District and Local parks into 'type' A, B and C to reflect varying levels of population density within their geographic catchments. Together, hierarchy and type are used in *Breathing Space* to guide the provision of assets required to meet the needs of the community.

As part of developing the *Open Space Asset Management Plan*, an assessment of existing assets was undertaken alongside a review of the type allocation in *Breathing Space*.

This comprehensive assessment also considered a further level of 'park category' recognising the primary purpose/ activity of each site. For example, a 'community' park is a very different proposition from a 'linear' reserve which functions primarily as an active transport corridor, and would therefore be anticipated to have different needs. Identification of primary purpose, in addition to catchment, enables a holistic approach to planning Levels of Service and the appropriate type, number and quality of asset provision for each space.



The 'primary purpose' used in the background assessment for the *Open Space Asset Management Plan*, and referenced within *Implementing Breathing Space* are as follows

Civic

- Open space used for community and civic gatherings, or that surrounds civic buildings.

Community

- Open space that is used for casual recreation, providing spaces and features to encourage play, social interaction and relaxation.

Conservation

- Areas that have unique or important native plants and/or animals where species conservation priorities override other visitor activities.

Residential Pocket Park

- Provides general beautification through the provision of grass, shrubs and trees, with low levels of development or use (except for people walking through). Usually these parks cannot be used for recreation because of their size, location and/or topography and their main value is visual appearance.

Linear

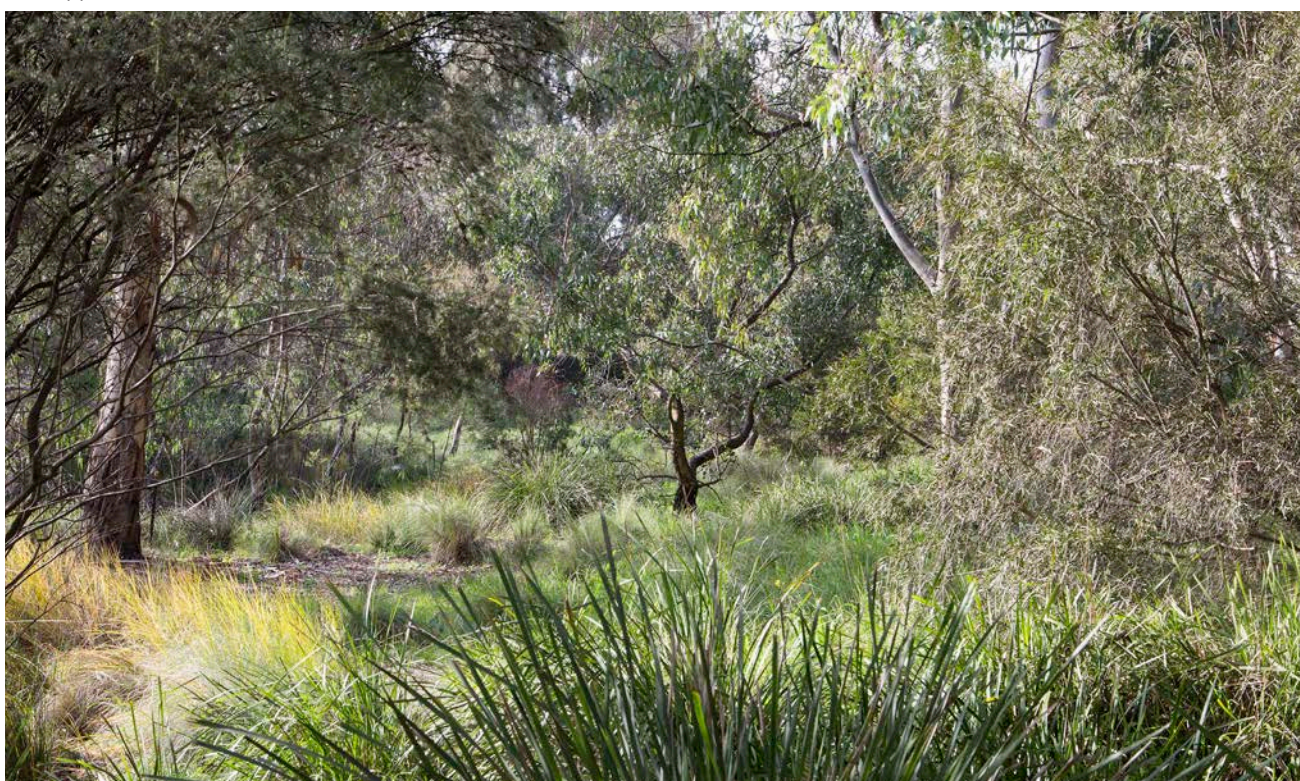
- Often long and mostly narrow parks that link green spaces, provide opportunities for walking and cycling, or that follow natural features such as creeks and rivers. Paths and trails are key features and reason to visit.

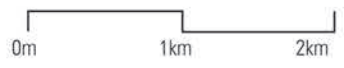
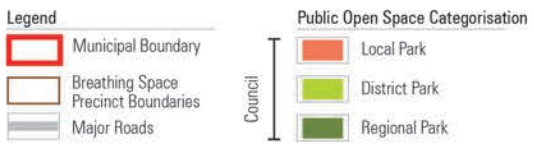
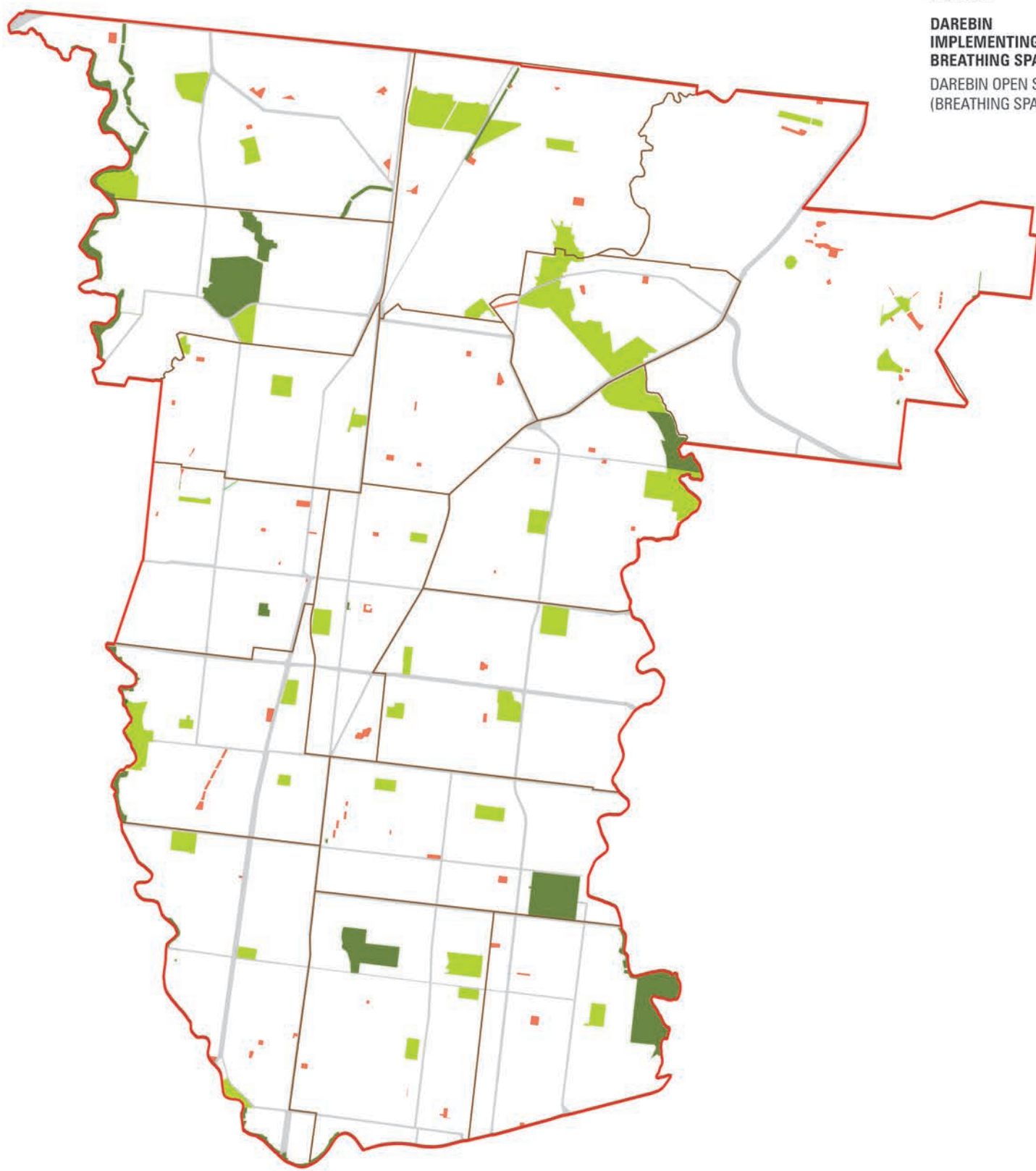
Active

- Usually large sites where organised/competition sport is played. Playing ovals, tennis and other small ball courts, playgrounds, car parking, sports pavilions and toilets are typical features found in Sports Parks.

Special Purpose

- These are sites which have a specific purpose, and often with a unique level of service, and includes sites such as golf courses, forestry plantations, botanic gardens etc





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Figure 4: Network of Public Open Space identified in Breathing Space

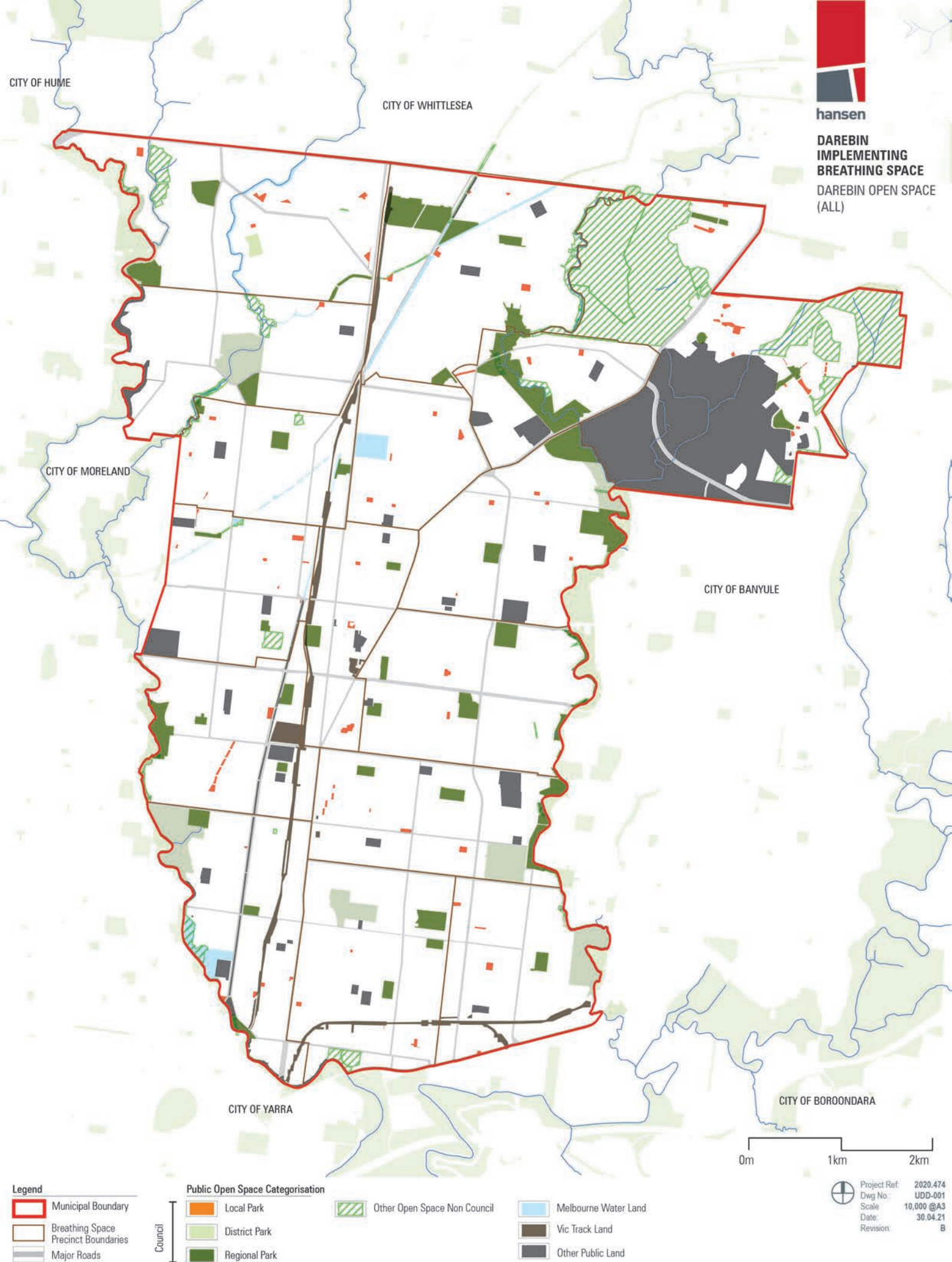


Figure 5: Existing Public Open Space network



3.3 WHERE ARE THE GAPS?

Breathing Space identifies 'gaps' or shortfalls in the network of Public Open Space in Darebin in three different ways. For the purposes of assessment and comparison, *Breathing Space* breaks the municipality down into a series of 'precincts' which relate to proposed development contributions areas. Using these precincts, the gaps in provision are quantified as follows:

- Precincts where there is an EXISTING shortfall on a PER CAPITA basis identified in *Breathing Space*.
- Precincts where there is a FUTURE shortfall on a PER CAPITA basis identified in *Breathing Space* / Precincts where there is a high rate of growth anticipated which will increase pressure on existing open spaces.
- Precincts where existing lots do not have ACCESS to Public Open Space within 500m.

Breathing Space identifies land which does not have access to 'acceptable' open space within 500m on a map at Page 28 (replicated at Figure 6). It is important to note that not all open spaces shown on this plan were considered as being accessible to residents.

As can be seen on this map there are a number of areas (those in pink) where properties do not have access to Council managed publicly accessible open space within 500m walking distance. The lots shown in pink include lots in all zones (including industrial and commercial zones).

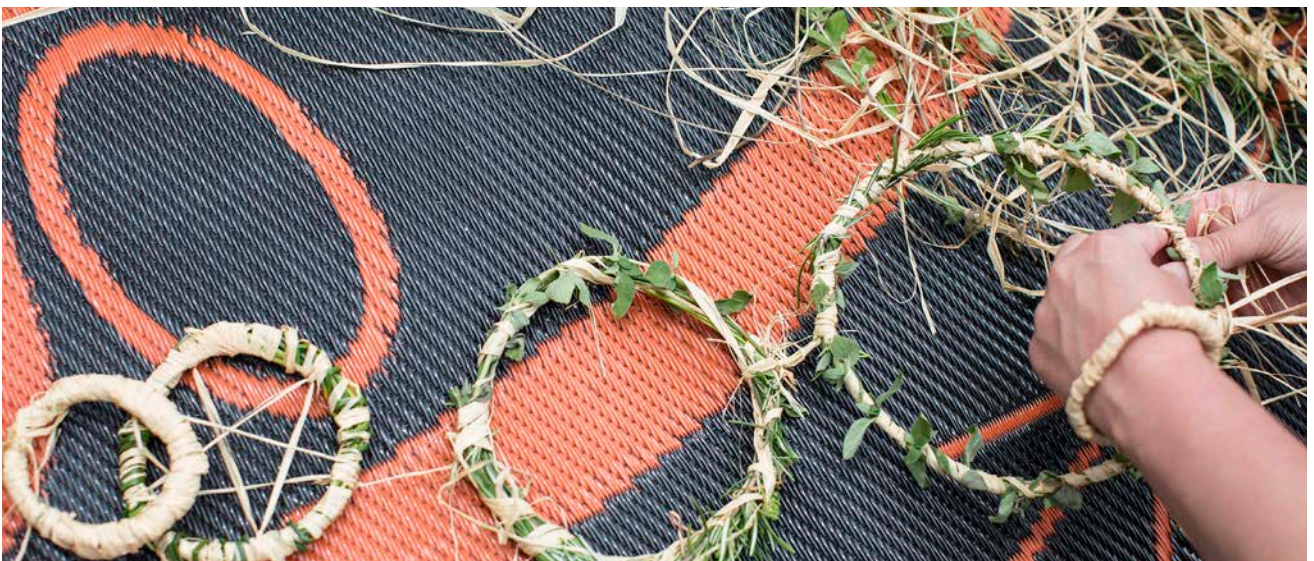
A corresponding table (Table 2, Page 29) is included in *Breathing Space* which identifies the percentage of 'households' which do not have access to open space per precinct. This is based on the number of lots highlighted in pink per precinct but is understood to have excluded lots in the industrial zones.

The *Breathing Space* 'per capita' shortfall in the provision of open space for each precinct represents the difference between the amount of 'acceptable' open space (Figure 4) available to each person and the identified benchmark of 30sqm per person.

The indicator of 30sqm per person is adopted based on a 'commonly accepted' benchmark, with existing population figures for each precinct were based on the 2018 figures adopted by the City of Darebin.

Building on the existing per capita shortfall, *Breathing Space* then provides an estimate for how the existing gap will grow under adopted growth scenarios. For most of the municipality growth projections mean that existing shortfalls are likely to be exacerbated.

Note: These forecasts were last updated in May 2017 by .id, the population experts, on behalf of the Darebin Council. Forecasts are available for each year from 2016 to 2041. They do not consider potential impacts to assumptions stemming from COVID-19. It is acknowledged that this external shock has implications which may affect future growth in Darebin, although there remains considerable uncertainty about the nature and degree of these effects. We regularly monitor the performance of our forecasts. These forecasts were last reviewed in March 2021.



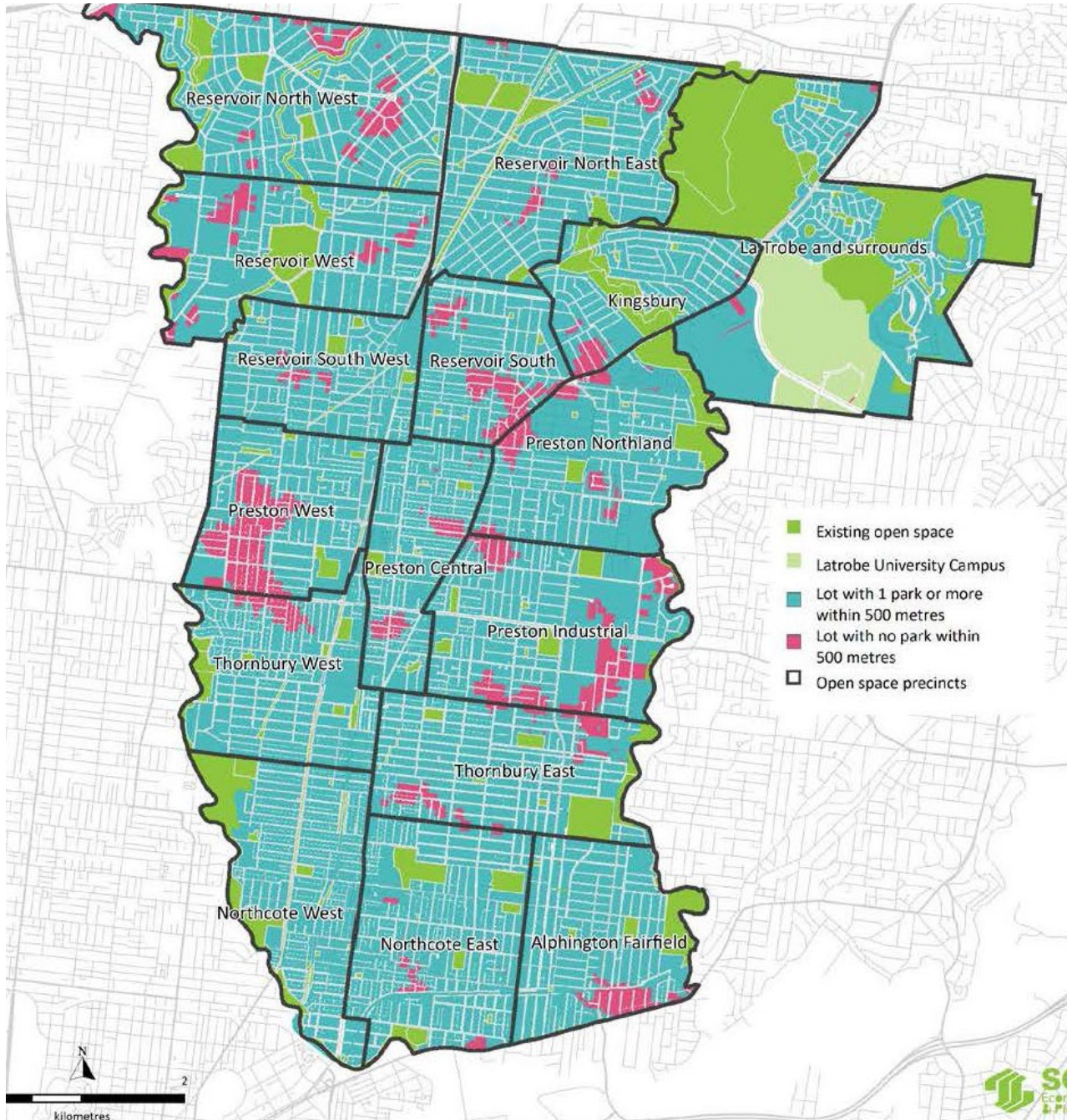


Figure 6: Breathing Space 'proximity' gap identification



3.4 PRECINCT SUMMARIES

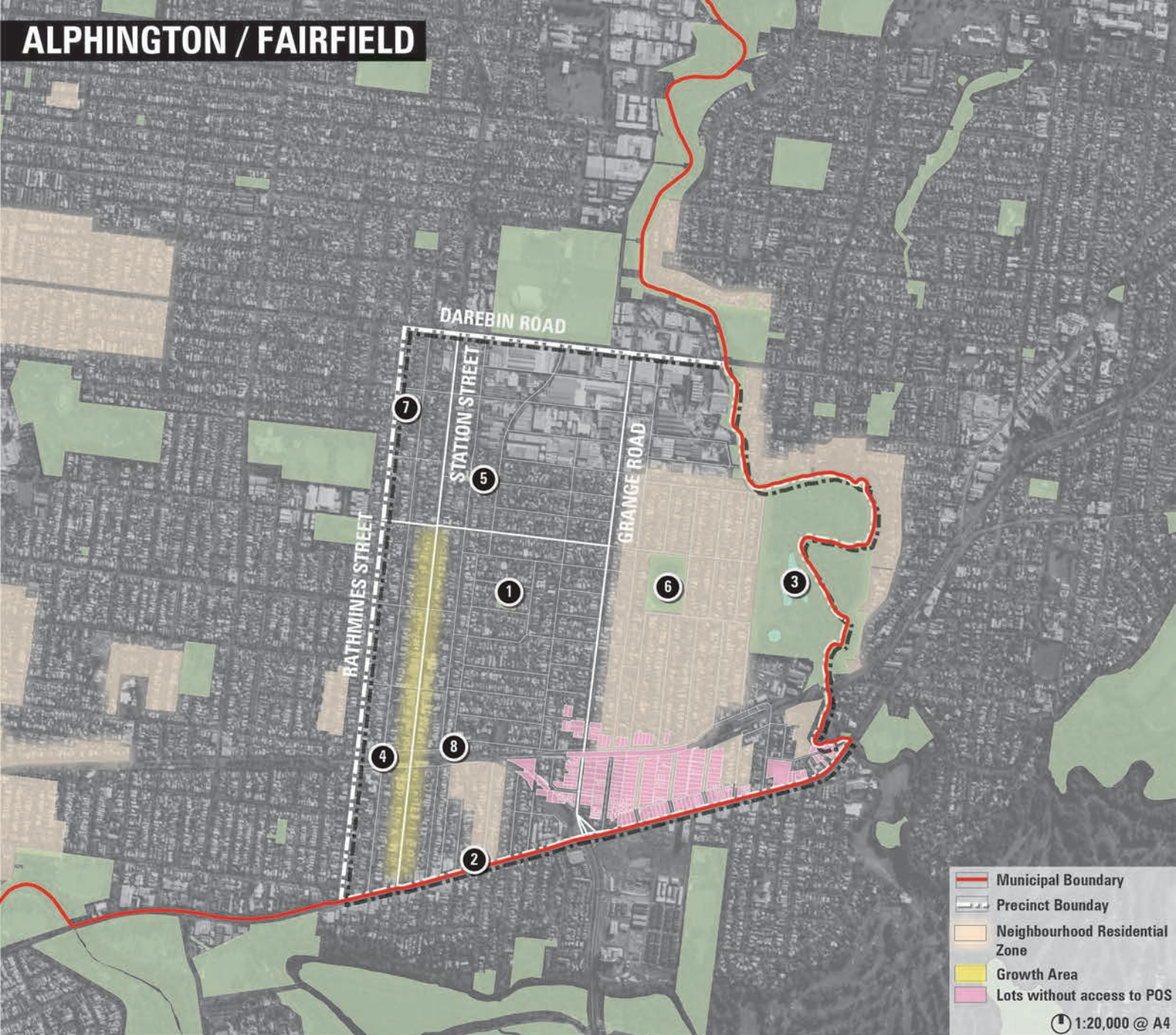
The following pages bring together the separate assessments undertaken as part of *Breathing Space*, providing a summary of the precincts in terms of their existing open spaces, the future Type assigned to each park in *Breathing Space*, for upgrades (see Section 3.5) the scale and type of any shortfall in the provision of open space. The Precinct Summaries also allow for an understanding of where (spatially) growth is directed through current planning policy.

WHAT DO THESE PRECINCT SUMMARIES SHOW?

- The various level of growth and shortfalls are identified for each Precinct, including a colour coded identification of those with the greatest shortfalls. Dark orange represents a high shortfall or level of growth
- The spatial extent of existing lots without access to open space as identified in *Breathing Space*, with industrial zoned lots removed, but commercial lots retained given their potential for residential growth. Where there are more lots without access beyond the defined precinct boundaries these are also shown to provide context
- The spatial definition of where higher levels of growth in the precinct is anticipated (such as activity centres, strategic development sites or housing growth corridors, as well as lower levels of growth (ie through the application of the Neighbourhood Residential Zone)
- Existing open spaces in and around each precinct are identified. Those which are not included in *Breathing Space* assessment are identified with an asterisk.
- For each area of open space its role in the hierarchy (Regional / District / Local) is identified, as well as the proposed *Breathing Space* Type. And finally the primary purpose of open space used internally by Council is included (see Section 3.2 for discussion of definitions)

Figures 7 - 22: Precinct Summaries (following pages)

ALPHINGTON / FAIRFIELD



PRECINCT GROWTH SUMMARY

Alphonington Fairfield has a low growth rate compared to many areas within the municipality, therefore intensification of use of the public open space is expected to be less than in other precincts. The Darebin Creek corridor, including Darebin Parklands forms the eastern border of this precinct and comprises a significant part of the public open space in this precinct.

CURRENT POPULATION

8,962

PROJECTED 2028 POPULATION

10,318

PRECINCT GROWTH RATE



WITHOUT ACCESS TO POS WITHIN 500M



2018 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)



2028 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)



EXISTING OPEN SPACE

1. Breavington Reserve (0.57ha)
2. Broomfield Reserve (0.14ha)
3. Darebin Creek Corridor including Darebin Parklands (21.03ha)*
4. Fairfield Station Reserve (0.27ha)
5. McGregor Street Reserve (0.18ha)
6. Pitcher Park (2.78ha)
7. Susan Walsh Reserve (0.3ha)
8. Wingrove Reserve (0.14ha)

Future Type:

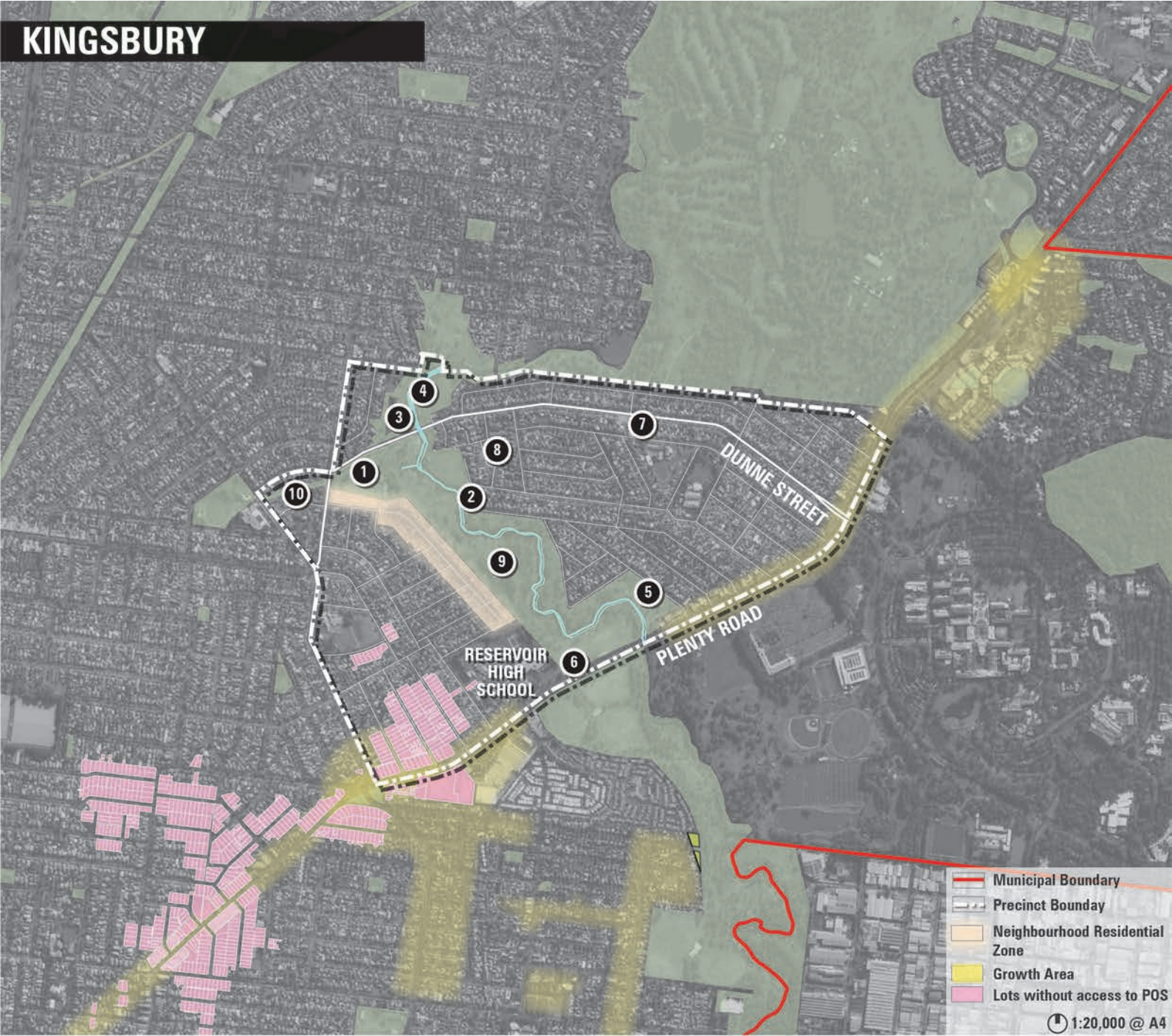
B
C
Regional

Primary Purpose:

Community
Community
Linear

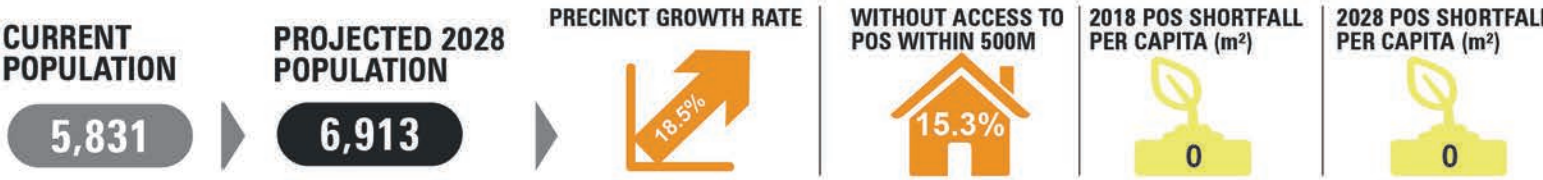
Non-council
Community
Active
Community
Non-council

KINGSBURY



PRECINCT GROWTH SUMMARY

Kingsbury is expected to be a high growth precinct in the future. The public open space within the precinct is anticipated to be maintained or upgraded where required. The Darebin Creek corridor runs centrally through the precinct with a landscaped buffer on either side. Future development is expected to be of more medium to high density dwellings consisting of more apartments and townhouses

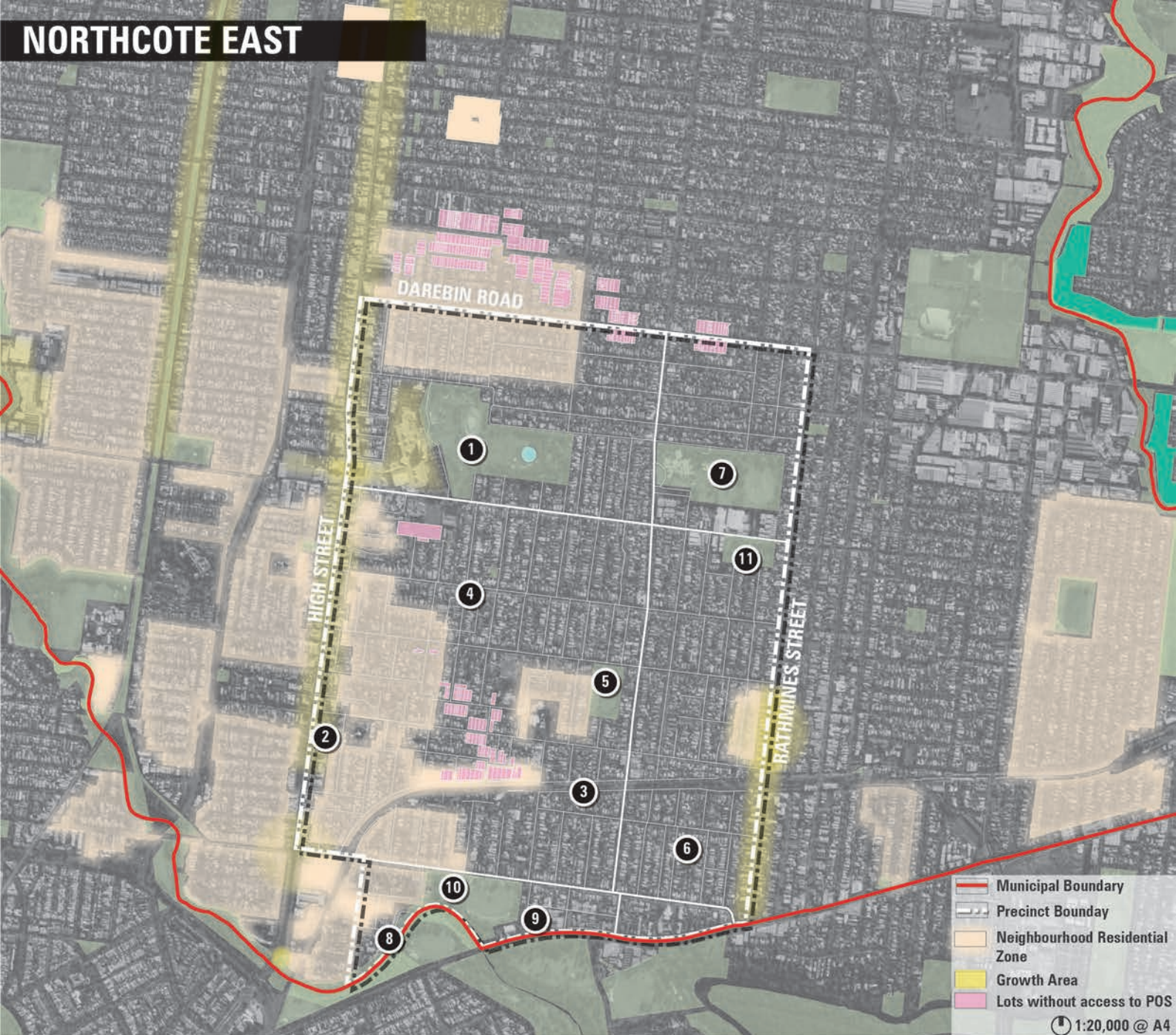


EXISTING OPEN SPACE

1. Arch Gibson Reserve (5.56ha)
2. C.W. Kirkwood Reserve (2.51ha)
3. Clements Reserve (2.84ha)
4. John Hall Reserve (3.07ha)
5. Judith Scott Memorial Park (5.28ha)
6. K.P. Hardiman Reserve (14.83ha)
7. Link Reserve (0.34ha)
8. Parkhaven Estate Reserve (0.3ha)
9. Scott Reserve (2.4ha)
10. T.W. Andrews – Link Arch Gibson Reserve (0.47ha)

Future Type:	Primary Purpose:
C	Active
C	Active
C	Community
C	Active
C	Active
C	Active
A	Community
A	Community
C	Linear
A	Linear

NORTHCOTE EAST



PRECINCT GROWTH SUMMARY

Northcote East has a low growth rate compared to many areas within the municipality, therefore intensification of use of the public open space is expected to be less than in other precincts. The recent growth in residential apartments along High Street has increased pressure on open space. The Merri Creek corridors forms part of the southern border of this precinct. Improvements will be made to amenity, access and planting along the creek corridor and pedestrian links to improve their function in terms of biodiversity, connectivity and public open space.

CURRENT POPULATION

16,116

PROJECTED 2028 POPULATION

17,328

PRECINCT GROWTH RATE

7.5%

WITHOUT ACCESS TO POS WITHIN 500M

2.5%

2018 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)

12.3

2028 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)

13.5

EXISTING OPEN SPACE

1. All Nations Park (12.19ha)*
2. Baden Morgan Reserve (0.26ha)
3. Dennis St Pedestrian Link (0.02ha)
4. Derby Reserve (0.07ha)
5. Johnson Park (2.1ha)
6. McAdam Reserve (0.34ha)
7. McDonnell Reserve (6.13ha)
8. Merri Creek Corridor (1.78ha)*
9. Northcote Park (Bill Lawry Oval) (3.1ha)
10. Oldis Gardens (2.63ha)
11. Rubie Thomson Reserve (1.75ha)

Future Type:

- Regional
- B
- C
- B
- A
- C
- A
- Regional
- A
- A
- A

Primary Purpose:

- Community
- Community
- Linear
- Community
- Community
- Community
- Active
- Linear
- Active
- Community
- Community

NORTHCOTE WEST



PRECINCT GROWTH SUMMARY

Northcote West is expected to be a future growth precinct with development predicted to be in the medium to higher density housing. Bounded by the Merri Creek Corridor on the west and High Street to the east, the precinct seeks east west connection improvements while reinforcing the conditions of existing public open spaces.

CURRENT POPULATION

13,942

PROJECTED 2028 POPULATION

16,998

PRECINCT GROWTH RATE



WITHOUT ACCESS TO POS WITHIN 500M



2018 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)



2028 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)



EXISTING OPEN SPACE

EXISTING OPEN SPACE	Future Type:
1. Allan Bird Reserve (0.06ha)	A
2. Batman Park (1.64ha)	A
3. Bridge Park (0.21ha)	C
4. Caddayes Corner (0.2ha)	B
5. Green Memorial Reserve (0.97ha)	B
6. Grovesland Reserve (2.47ha)	A
7. Mayer Park (3.98ha)	A
8. Merri Common (0.68ha)	B
9. Merri Creek Corridor (2.22ha)*	Regional
10. Merri Creek Reserve (0.29ha)*	Regional
11. Merri Park (12.24ha)	A
12. Northcote Civic Square (0.13ha)	B

Primary Purpose:

Primary Purpose:	Future Type:
13. Northcote Community Gardens Reserve (0.48ha)	B
14. Northcote Public Golf Course (24.34ha)#	Golf Course
15. Northcote Station Railway Easement (0.36ha)*	B
16. Pearl Reserve (0.15ha)	A
17. Peters Reserve (0.17ha)	B
18. South Park Reserve (0.61ha)	B
19. Spencer Reserve (0.83ha)	A
20. St. Georges Road Reserve (3.0ha)*	Regional
21. Stott Reserve (0.71ha)	A
22. Woolhouse Reserve (0.72ha)	B
23. Zoe Reserve (0.02ha)	B

Future Type:

Future Type:	Primary Purpose:
B	Linear
Golf Course	Golf Course
B	Non-Council
A	Community
B	Community
B	Non-Council
A	Non-Council
Regional	Linear
A	Non-Council
B	Non-Council
B	Conservation

LOCAL

DISTRICT

REGIONAL

Future Use of Northcote Golf Course to be determined

LATROBE & SURROUNDS



PRECINCT GROWTH SUMMARY

Most of precinct is covered by La Trobe University and associated facilities, and significant conservation reserves. In the small areas that accommodate housing, density is low to medium, with few dwellings exceeding 30 dwellings per hectare.

Future dwellings anticipated to be predominantly high density housing – student housing and apartments to cater to students and staff at Latrobe University and Latrobe Employment centre.

CURRENT POPULATION

8,933

PROJECTED 2028 POPULATION

11,807

PRECINCT GROWTH RATE



WITHOUT ACCESS TO POS WITHIN 500M

8.4%

2018 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)

11.1

2028 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)

15.7

EXISTING OPEN SPACE

1. Barlow Rise Reserve (0.53ha)	B
2. Bundoora Park (113.11ha)*	Regional
3. Bundoora Park Oval (3.2ha)	C
4. Bundoora Park Public Golf Course (64.89ha)*	Golf Course
5. Cascade Link (0.04ha)	B
6. Cascade Park (2.36ha)	C
7. Cascade Park Link (0.07ha)	C
8. Cascade Walk (0.04ha)	C
9. Cherry Street Reserve (6.51ha)	C
10. Darebin Creek Corridor (3.27ha)*	Regional
11. Forensic Drive Reserve (2.36)	C
12. Gonella Reserve (0.17ha)	B
13. Gresswell Forest Wildlife Reserve (63.8ha)*	Conservation
14. Gresswell Grange Lakes (1.15ha)	C
15. Gresswell Grange Reserve (0.76ha)	B

Future Type:

Primary Purpose:

Community
Community
Active
Golf Course
Linear
Community
Community
Linear
Conservation
Linear
Conservation
Landscape
Non-Council
Non-Council
Community

16. Gresswell Hill Nature Conservation Reserve (8.81ha)*
17. Gresswell-Cherry Reserve Habitat Link (0.24ha)*
18. Habitat Link (0.26ha)
19. Lancaster Gate Oval (1.02ha)
20. Lancaster Gate Reserve (0.14ha)
21. Larundel Grasslands Reserve (0.34ha)*
22. La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary (28.92ha)*
23. Lelean Reserve (0.07ha)
24. Mount Cooper Reserve (2.18ha)
25. Red Gum Reserve (0.77ha)
26. Springthorpe Village Common (2.86ha)
27. Strathallan Golf Course (16.83ha)*
28. Sugargum Drive Reserve (0.73ha)
29. Summerhill Rise Reserve (0.55ha)
30. The Village Square (0.11ha)
31. Warramunga Reserve (0.23ha)
32. Woodland Reserve (0.09ha)

Future Type:

Primary Purpose:

Conservation
Conservation
C
C
B
Conservation
Conservation
Non-Council
Conservation
Linear
C
Linear
C
Community
Non-Council
Community
Linear
C
Conservation
Conservation
C

LOCAL DISTRICT REGIONAL

PRESTON CENTRAL



PRECINCT GROWTH SUMMARY

Preston Central Precinct is anticipated to have the highest precinct growth rate within Darebin. This will see a significant increase in population resulting in higher density housing (apartments). According to the Darebin Open Space Strategy, an approximate of over 2,000 dwelling are expected to be built by 2028. Growth is expected to occur around major transport corridors and the Preston Market.

CURRENT POPULATION

9,472

PROJECTED 2028 POPULATION

13,972

PRECINCT GROWTH RATE



WITHOUT ACCESS TO POS WITHIN 500M



2018 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)



2028 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)



EXISTING OPEN SPACE

1. A.G. Davis Park (1.22ha)
2. Adams Reserve (0.85ha)
3. Darebin Civic Forecourt (0.13ha)
4. Preston City Oval (3.68ha)
5. Preston Library Forecourt (0.31ha)
6. Walter Reserve (0.19ha)

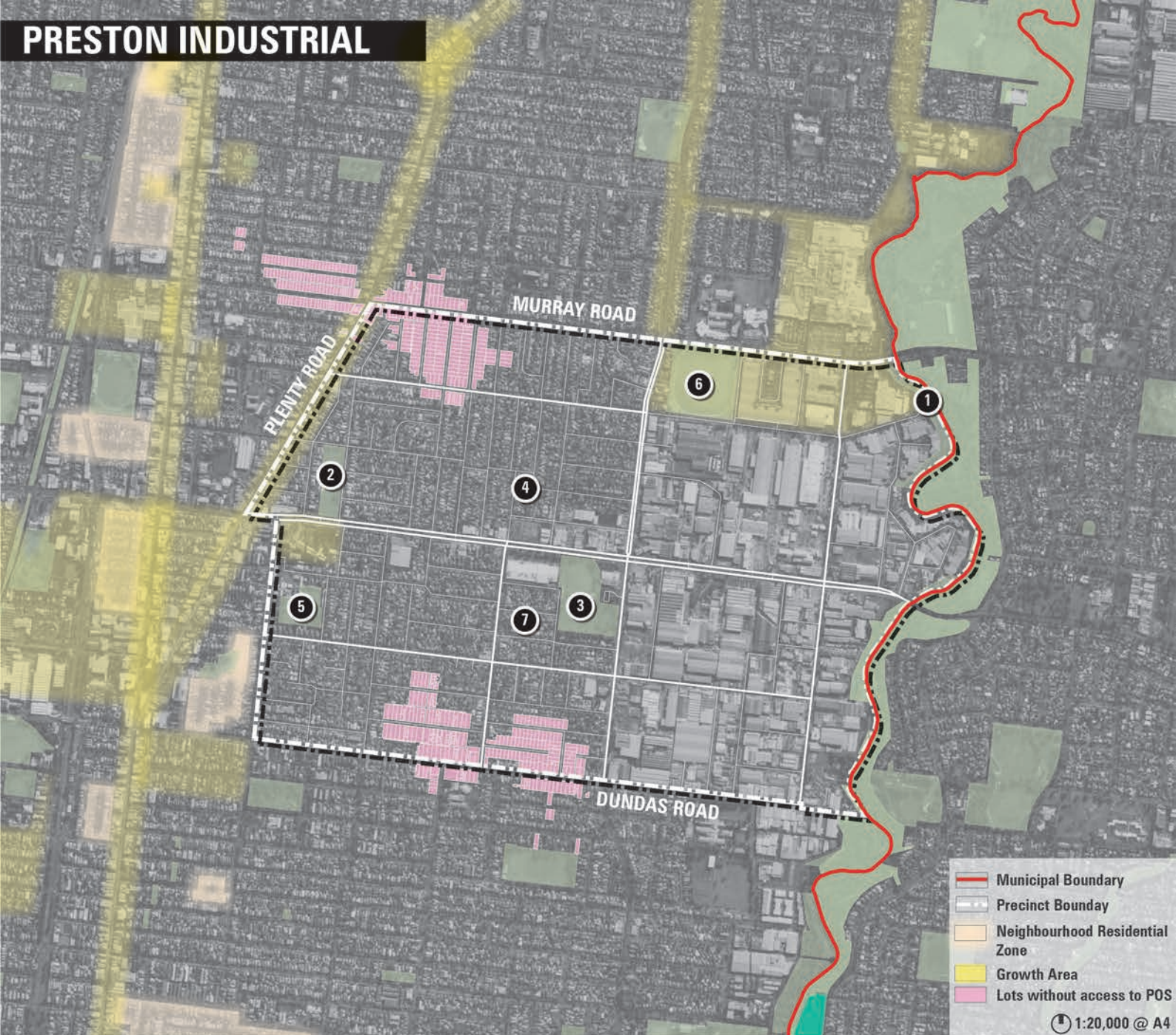
Future Type:

B
A
A
B
A
A

Primary Purpose:

Community
Community
Civic
Active
Civic
Community

PRESTON INDUSTRIAL



PRECINCT GROWTH SUMMARY

Preston Industrial is anticipated to have a high growth rate of 34.2%. This will see a significant increase in medium-higher density dwellings being built in the precinct. As a result, the use of public open space will intensify. There is currently a portion of residential lots to the north and south border west of the precinct that is lacking access to high quality open space.

CURRENT POPULATION

7,394

PROJECTED 2028 POPULATION

9,926

PRECINCT GROWTH RATE



WITHOUT ACCESS TO POS WITHIN 500M



2018 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)



2028 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)



EXISTING OPEN SPACE

1. Darebin Creek Corridor (2.77ha)*
2. G.H. Mott Reserve (1.85ha)
3. H.L.T. Oulton Reserve (5.03ha)
4. Lahinch Reserve (0.41ha)
5. T.A. Cochrane Reserve (1.85ha)
6. T.W. Blake Park (6.1ha)
7. Walsh Reserve (0.25ha)

Regional
C
C
A
C
C
A

Primary Purpose:

Linear
Active
Active
Community
Community
Active
Community

PRESTON NORTHLAND



PRECINCT GROWTH SUMMARY

Significant growth in the number of medium to higher density dwellings is anticipated for Northland, with over 1,000 additional apartment dwellings expected by 2028. This higher density development will in part be accommodated by the Northland Urban Renewal Precinct development.

CURRENT POPULATION

10,229

PROJECTED 2028 POPULATION

13,275

PRECINCT GROWTH RATE



WITHOUT ACCESS TO POS WITHIN 500M



2018 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)



2028 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)



EXISTING OPEN SPACE

1. C.H. Sullivan Memorial Park (14.21ha)
2. C.T. Barling Reserve (13.02ha)
3. Darebin Creek Corridor (11.59ha)*
4. Greenbelt Reserve (0.15ha)
5. Highview Reserve (0.05ha)
6. McComas Reserve (0.28ha)
7. Nisbett Reserve (0.23ha)
8. Progress Park (0.14ha)
9. W.R. Ruthven V.C. Reserve (3.62ha)

Future Type:

- B
- B
- Regional
- A
- B
- A
- A
- A
- B

Primary Purpose:

- Active
- Active
- Linear
- Community
- Community
- Community
- Community
- Conservation
- Active

PRESTON WEST



PRECINCT GROWTH SUMMARY

Preston West is a growth area with medium to higher density housing (townhouses and apartments) appearing along the growth corridors of St Georges Road, and Preston Station. The intensification of future housing growth has put pressure on the increased need of public open spaces to cater for the fast population growth.

CURRENT POPULATION

9,736

PROJECTED 2028 POPULATION

13,560

PRECINCT GROWTH RATE



WITHOUT ACCESS TO POS WITHIN 500M



2018 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)



2028 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)



EXISTING OPEN SPACE

1. Asling Reserve (0.04ha)	A
2. H.P. Zwar Reserve (4.59ha)	B
3. J.S. Grey Reserve (0.79ha)	A
4. Jacka Reserve (0.06ha)	B
5. L.W. Williams Reserve (0.65ha)	A
6. McNamara – Symons Pedestrian Link (0.04ha)	B
7. Murray & St. Georges Rd Reserve (0.03ha)	A
8. Paywitt Reserve (0.13ha)	A
9. Railway Easement (Murray St to Regent St) (1.07ha)	A

Future Type:

Primary Purpose:

Community
Active
Community
Community
Community
Linear
Conservation
Community
Non-Council

10. Regent Street to Elizabeth Street Reserve (0.57ha)	B
11. Spring Street Reserve (0.1ha)	B
12. St. Georges Road Reserve (0.48ha)	Regional
13. Union Reserve (0.11ha)	B
14. W.K. Larkins Reserve (1.23ha)	B

Future Type:

Primary Purpose:

Linear
Linear
Linear
Community
Community

RESERVOIR NORTH EAST



PRECINCT GROWTH SUMMARY

In comparison to other precincts within Darebin, Reservoir North East is predicted to have a lower growth rate. Housing around the precincts consist largely of villias. Future development will consist of mid-rise medium density housing. Surrounding public open space is recommended to be upgraded to improve their functions for connectivity and bio-diversity to surrounding public spaces and services.

CURRENT POPULATION

15,172

PROJECTED 2028 POPULATION

17,140

PRECINCT GROWTH RATE



WITHOUT ACCESS TO POS WITHIN 500M



2018 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)



2028 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)



EXISTING OPEN SPACE

1. Beenak/McMahon Reserve (5.34ha)
2. Cheddar Road Reserve (4.83ha)*
3. D.R. Atkinson Reserve (2.4ha)
4. Daleglen Street Reserve (0.07ha)
5. Darebin Creek Corridor/ Bundoora Park interface (14.26ha)*
6. Frank A.A. Dunstan Reserve (0.29ha)
7. Frank A.A. Dunstan Reserve – Link I.W. Dole Reserve (0.15ha)
8. Fyfe Reserve (0.36ha)
9. I.W. Dole Reserve (4.57ha)
10. J.C. Donath Reserve (20.04ha)

Future Type:

- A
- A
- B
- B
- Regional
- A
- C
- A
- B
- A

Primary Purpose:

- Linear
- Non-Council
- Active
- Conservation
- Linear
- Community
- Community
- Community
- Active
- Active

11. Leslie Reserve (0.7ha)
12. San Leandro Reserve (0.09ha)
13. T.W. Andrews Reserve (2.72ha)
14. Tunaley Pde – Cheddar Rd Reserve (5.25ha)*

Future Type:

- A
- B
- A
- A

Primary Purpose:

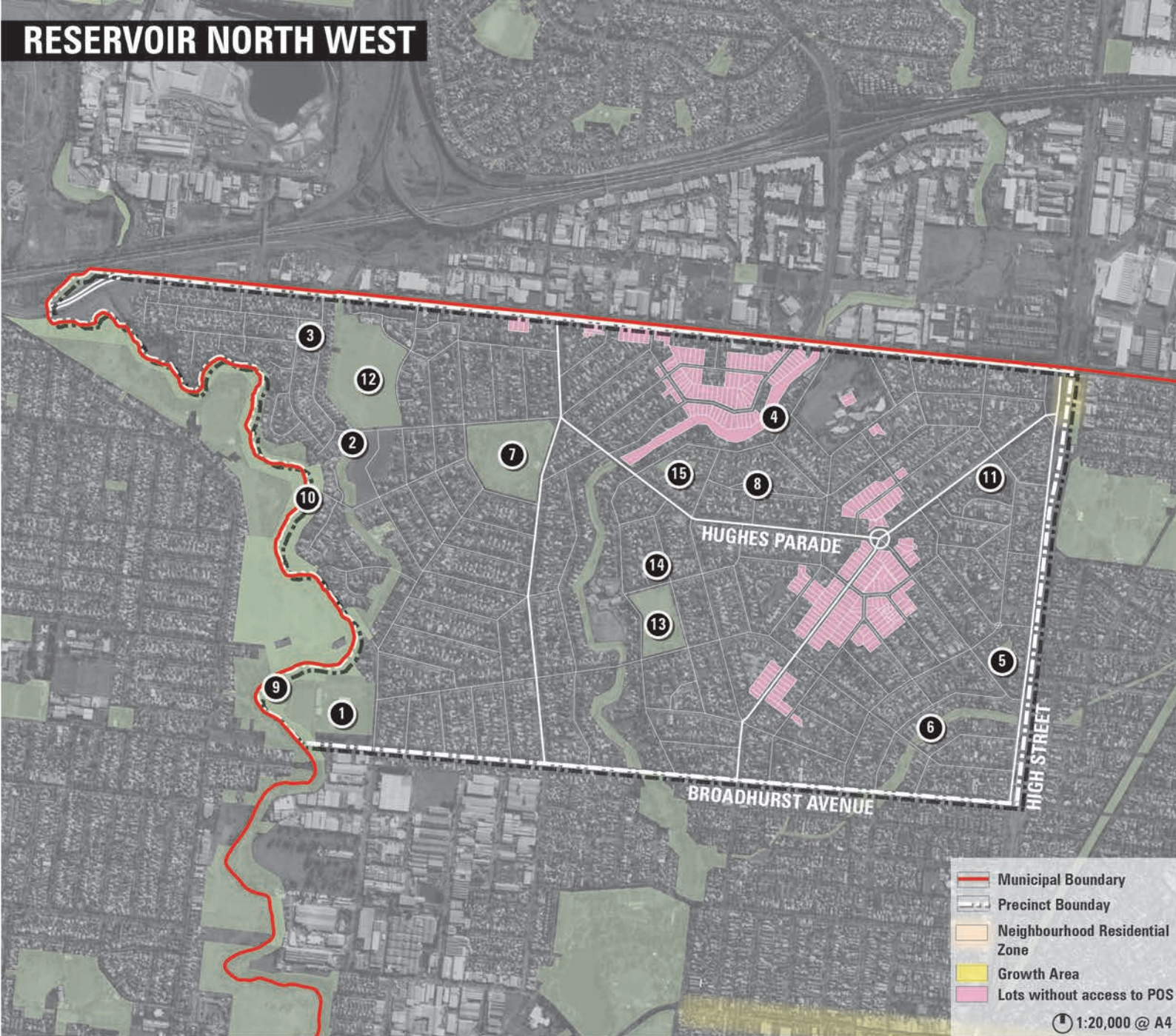
- Community
- Community
- Active
- Non-Council

LOCAL

DISTRICT

REGIONAL

RESERVOIR NORTH WEST



PRECINCT GROWTH SUMMARY

The character of Reservoir North West presents itself as a low density detached housing precincts with minimal future growth. Siting along the border of Merri Creek Corridor, future growth within the precinct is expected to be minimal. The current non-regional public open spaces are encouraged to be upgraded to improve their connections to the eastern and northern areas of the precinct.

CURRENT POPULATION

10,565

PROJECTED 2028 POPULATION

11,322

PRECINCT GROWTH RATE

7.2%

WITHOUT ACCESS TO POS WITHIN 500M

5.6%

2018 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)

11.4

2028 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)

12.7

EXISTING OPEN SPACE

1. B.T. Connor Reserve (7.54ha)	B
2. Central Creek Corridor (3.72ha)*	Regional
3. Doug Hannan Reserve (0.67ha)	C
4. Edgars Creek Corridor (7.45ha)*	Regional
5. Gellibrand Crescent Reserve (0.42ha)	B
6. High St to Broadhurst Ave Reserve (1.88ha)	B
7. L.E. Cotchin Reserve (6.48ha)	B
8. Ludeman Reserve (0.22ha)	C
9. Merri Creek (2.38ha)*	Regional
10. Merri Creek Corridor (7.84ha)*	Regional
11. Merrilands Community Centre (0.38ha)	B
12. Ngarrri-djarrang Grassland (9.77ha)*	Conservation

Future Type:

Primary Purpose:

B	Active
Regional	Conservation
C	Community
Regional	Linear
B	Conservation
B	Linear
B	Active
C	Community
Regional	Linear
Regional	Linear
B	Community
Conservation	Linear

13. Former Ruthven Primary School (3.05ha)
14. Tracey Reserve (0.19ha)
15. Wilson Boulevard Reserve (0.67ha)

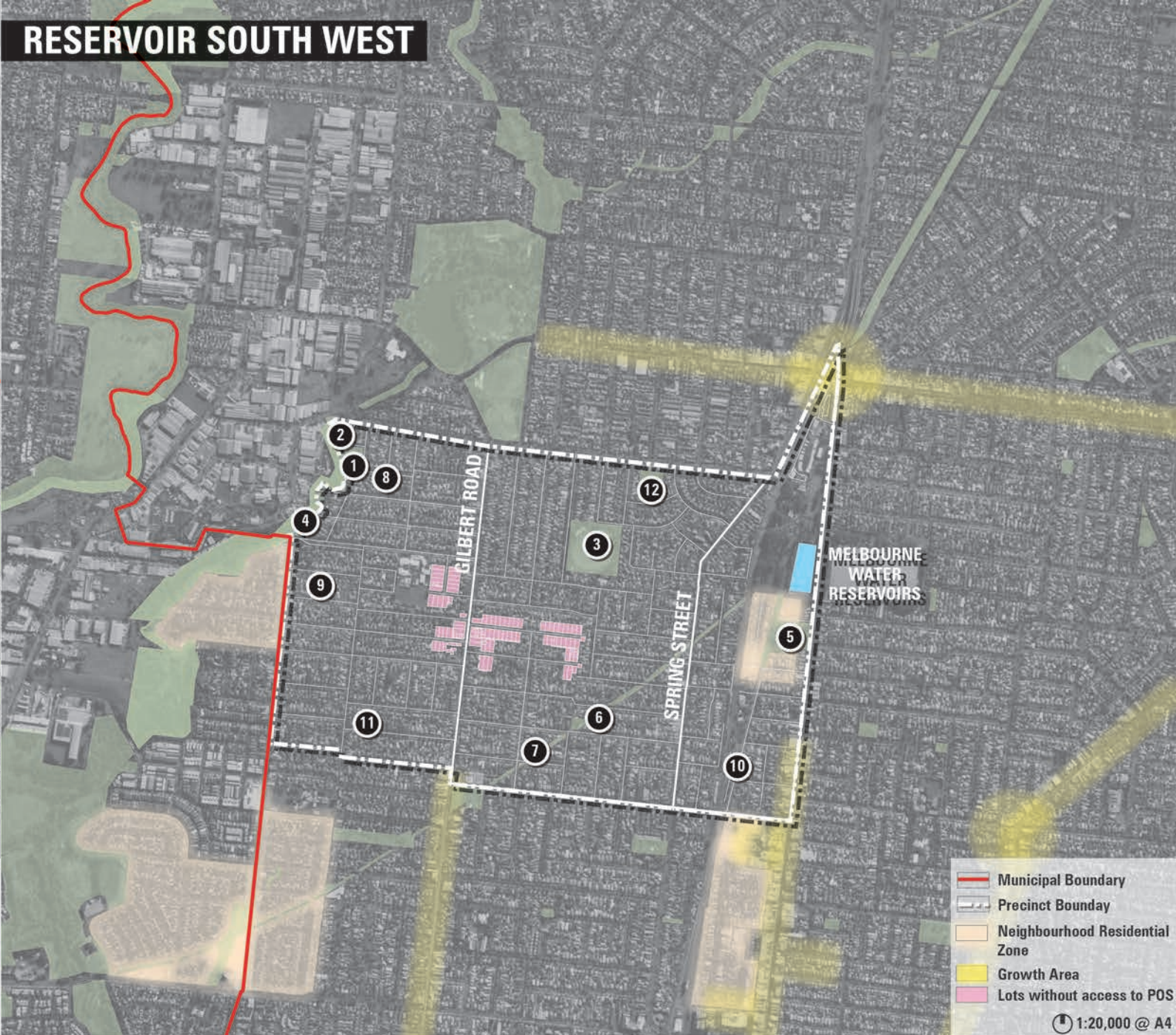
Future Type:

Primary Purpose:

B	Community
C	Community
C	Community

LOCAL DISTRICT REGIONAL

RESERVOIR SOUTH WEST



PRECINCT GROWTH SUMMARY

Within the Reservoir South West Precinct Crispe Park acts as a major public open space catering to a large portion of the east and north-east sides of the precinct. Future growth within the precinct is predicted to be relatively low with a steady increase of low to medium density housing. Public open space within the precinct is therefore encouraged to be maintained and upgraded to cater to the surrounding community.

CURRENT POPULATION

7,936

PROJECTED 2028 POPULATION

8,765

PRECINCT GROWTH RATE



WITHOUT ACCESS TO POS WITHIN 500M



2018 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)



2028 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)



EXISTING OPEN SPACE

1. Allan Reserve (1.23ha)	C
2. Allan Reserve – Linkage (0.3ha)	C
3. Crispe Park (3.36ha)	C
4. Edgars Creek Corridor (0.28ha)*	Regional
5. G.E. Robinson Park (1.82ha)	C
6. Pipe Track (0.43ha)	A
7. High St to Regent St Reserve (1.28ha)	C
8. Hillcroft Reserve (0.28ha)	B
9. Horton Reserve (0.13ha)	B
10. G.E. Robinson Park -Link to Railway (0.09ha)*	A
11. Vale Reserve (0.07ha)	B
12. Wright Reserve (0.93ha)	A

Future Type:

Primary Purpose:

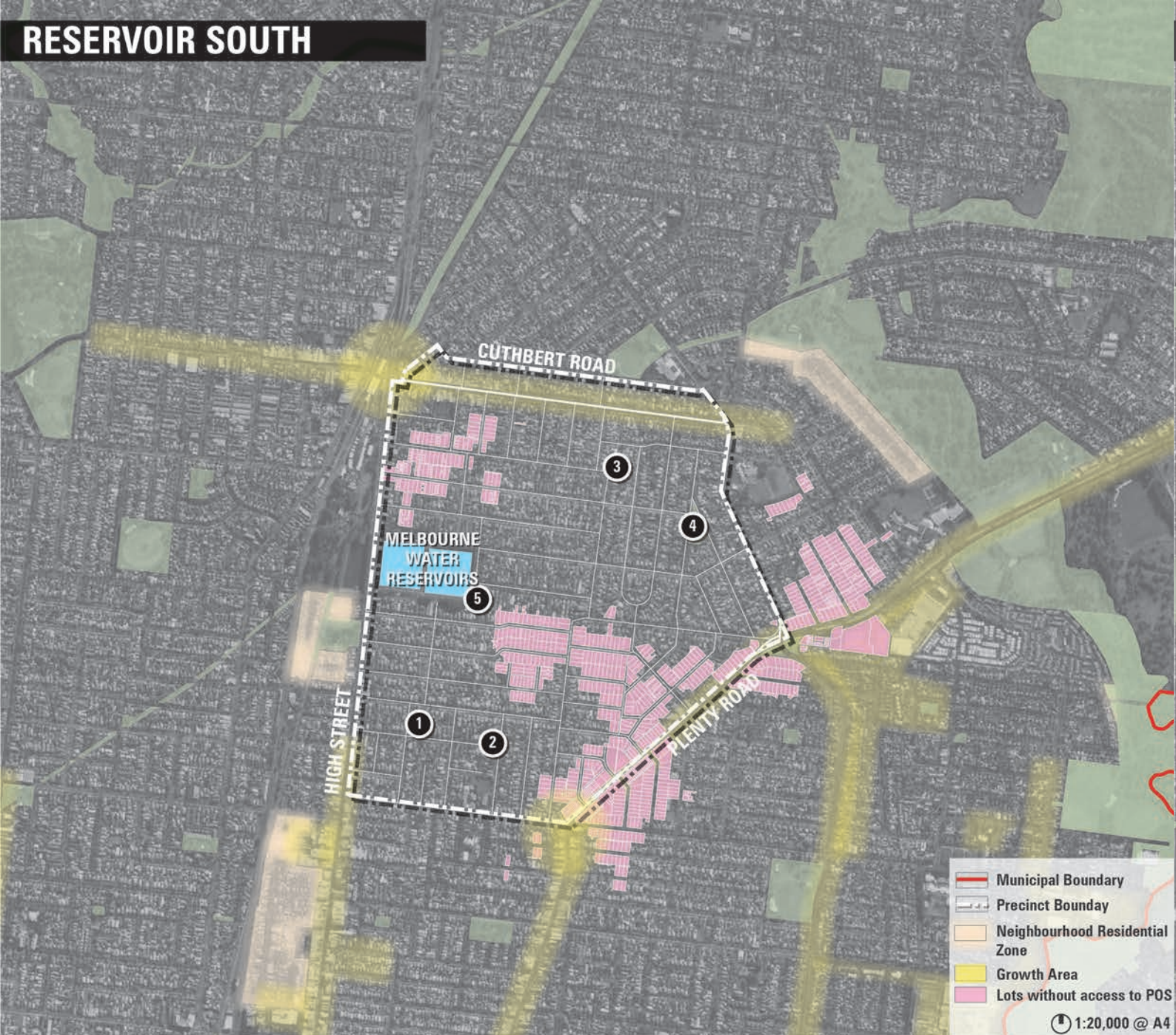
Community
Community
Active
Linear
Community
Non-Council
Linear
Community
Community
Linear
Linear
Community

LOCAL

DISTRICT

REGIONAL

RESERVOIR SOUTH



PRECINCT GROWTH SUMMARY

Growth in Reservoir South is expected to increase exponentially over the next 7 years. The intensification will see more medium to high density dwellings to cater for the additional population growth that will occur within the precinct. Existing public open spaces will be required to be upgraded with potential for new public spaces to be developed.

CURRENT POPULATION

6,938

PROJECTED 2028 POPULATION

9,140

PRECINCT GROWTH RATE



WITHOUT ACCESS TO POS WITHIN 500M



2018 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)



2028 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)



EXISTING OPEN SPACE

1. F.G. Pike Reserve (0.33ha)
2. Foch Reserve (0.14ha)
3. Howard Mendip Reserve (0.21ha)
4. Shand Reserve (0.49ha)
5. Storey Reserve (0.12ha)

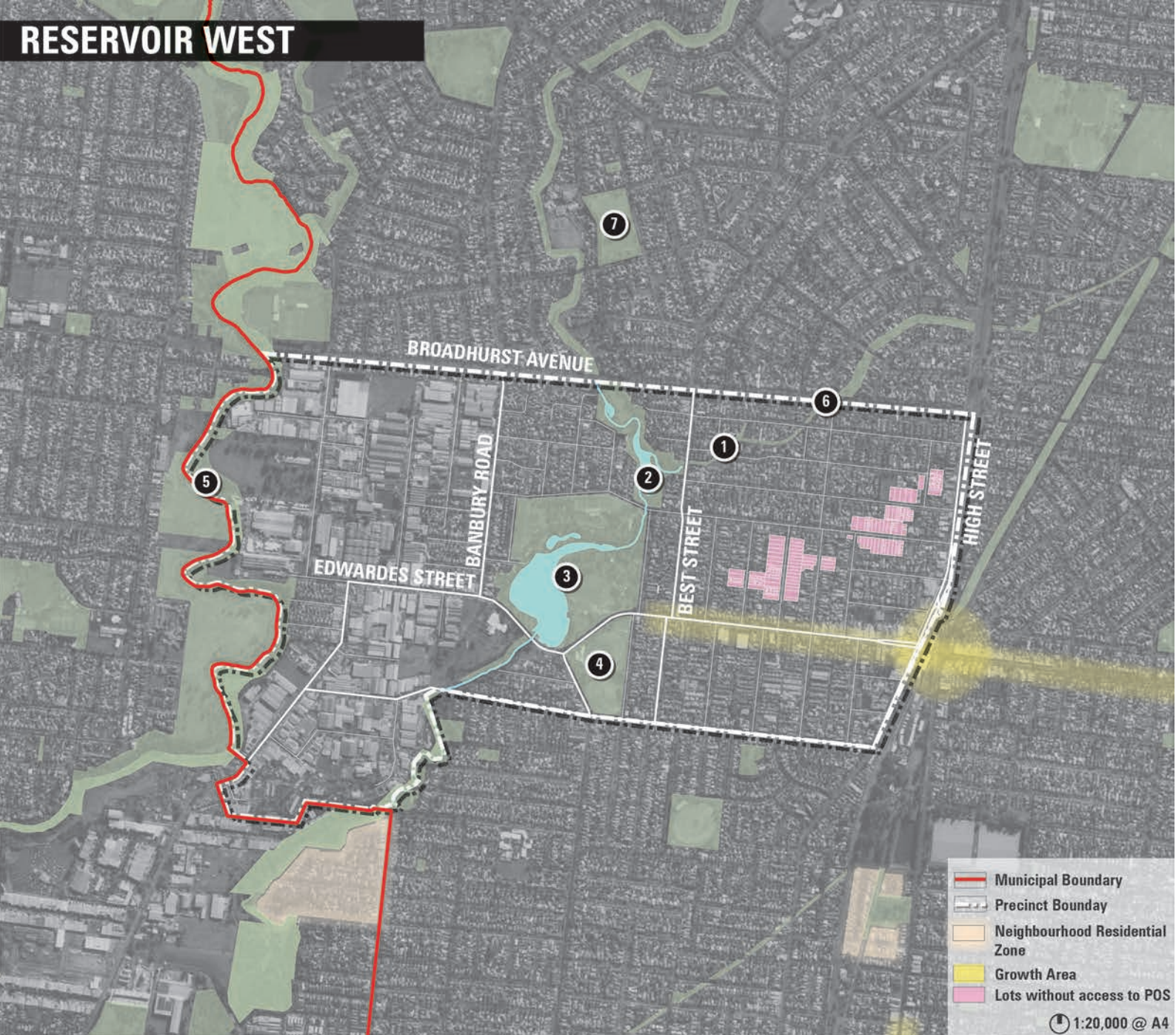
Future Type:

- A
- A
- A
- A
- A

Primary Purpose:

- Community
- Community
- Community
- Community
- Community

RESERVOIR WEST



PRECINCT GROWTH SUMMARY

The Reservoir West Precinct is serviced largely by the Edgars Creek Corridor and Edwardes Lake Park public open spaces. The precinct is expected to cater to some growth in the future with future developments predominantly consisting of medium to higher density housing. The predicted future growth will see existing public open spaces needed to be improved through better connections and diversity across uses.

CURRENT POPULATION

7,320

PROJECTED 2028 POPULATION

8,544

PRECINCT GROWTH RATE



WITHOUT ACCESS TO POS WITHIN 500M



2018 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)



2028 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)



EXISTING OPEN SPACE

1. Broadhurst Ave to McFadzean Ave Reserve (0.62ha)
2. Edgars Creek Corridor (9.48ha)*
3. Edwardes Lake Park (22.13ha)*
4. J.E. Moore Park (5.19ha)
5. Merri Creek Corridor (8.31ha)*
6. Whitby Reserve (0.26ha)
7. Former Ruthven Primary School Reserve (3.05ha)

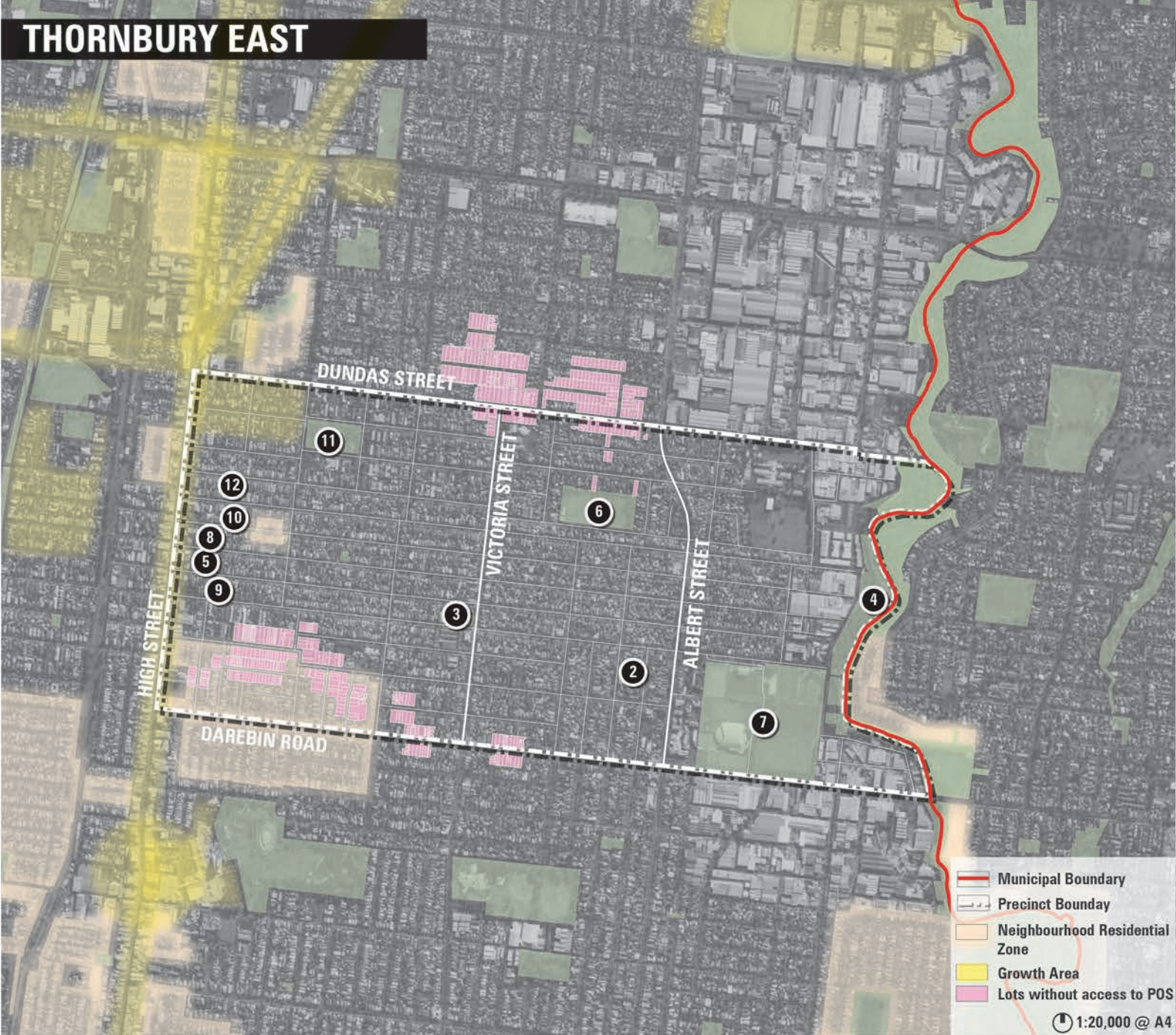
Future Type:

- A
- Regional
- Regional
- C
- Regional
- B
- B

Primary Purpose:

- Linear
- Linear
- Community
- Active
- Linear
- Community
- Community

THORNBURY EAST



PRECINCT GROWTH SUMMARY

Thornbury East Precinct is a growing precinct with predicted medium to higher density housing in the future. The precinct is located to the east of the High Street Activity Centre with its eastern boundary bounded by the Darebin Creek Corridor. Residential lots which lack access to public open space is located largely to the south west of the precinct. Future public open spaces within the precinct should take into consideration access and connectivity to the surrounding community.

CURRENT POPULATION

11,949

PROJECTED 2028 POPULATION

13,716

PRECINCT GROWTH RATE



WITHOUT ACCESS TO POS WITHIN 500M



2018 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)



2028 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)



EXISTING OPEN SPACE

1. Allan Sheppard Reserve (0.05ha)
2. Andrew Boyd Reserve (0.49ha)
3. Clyde Jones Reserve (0.43ha)
4. Darebin Creek Corridor (12.18ha)*
5. Harry Reserve (0.14ha)
6. Hayes Park (3.27ha)
7. John Cain Reserve – DISC (17.34ha)*
8. Jones Reserve (0.14ha)
9. McDonald Reserve (0.07ha)
10. Olver Reserve (0.14ha)
11. Penders Park (1.91ha)
12. Roberts Reserve (0.08ha)

Future Type:

- A
- A
- A
- Regional
- A
- B
- Regional
- A
- A
- A
- B
- A

Primary Purpose:

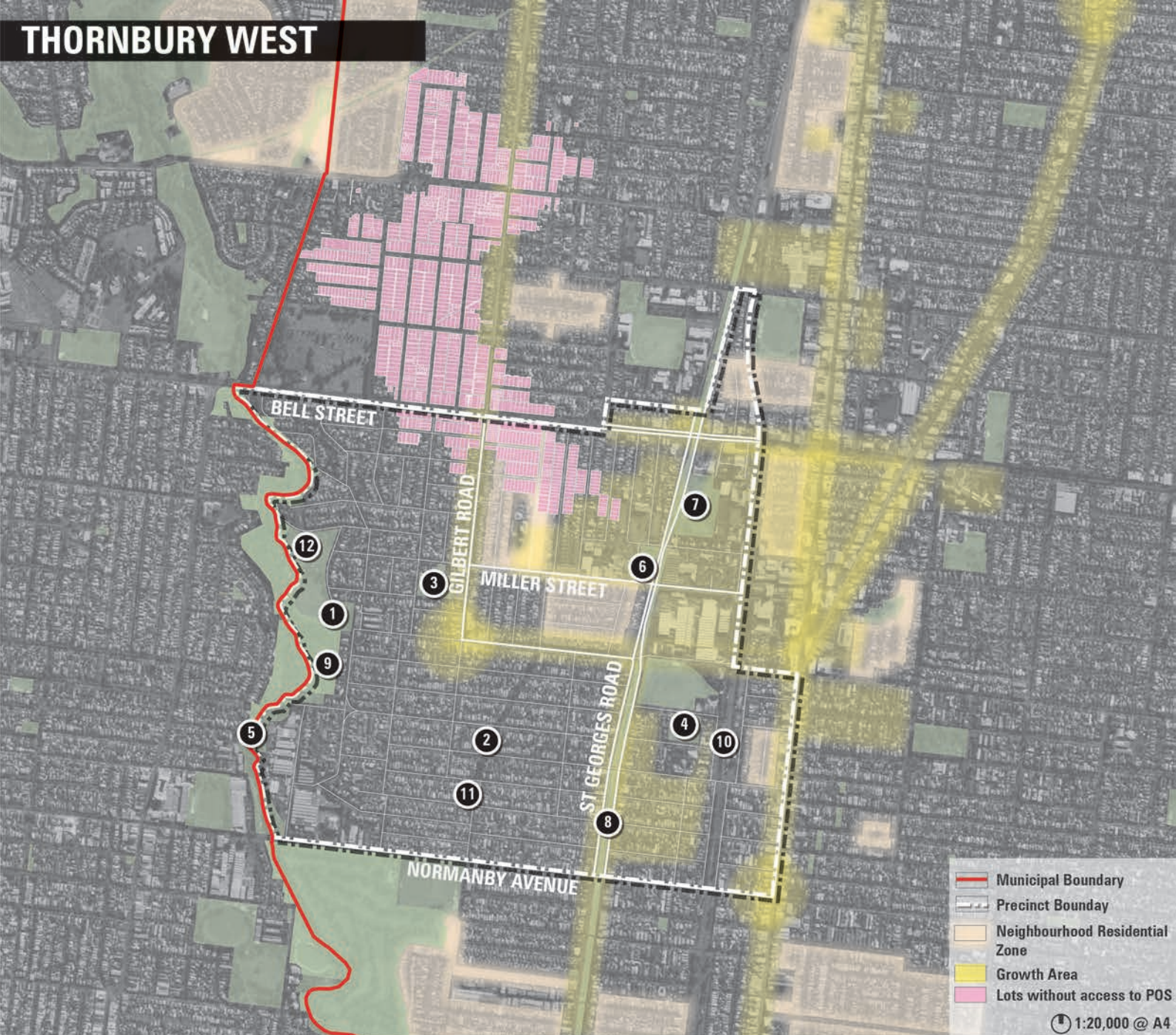
- Community
- Community
- Community
- Linear
- Linear
- Active
- Active
- Linear
- Community
- Linear
- Community
- Linear

LOCAL

DISTRICT

REGIONAL

THORBURY WEST



PRECINCT GROWTH SUMMARY

Preston West is a growth area with medium to higher density housing (townhouses and apartments) appearing along the growth corridors of St Georges Road, and Preston Station. The intensification of future housing growth has put pressure on the increased need of public open spaces to cater for the fast population growth.

CURRENT POPULATION

10,755

PROJECTED 2028 POPULATION

13,011

PRECINCT GROWTH RATE



WITHOUT ACCESS TO POS WITHIN 500M



2018 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)



2028 POS SHORTFALL PER CAPITA (m²)



EXISTING OPEN SPACE

1. A.H. Capp Reserve (3.54ha)
2. Bracken Ave Reserve (0.93ha)
3. H. Swain Reserve (1.13ha)
4. Henderson Park (1.07ha)
5. Merri Creek Corridor (3.96ha)*
6. Newman Reserve (0.68ha)
7. Ray Bramham Gardens (2.65ha)
8. St. Georges Road Reserve (3.21ha)*
9. Strettle Reserve (3.75ha)
10. Thornbury Railway Station (1.6ha)*
11. Turner Reserve (0.39ha)
12. W.H. Robinson Reserve (2.21ha)

Future Type:

B
A
B
B
Regional
A
B
Regional
B
B
A
B

Primary Purpose:

Active
Linear
Community
Active
Linear
Community
Community
Linear
Linear
Non-Council
Community
Active

LOCAL

DISTRICT

REGIONAL



3.5 IMPLICATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The gaps in the delivery of existing and future public open space in Darebin provide a critical baseline from which *Implementing Breathing Space* can address Action 1.1 of *Breathing Space* in the context of Strategies 1.1 and 1.2. This Section of the document provides a basis for understanding how the various differing 'gaps' in open space in Darebin can be understood holistically to guide future investment in open space assets. It outlines a process by which Priority Investigation Areas are identified, for which a 'proactive' program of open space delivery will be a focus, as well as recognising and addressing the other ways open space may need to be considered. This Section also includes Precinct level costs and prioritisation for required park upgrades.

3.5.1 FRAMEWORK FOR ADDRESSING THE GAPS

Breathing Space acknowledges the issues with land acquisition and flags that much of the future delivery of Public Open Space in Darebin will be a result of reprogramming and upgrading of existing areas of Public Open Space, rather than the delivery of new open space.

In general the approach could be characterised as "Access gaps = new land needed, Per capita gaps = upgrades needed". However, the details of this are more nuanced, particularly in areas where the future per capita gap is as a result of precinct scale development where there is the potential for additional land to be dedicated to open space, and where there are other priorities for land acquisition identified in *Breathing Space* (specifically biodiversity).

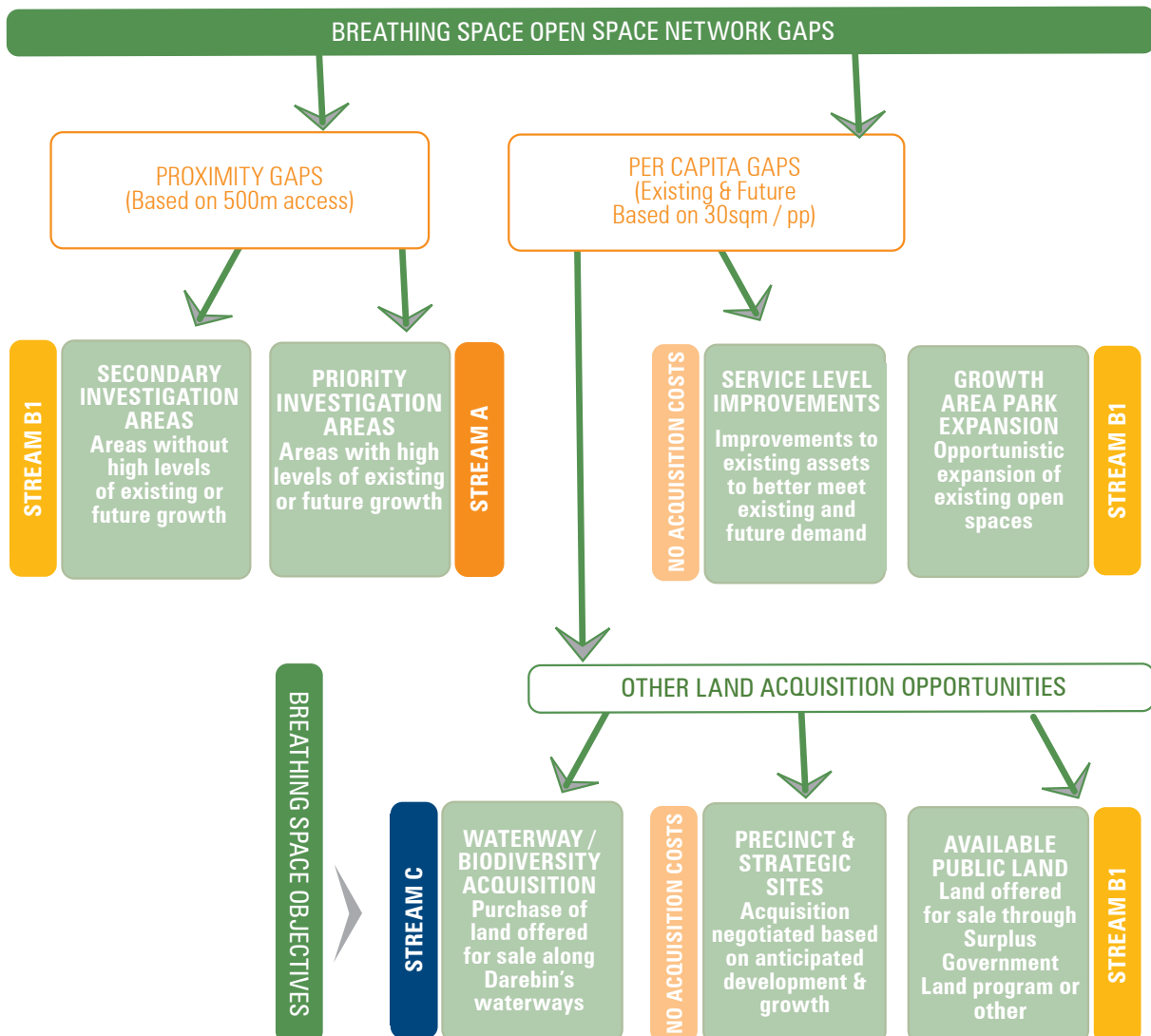


Figure 23: Framework for addressing open space network gaps



Breathing Space identifies that for existing and future 'per capita' shortfalls 'upgrades' to existing parks will be one of the key mechanisms for addressing future population needs. So the focus for increasing existing 'quantities' of open space is on areas with existing gaps in access, with priority on those with other shortfalls.

The necessary upgrades to existing parks are being addressed by the *Open Space Asset Management Plan*.

Breathing Space did not identify specific locations for the delivery of any new open space to meet per capita gaps (noting the above commentary around service standards). The process for assessing potential land purchases should have consideration for identified growth areas within Darebin. Large precincts and development sites are considered as one of the 'opportunities' in Priority Investigating Areas.

The opportunities and broad framework for addressing gaps in open space in Darebin is summarised in Figure 23.

3.5.2 HOW TO IDENTIFY AREAS FOR THE DELIVERY OF NEW OPEN SPACE (QUANTITY)

The question of how to identify precincts in which the delivery of new areas of open space should be prioritised (on the basis of *Breathing Space* recommendations) is not a straightforward proposition. First and foremost, there is the issue of integrating and balancing the distinct ways of measuring 'shortfalls' identified in *Breathing Space*, all of which need to be balanced. Table 1 brings these together.

Added to this are a number of other factors which all also need to be considered when interrogating the shortfalls and prioritising land for acquisition, including:

Proximity (lots without access in 500sqm):

- The mapping included in *Breathing Space* has some minor errors in the identification of land which is Council Public Open Space vs other open space (i.e. excluded Darebin Creek parklands), which will need to be considered in the identification of priorities. This has now been thoroughly reviewed.
- The mapping included in *Breathing Space* did not consider other open space in proximity to these lots, even where these form part of a nominated open space network (i.e. of an adjoining Council). Recent findings by independent Planning Panels has suggested that consideration of this access in areas where purchase of additional land may be constrained may be warranted. This consideration has informed *Implementing Breathing Space*.

- There is an inconsistency between the lots mapped without access and the numbers identified in Table 2 of *Breathing Space*, as the mapping included commercial and industrial lot as well as residential.
- No analysis of spatial implications of the growth that will occur in different precincts had been undertaken to date (i.e. a cluster of dwellings without access may be identified in a precinct with high growth, but the dwellings without access may be in a low growth pocket, while the dwellings in high growth areas of the precinct may have good access). These matters form the basis for analysis as part of *Implementing Breathing Space*.
- The division of the municipality into Precincts, while useful in some ways, is not that useful in considering opportunities for purchase as there is often an overlap in precinct boundaries of areas lacking current access.

Quantity (precincts with per capita shortfalls):

- Shortfalls are based on growth projections which may be subject to change, particularly in the short term given the recent impacts of COVID-19. However, it is understood that the broad parameters of growth are likely to remain intact and the locations where this growth will be directed are reasonably well known and established through the Darebin Planning Scheme.
- The shortfall on a per capita basis is only calculated in *Breathing Space* for a ten year period (i.e. to 2028), only seven years away (at the time of writing). While this may have merit as a strategic approach given the difficulties of predicting growth patterns over the longer term, it nonetheless means that the figures may not reflect the longer term needs of Darebin's Public Open Space network.



IMPLEMENTING BREATHING SPACE

	2018 PER CAPITA SHORTFALL	2028 PER CAPITA SHORTFALL	2018 HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT ACCESS	GROWTH RATE	CONNECTED PRECINCTS
HIGH PRIORITY  RESERVOIR SOUTH	28.1 sqm	28.6 sqm	17.1% / 530 (Near Reservoir AC, Tylers Street & Summerhill)	31.7%	Preston Northland / Kingsbury
HIGH PRIORITY  PRESTON WEST	22 sqm	24.3 sqm	25.4% / 1160 (Large number in continuous area)	39.3%	Thornbury West
HIGH PRIORITY  PRESTON CENTRAL	23.3 sqm	25.4 sqm	7.1% / 258 (Some near Junction, large resi area around Murray / Plenty)	47.5%	Preston Industrial
HIGH PRIORITY  PRESTON INDUSTRIAL	9.1 sqm	14.4 sqm	10.5% / 426 (Four large pockets, two are industrial)	34.2%*	Thornbury East / Preston Central
 RESERVOIR NORTH WEST	11.4 sqm	12.7 sqm	5.6% / 294 (Two discrete pockets lack access)	7.2%	n/a
 LA TROBE & SURROUNDS	11.1 sqm	15.7 sqm	8.4% / n/a (Noting that there are no clear clusters)	32.2%	n/a
 RESERVOIR SOUTH WEST	19.8 sqm	20.7 sqm	3.8% / 141 (One small pocket)	10.5%	n/a
 THORNBURY WEST	14.2 sqm	16.9 sqm	4.4% / 231 (Area south of Bell St, either side of Gilbert)	21%	Preston West
 THORNBURY EAST	24.4 sqm	25.1 sqm	8.7% / 311 (Residential area north of Darebin / High St)	14.8%	Preston Industrial
 NORTHCOTE WEST	10.9 sqm	14.8 sqm	0.0% / 0 (No existing access issues)	21.9%	n/a



	2018 PER CAPITA SHORTFALL	2028 PER CAPITA SHORTFALL	2018 HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT ACCESS	GROWTH RATE	CONNECTED PRECINCTS
 NORTHCOTE EAST	12.3 sqm	13.5 sqm	2.5% / 102 (Some small isolated pockets)	7.5%	Thornbury East
 ALPHINGTON FAIRFIELD	1.8 sqm	5.5 sqm	9.5% / 298 (Area to south east corner, some commercial)	15.1%	n/s
 RESERVOIR NORTH EAST	5.8 sqm	8.6 sqm	5.6% / 171 (Two small residential pockets)	13%	n/a
 PRESTON NORTHLAND	0 sqm	6.1 sqm	6.9% / 390 (Two overlapping clusters and small area near Northland)	29.8%*	Preston Industrial / Reservoir South / Kingsbury
 RESERVOIR WEST	0 sqm	0 sqm	8.7% / 180 (Discrete residential pocket plus industrial)	16.7%	n/a
 KINGSBURY	0 sqm	0 sqm	15.3% / 174 (Summerhill cluster)	18.5%	Preston Northland

Households Without Access figures: % is number of households, figure is number of lots (includes residential and commercial lots but not industrial lots), brackets identify location of lots.

Table 1: Breathing Space gap analysis summary



3.5.3 PRIORITY INVESTIGATION AREAS

The associated document *Enhancing Open Space* (referred to in *Breathing Space* as the Strategic Land Acquisition Plan) considers areas where delivery of new spaces may be required in terms of 'Investigation Areas' to address the alignment / crossover of areas with existing proximity gaps when a 'precinct' approach is retained.

These Investigation Areas were identified using the spatial plans provided in *Breathing Space* and then were subject to refinement considering the following:

- A process of identifying which of the areas where there was a current 'proximity' gap was also identified as having an existing or future per capita gap. These were categorised as being high, medium or low gaps based on the per hectare shortfall identified in *Breathing Space*.
- Consideration of the zoning of properties identified as having a lack of provision and the removal of properties in industrial zones. Commercial zoned land was retained given the potential for residential populations under the zoning. Clear anomalies were also removed (such as part of the Coburg Cemetery).
- Consideration of the *scale* of existing 'proximity' gaps (i.e how many properties were in a cluster which was lacking access).
- Consideration of existing areas of Public Open Space which may not have been considered in *Breathing Space* calculations, but which could reasonably be assumed to form part of a secure network of public open space.

Using this quantification of gaps, seven Priority Investigations Areas were identified, with the remaining areas identified as Secondary Investigation Areas. While the delivery of new open space in these areas is still important, responding to the 'proximity gaps' in these areas is of lesser importance than providing more open space in areas which will see much higher growth. It is noted that Investigation Area G (North of Dundas) was originally identified as a Priority Investigation Area, but the quality of the existing open space assets in proximity to the relevant lots (albeit slightly beyond the nominated 500m distance) meant this area was re-categorised as a Secondary Investigation Area.

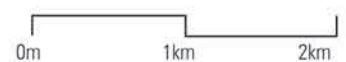
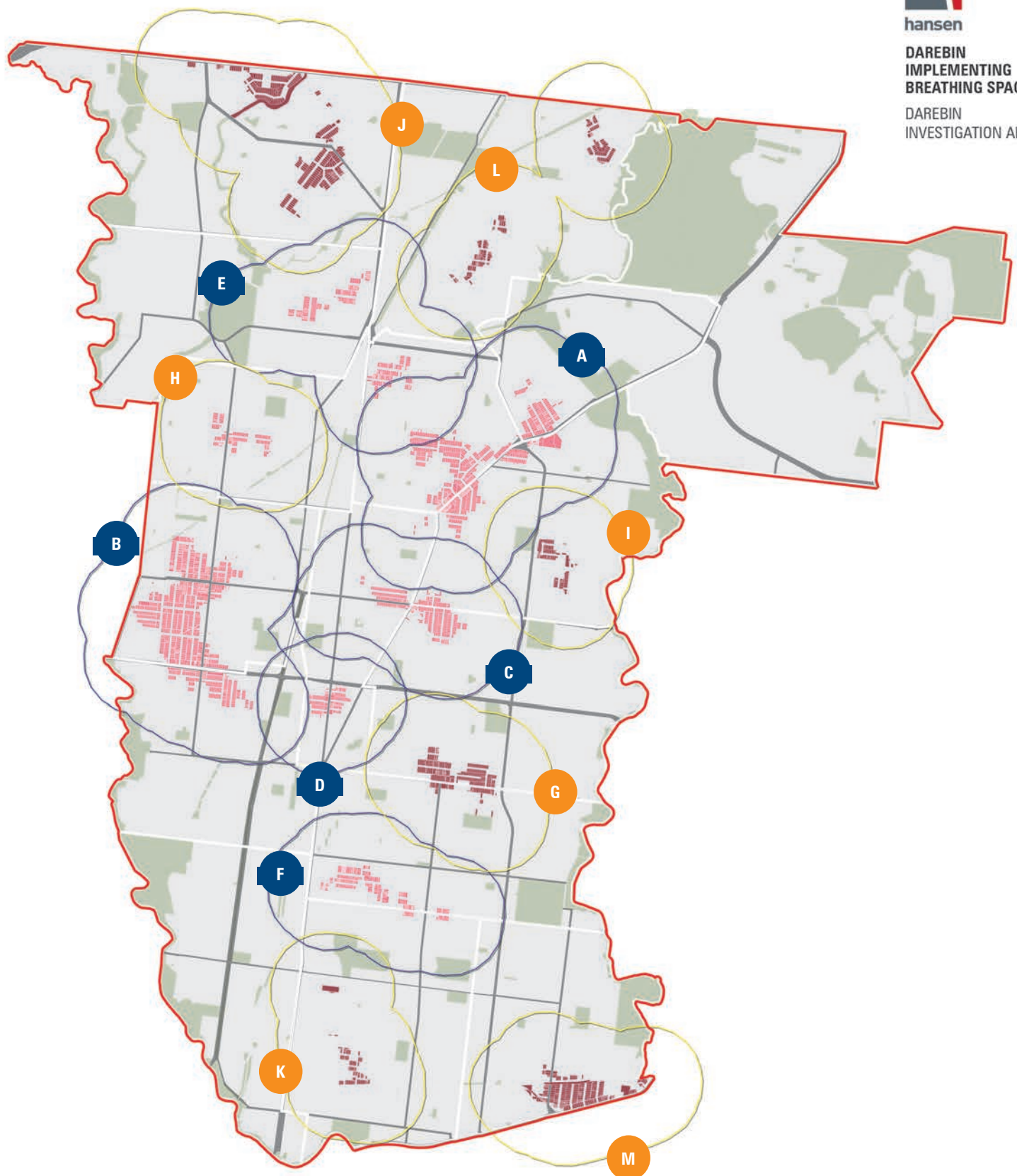




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**DAREBIN
IMPLEMENTING
BREATHING SPACE**

DAREBIN
INVESTIGATION AREAS



Project Ref: 2020.474
Dwg No.: UDD-001
Scale: 10,000 @A3
Date: 11.03.21
Revision: A

Legend

- Municipal Boundary
- Major Roads
- Breathing Space Precinct Boundaries
- Priority Investigation Areas
- Secondary Investigation Areas
- 500m Priority Investigation Area Buffer
- 500m Secondary Investigation Area Buffer
- Existing Public Open Space

Figure 24: Open Space investigation areas



Both Priority and Secondary Investigation Areas are shown on Figure 24.

On the basis of the above the following areas are identified as needing to be investigated for potential acquisition of land, 'Priority Acquisition Areas' are as follows:

- Investigation Area A - Tylers Street / Summerhill area (overlap of Reservoir South, Kingsbury, Preston Northland Precincts)
- Investigation Area B - Preston West / Thornbury West south of Bell (Preston West & Thornbury West precincts)
- Investigation Area C - Murray and Plenty Road intersection area (Preston industrial, Preston Northland and Preston Central)
- Investigation Area D - The Junction (Preston Central)
- Investigation Area E - Reservoir Activity Centre / western residential clusters (Reservoir South. Reservoir South-west)
- Investigation Area F – Residential cluster north of Darebin Road close to High Street (Thornbury East)

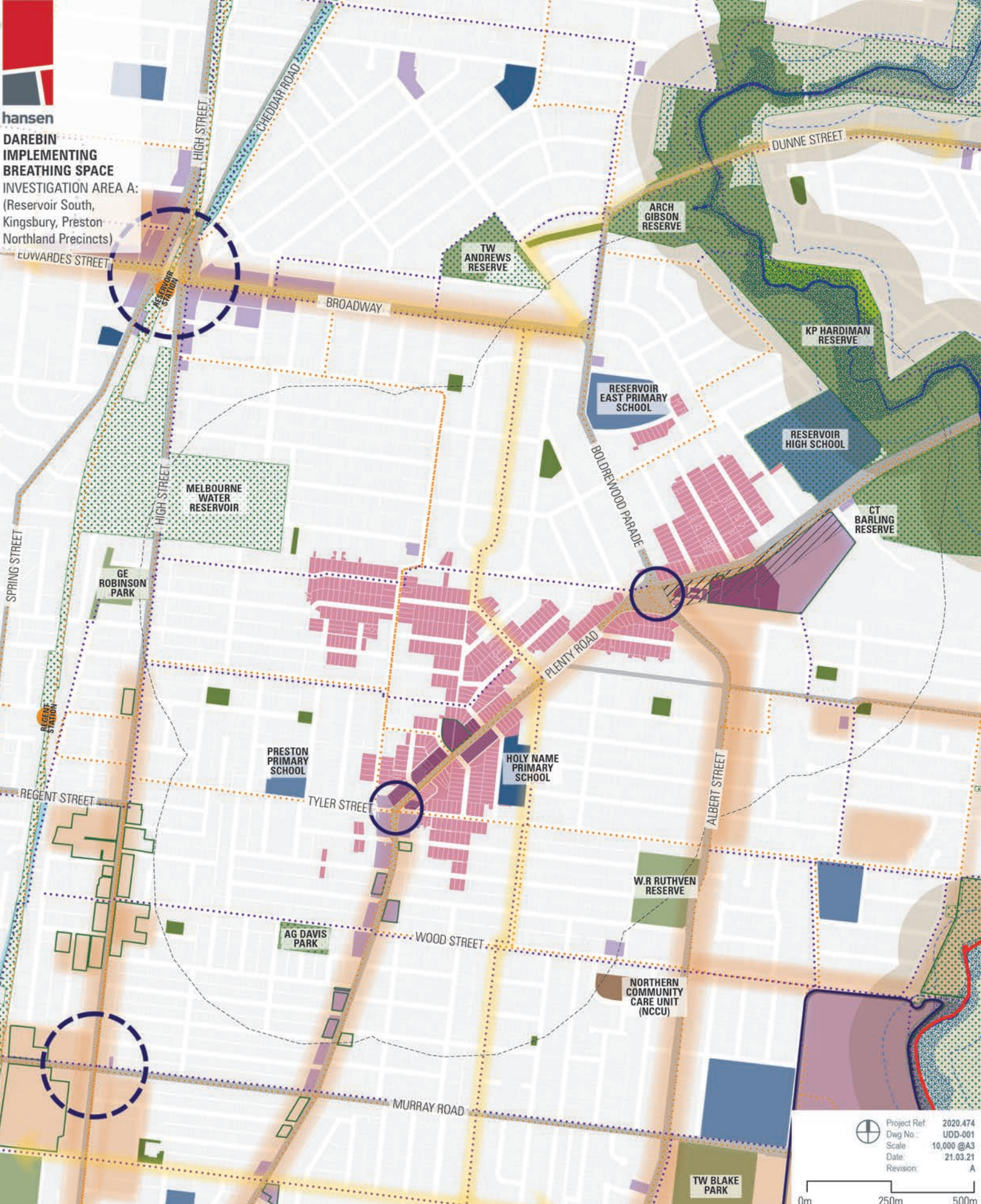
These areas are where there is an aggregation of various pressures for the delivery of additional Public Open Space. Figures 25 - 30 on the following pages provide mapping of these areas, allowing for an understanding of the current conditions and opportunities within them to deliver additional Public Open Space.

It is noted that the 500m radius is shown on plans from the edge of the last lot identified as not have access to POS. *Breathing Space* used a more sophisticated measurement, calculating the length of blocks in assessing access but for the purpose of this exercise an indicative understanding of the area which is within 500m of the edge of these areas is sufficient for purpose. The intention of this exercise, in practical terms, is not to provide access to open space within 500m for every property, but to ensure a reasonable equity of access for residents across the municipality.

In addition to the Priority Investigation Areas there are current 'Proximity' gaps in the following precincts, but which are subject to either lesser growth pressures or have lesser per capita shortfalls, these are characterised as 'Secondary Acquisition Areas':

- Investigation Area G- North of Dundas (Preston Industrial)
- Investigation Area H – Small residential pocket (Reservoir West)
- Investigation Area I – Small residential pocket west of Northland around Wood Street (Preston Northland)
- Investigation Area J – Two residential pockets (Reservoir North-West)
- Investigation Area K – Small residential pocket north of train line (Northcote East)
- Investigation Area L – Latrobe area where there is little issue with current access but growth anticipated (Latrobe and Surrounds)
- Investigation Area M – Alphington area where there is a small area of commercial and 'neighbourhood' residential, adjacent to Alphington Mills site

Enhancing Open Space uses the analysis provided on the following pages supported by further investigations and engagement to identify a range of potential opportunities to deliver open space in these precincts. It also articulates the linkages between the areas of higher growth and these investigation areas. For each of the Priority Investigation Areas, the opportunities are then assessed according to the delivery of an optimal network of new open space in that area, considering diversity, scale, access and ease of implementation. Given the identification of specific sites as 'opportunities' this document is confidential to avoid prejudicing potential future purchase of land by Council.



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INVESTIGATION AREA A:
(Reservoir South,
Kingsbury, Preston
Northland Precincts)

- Legend**
- Municipal Boundary
 - Properties without access to POS (residential)
 - Properties without access to POS (commercial)
 - 500m Buffer
 - Commercial Land
 - Activity Centres
 - Neighbourhood Centres

- Land Use**
- Private Schools
 - Public Schools
 - Substantial Housing Change Area
 - Institutions
 - Strategic Development Sites / Precincts
 - Public Land - Melbourne Water

- Public Open Space Categorisation**
- Local Park
 - District Park
 - Regional Park (Non Council)
 - Public Open Space (other)

- Existing Waterway Centerline
- Waterway Buffer 100m
- Areas of High Conservation Value
- Areas of Cultural Heritage Significance
- Environmental Audit Overlay (EAO)
- Land Subject to Inundation (LSIO)

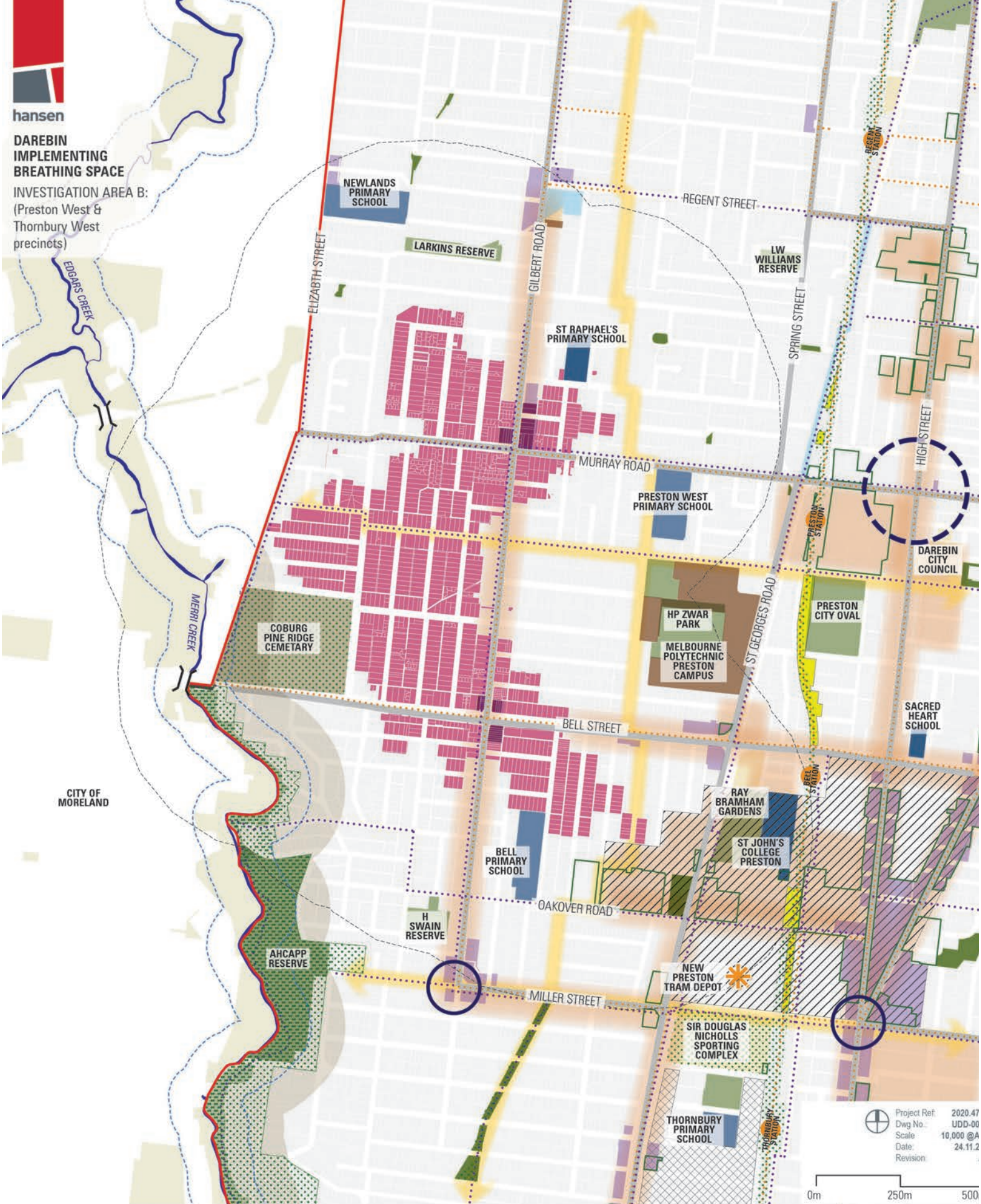
- Access & Movement**
- Major Roads
 - Public Transport Corridors
 - Train Station
 - Active Transport Corridors
 - Key Active Transport Corridors

Project Ref: 2020.474
Dwg No.: UDD-001
Scale: 10,000 @A3
Date: 21.03.21
Revision: A

0m 250m 500m

DAREBIN IMPLEMENTING BREATHING SPACE

INVESTIGATION AREA B:
(Preston West & Thornbury West precincts)



Project Ref: 2020.47
Dwg No.: UDD-00
Scale: 10,000 @A
Date: 24.11.2
Revision:

Legend

- Municipal Boundary
- Properties without access to POS (residential)
- Properties without access to POS (commercial)
- 500m Buffer
- Commercial Land
- Activity Centres
- Neighbourhood Centres
- Strategic Housing Area

Land Use

- Private Schools
- Public Schools
- Substantial Housing Change Area
- Institutions
- Public Land - Melbourne Water
- Public Land - Cemetery
- Public Land - Other
- Strategic Development

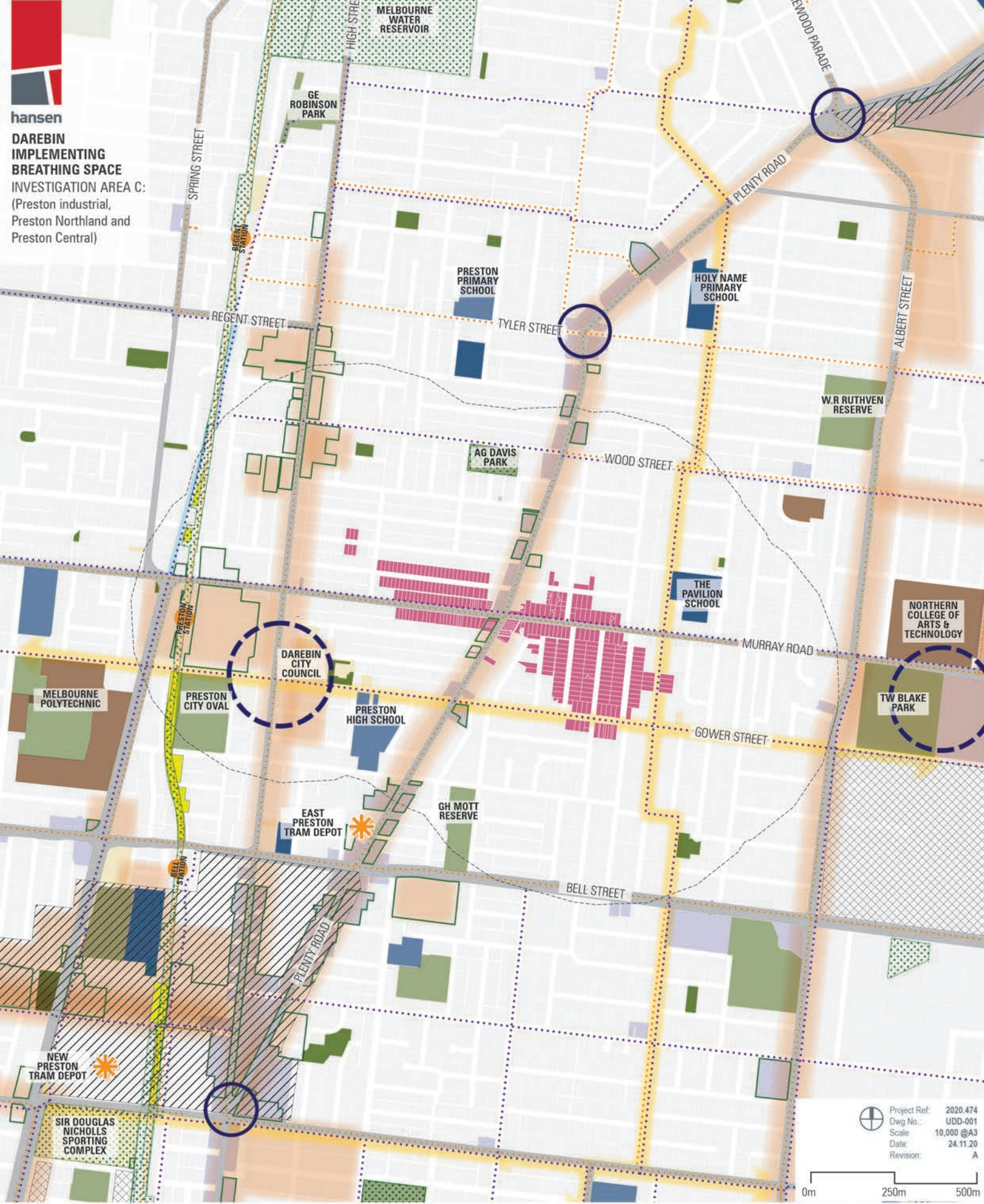
Public Open Space Categorisation

- Local Park
- District Park
- Regional Park
- Regional Park (Non Council)
- Public Open Space (adjoining municipality)
- LXRA

- Existing Waterway Centerline
- Waterway Buffer 100m
- Areas of High Conservation Value
- Areas of Cultural Heritage Significance
- Environmental Audit Overlay (EAO)

Access & Movement

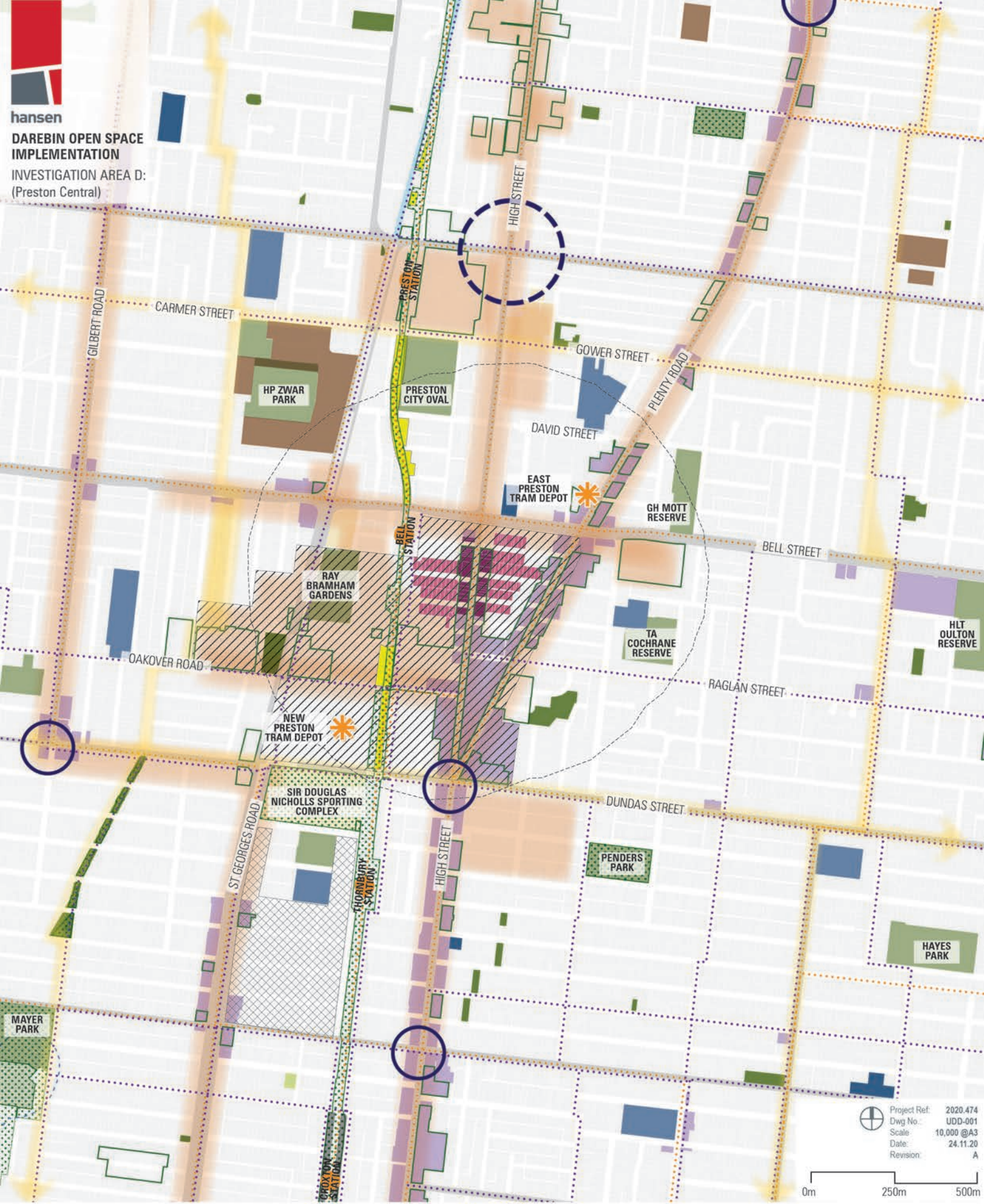
- Major Roads
- Public Transport Corridors
- Train Station
- Tram Depot
- Active Transport Corridors
- Key Active Transport Corridors
- Bridge



Project Ref: 2020.474
Dwg No.: UDD-001
Scale: 10,000 @A3
Date: 24.11.20
Revision: A

0m 250m 500m

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <p>Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipal Boundary Properties without access to POS (residential) 500m Buffer Commercial Land Activity Centres Neighbourhood Centres Strategic Housing Area | <p>Land Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private Schools Public Schools Substantial Housing Change Areas Institutions Public Land - Melbourne Water Public Land - Other Strategic Development Sites / Precincts | <p>Public Open Space Categorisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Park District Park LXRA Areas of High Conservation Value Environmental Audit Overlay (EAO) | <p>Access & Movement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major Roads Public Transport Corridors Train Station Tram Depot Active Transport Corridors Key Active Transport Corridors |
|--|--|---|---|



Legend

- Properties without access to POS (residential)
- Properties without access to POS (commercial)
- 500m Buffer
- Commercial Land
- Activity Centres
- Neighbourhood Centres
- Strategic Housing Area
- Strategic Development Sites/Precincts

Land Use

- Private Schools
- Public Schools
- Substantial housing change areas
- Institutions
- Public Land - Vic Track
- Public Land - Melbourne Water
- Public Land - Other

Public Open Space Categorisation

- Local Park
- District Park
- Regional Park
- Public Open Space (other)
- LXRA

Access & Movement

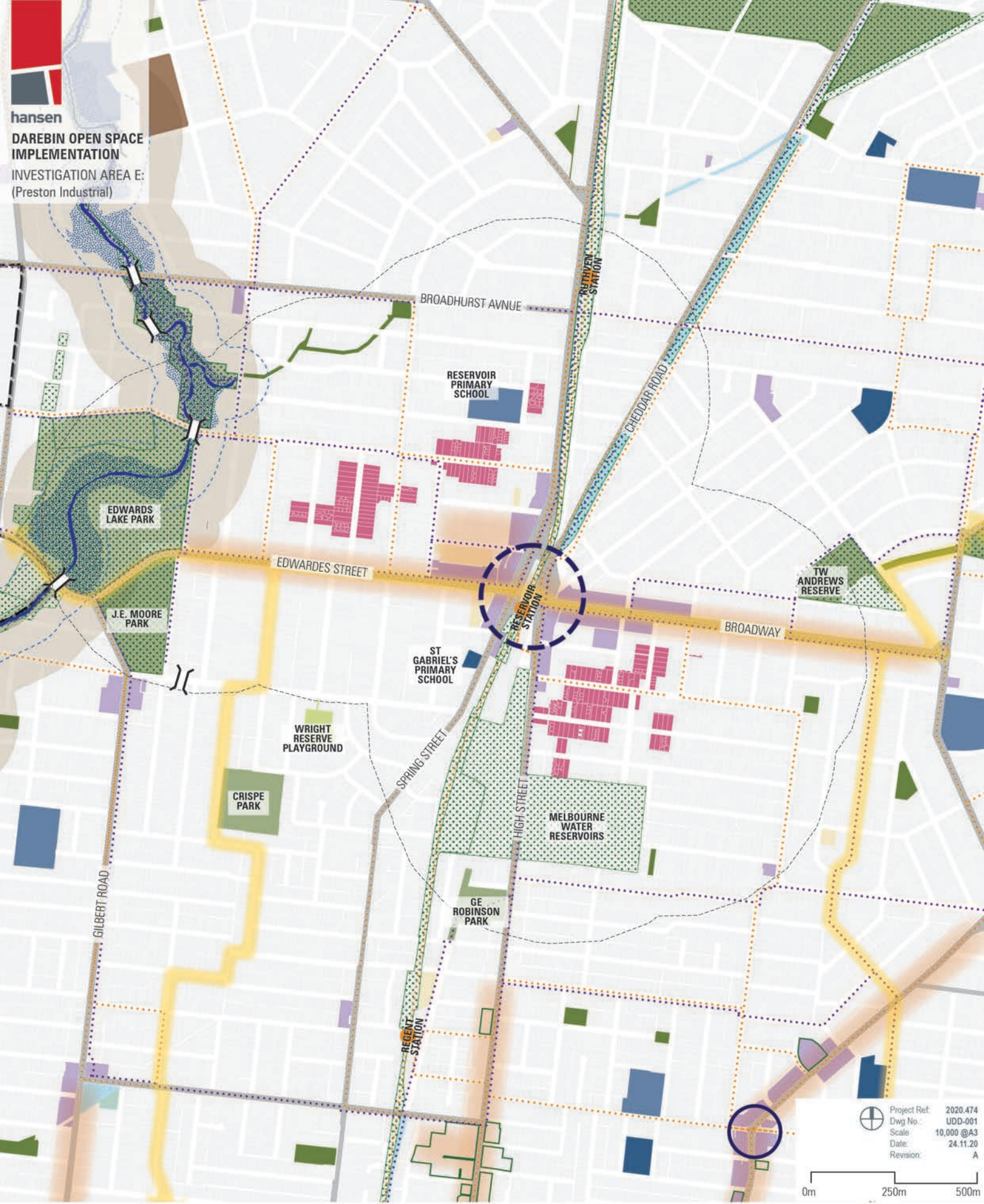
- Major Roads
- Public Transport Corridors
- Train Station
- Tram Depot
- Active Transport Corridors
- Key Active Transport Corridors

Areas of High Conservation Value

- Areas of Cultural Heritage Significance
- Environmental Audit Overlay (EAO)

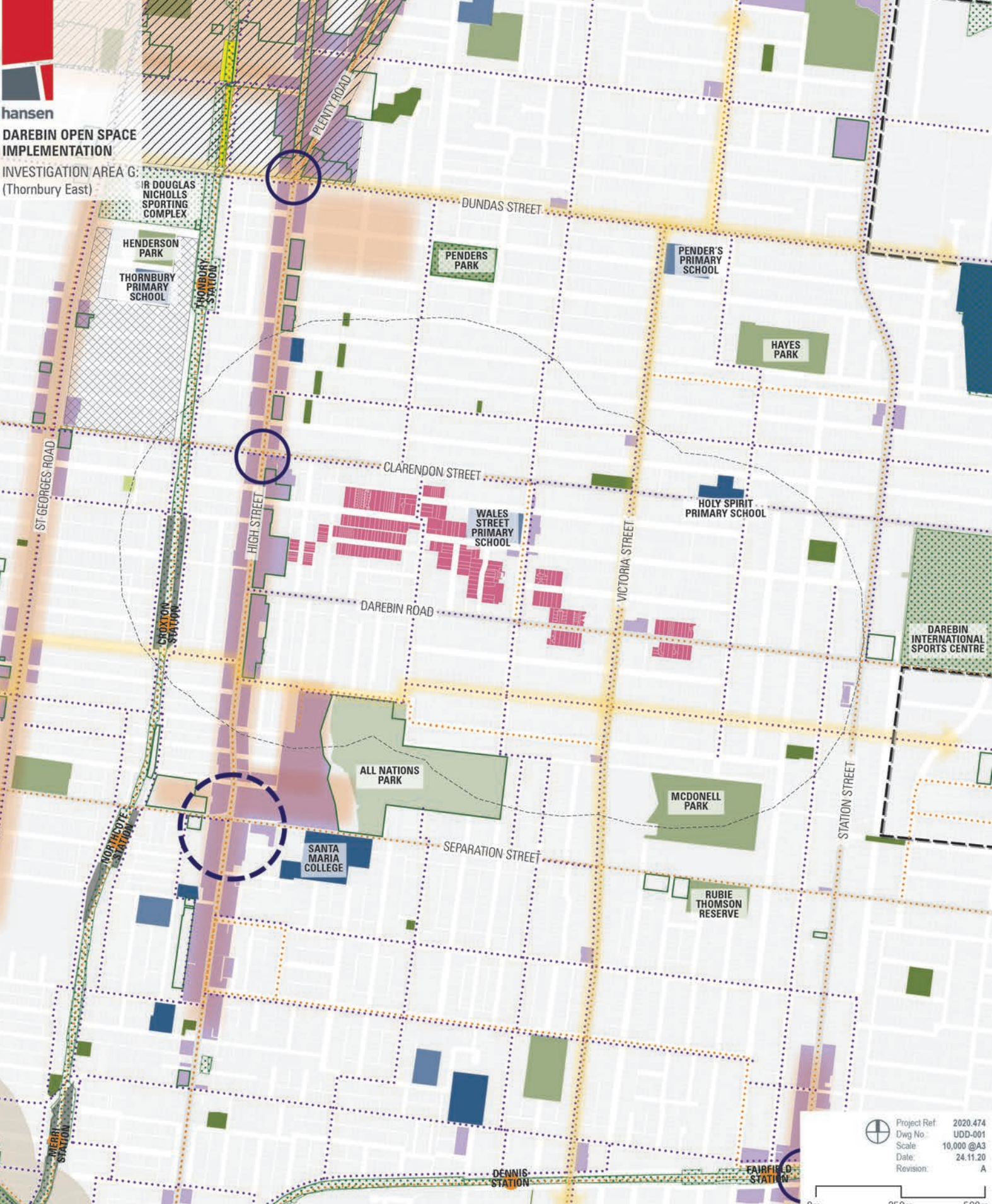
Project Ref: 2020.474
Dwg No.: UDD-001
Scale: 10,000 @A3
Date: 24.11.20
Revision: A

0m 250m 500m



Project Ref: 2020.474
 Dwg No.: UDD-001
 Scale: 10,000 @A3
 Date: 24.11.20
 Revision: A

Legend - Properties without access to POS (residential) 500m Buffer - Commercial Land - NEIC - Activity Centres - Neighbourhood Centres	Land Use - Private Schools - Public Schools - Substantial housing change areas - Institutions - Public Land - Melbourne Water - Public Land - Other	Public Open Space Categorisation - Local Park - District Park - Regional Park - Regional Park (Non Council) - Public Open Space (other)	- Existing Waterway Centerline - Waterway Buffer 100m - Areas of High Conservation Value - Areas of Cultural Heritage Significance - Environmental Audit Overlay (EAO) - Land Subject to Inundation (LSIO)	Access & Movement - Major Roads - Public Transport Corridors - Active Transport Corridors - Key Active Transport Corridors - Bridge
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hansen
**DAREBIN OPEN SPACE
IMPLEMENTATION**
INVESTIGATION AREA G:
(Thornbury East)

Legend

- Properties without access to POS (residential)
- 500m Buffer
- Commercial Land
- NEIC
- Activity Centres
- Neighbourhood Centres
- Strategic Housing Area

Land Use

- Private Schools
- Public Schools
- Substantial housing change areas
- Public Land - Vic Track
- Public Land - Melbourne Water
- Public Land - Other
- Strategic Development Sites/Precincts

Public Open Space Categorisation

- Local Park
- District Park
- Regional Park
- Public Open Space (other)
- LXRA

Access & Movement

- Major Roads
- Public Transport Corridors
- Train Station
- Tram Depot
- Active Transport Corridors
- Key Active Transport Corridors

Areas of High Conservation Value

- Areas of Cultural Heritage Significance
- Environmental Audit Overlay (EAO)

Project Ref: 2020.474
Dwg No: UDD-001
Scale: 10,000 @A3
Date: 24.11.20
Revision: A



3.5.3.1 PRECINCT GROWTH RATES AND OPEN SPACE IMPLICATIONS

In establishing the Priority Investigation Areas, it is useful to provide a clear line of sight between these areas and those where population growth will occur, establishing the nexus required in applying the Open Space Levy. The links between growth rates, existing open space provision and identified Priority Investigation Areas is articulated in this section.

Precincts with an identified HIGH rate of growth

Northcote West

While this area has a high growth rate it is not a priority due to existing access to open space and relatively low rates of per capita shortfall. Growth in the precinct is also likely to be confined to key areas given zoning. Opportunities to integrate new public open space as part of any larger developments along the High Street corridor are noted and land contributions may be appropriate on some sites and improved public access to the Northcote Golf Course is another opportunity. Council has recently committed to engage in community consultation on the future use of the Northcote Golf course.

Latrobe and surrounds

This precinct has a high growth rate but also, taking into account the whole picture of open space provision, a generous amount of open space (which includes more than public open space). Most of the growth will be associated with the Latrobe University campus and residents will therefore have access to the significant open space assets associated with the university. It is therefore not a priority for the provision of new areas of open space.

Preston Central

This area is a high priority for new open space (Priority Investigation Area D) as it has a high growth rate combined with little existing provision. While some new open space will be provided as part of the LXRA project, there is still a significant need for open space in this area. This area also includes the Preston Market which is proposed for high density residential development. Public open space will be provided on the Preston Market as part of the open space contribution.

Preston Industrial

This area is a high priority for new open space, which should be focussed in the northwest quadrant where there are lots without exiting access and growth occurring close to the Plenty Road spine (PIA A). If the Northland Urban



Renewal Precinct develops in the future, land contributions should be sought, with reactive acquisition of land along the Darebin Creek corridor to improve regional linkages another consideration.

Preston Northland

New open space is required in this precinct due to the combination of a high growth rate and number of lots without access in growth areas which will exacerbate existing inequities in distribution across the precinct. New open space should be provided to the north-western part of the precinct, with a focus on areas along Plenty Road. New open space in the form of land contributions should be sought as part of the redevelopment of both the Northland and Summerhill Shopping Centres (part of PIA A).

Preston West

This precinct is the highest priority for the delivery of new open space with high levels of growth projected, exacerbating existing gaps in provision, with the precinct having both very low levels of access and per capita provision. Given much of the growth will be distributed throughout the precinct in the form of medium density and along the Gilbert Road corridor, the open space distribution also needs to be improved. This precinct forms part of PIA B. Areas of growth to the east should have access to new open space provided as land contributions through the Preston Market redevelopment.

Reservoir South

This is another of the highest priority precincts for the delivery of new open space. It has significant existing shortfall and high rates of growth will exacerbate this. The distribution of open space across this precinct also results in areas with no access. Growth is likely to be directed to areas along the Plenty Road corridor and associated Activity Centres, as well as the Reservoir Activity Centre – the need for open space in these areas is addressed by PIA A and E.

Thornbury West

This precinct is a priority for new open space (as part of PIA B with the Preston West precinct to the north) as a result of growth along the Miller / Gilbert tram route, as well as significant development in the north-east as an industrial and public housing estate are redeveloped. The focus for the delivery of new open space should be to the north of the precinct, in particular focussed around areas where current distribution is poor. New open space to the west of the precinct is likely to be delivered as part of LXRA works and the redevelopment of public housing estates, with additional open space in PIA D also accessible.

Precincts with an identified MEDIUM rate of growth

Alphington/Fairfield

Not a priority as the area has no or low shortfalls and other open space is accessible just beyond precinct boundaries.

Kingsbury

New open space is a priority in the southern corner where 'proximity' gaps overlap with growth areas and abut other areas with high need – this is addressed through PIA A. Not a priority in other parts of the precinct due to no identified shortfalls.

Reservoir Northeast

Not a high priority for new open space given range of open space assets and low per capita shortfalls and lots without access. Where open space can be delivered it should be focussed to the southeast where growth as anticipated in conjunction with the Reservoir Activity Centre – PIA E.

Reservoir South West

While this precinct is anticipated to experience a medium level of growth it is not a priority for the delivery of new open space, rather open space should be provided in the adjoining precincts where there is greater need. Low number of lots do not currently have access, and while the per capita shortfall is predicted to increase, residents in this precinct are likely to also have access to proposed new areas of open space in adjoining precincts as it abuts PIAs A, B and E.

Reservoir West

This area itself is not a high priority given the low per capita need as a result of Edwardes lake, but it is noted that the western portion of the precinct (which forms part of the Reservoir Activity Centre) is likely to see some growth which will intersect with existing areas without current access – this area forms part of PIA E.

Thornbury East

While this area has a medium level of growth this growth will exacerbate existing shortfalls and so is likely to require additional open space. Growth in the precinct will be focused on the High Street corridor and given the existing distribution new open space should be focused in the south western area where there are gaps in distribution which can be aligned with the delivery of open space accessible to new residents (PIA F). Growth areas in the north-west abut PIA D



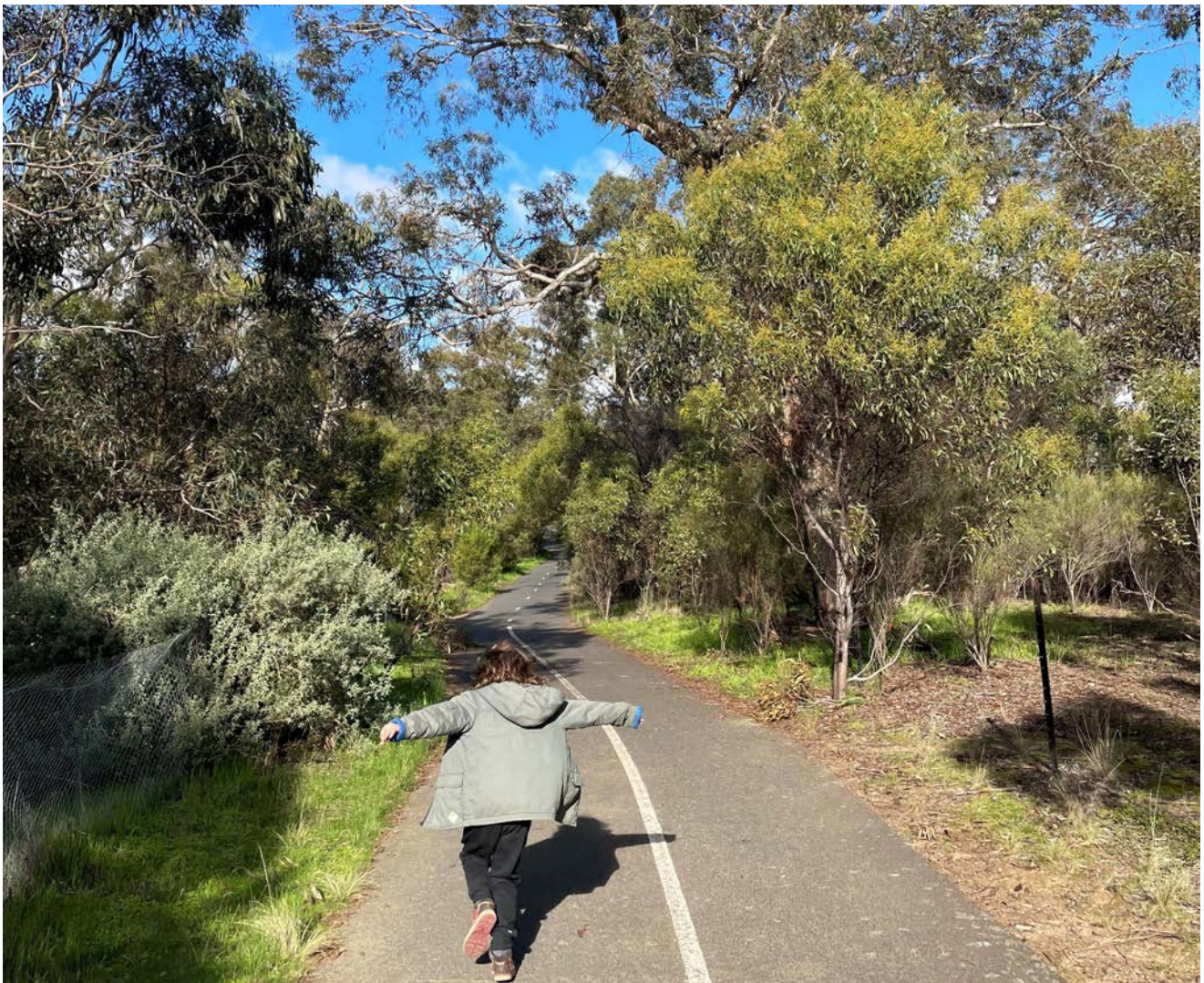
Precincts with an identified LOW rate of growth

Northcote East

Low growth rates and low number of lots without access, as well as relatively low per capita shortfall mean this area is not a priority for new open space. If 'reactive' opportunities for new open space became available they should be pursued if located close to identified growth corridors, or lots without current access.

Reservoir North West

Low growth rate combined with low proximity gaps and relatively low per capita gaps means this area is not a priority. District level open space is also available in adjoining precincts and across bridges in Moreland.





3.5.4 HOW TO UPGRADE EXISTING OPEN SPACE (QUALITY)

As identified in *Breathing Space*, the capacity to fully deliver the preferred 'per capita' provision of open space is limited by difficulties in the acquisition of large quantities of land in an inner urban context. While consideration of other non-Council owned open space goes some way to addressing this shortfall, increasing the service levels and quality of existing Public Open Space is also critical. This goes to the issue of Quality as distinct from Quantity, discussed at Section 2.4.

This Section of *Implementing Breathing Space* outlines how costs have been calculated to upgrade existing areas of Public Open Space, in line with *Breathing Space* directions.

Asset upgrades based on *Breathing Space* categories

Breathing Space sets out a classification system to inform planning for the future open space network, reflective of the anticipated growth and need across the various precincts. Each park is categorised based on the extent of its geographical catchment ('hierarchy') and population density within its catchment ('type') - see Pages 72-107 of *Breathing Space*. A matrix is provided that guides the provision of assets and services to meet the requirements of each category.

The approach outlined in *Breathing Space* has been refined and advanced through the development of a *draft Levels of Service framework*. This process assessed all existing parks in Darebin, establishing their primary purpose (e.g. conservation) and current level of service and identifying where assets needed to be 'upgraded' to align with the categories established in *Breathing Space*. This process also reviewed and added rigour to the specific assets associated with each category of park. The outputs of this assessment have informed the precinct level asset upgrade cost estimates in this *Implementing Breathing Space* document.

Capital works projects

In addition to the asset upgrades identified within the scope of the *Open Space Asset Management Plan* review, relevant capital works projects delivering improved sporting infrastructure and accessible toilets were also identified. Where these could be specified in particular locations, the associated cost estimates are included in Precinct level upgrade costings.

Masterplan implementation

A number of park masterplans have been adopted by Council in recent years and are in various stages of implementation. Yet to be delivered components of these masterplans are costed and included in the precinct level upgrade estimates, only where they are not identified as replicating improvements captured elsewhere in this document.

Vegetation improvements

Further assessment was undertaken to establish the vegetation improvements required in response to the *Breathing Space* rewilding objectives, and the estimated costs associated across all identified parks in the municipality.

Indicative costs for the above categories of asset and vegetation improvements are presented in Table 2. Mostly, the costs are aggregated to the Precinct level, however there are renewal/upgrade programs where further planning is required to finalise priority locations and these are presented as a general improvement costs.

3.5.4.1 PRECINCT SPECIFIC UPGRADE COSTS AND PRIORITISATION

The costs associated with upgrades required to service Darebin's existing and growing population are presented at the Precinct level in Table 2.

This table identifies:

- Each *Breathing Space* Precinct.
- The total costs associated with upgrading parks within each Precinct.
- The Level of priority that upgrades should be given.



Prioritisation

Given *Breathing Space* only considered growth to 2028, it is reasonable to assume that all identified upgrades will be required within that same timeframe. However, in recognition of the difficulties of delivering such a comprehensive program of upgrades in that timeframe, a 'prioritisation' of these upgrades is useful. This is also consistent with the wording of the relevant Action, which states "over time". The speed with which Council is able to deliver these upgrades is dependant on funding availability.

As such, required upgrades have been prioritised in a similar fashion as the process for delivering new areas of open space. Areas which have the highest levels of growth and the highest current shortfall in existing open space are to be delivered in advance of those areas likely to experience less intense pressure on their existing areas of open space. The results of this are included in Table 2 through identification of different priority levels. Levels One to Four represent high priority upgrades. Parks within these identified 'priority' precincts which should be the focus of upgrades are those identified as performing a Regional or District role, as well as Active and Community open spaces. This prioritisation is based on delivering Key Direction 1 of *Breathing Space*.

Breathing Space Precinct Upgrade Costs and Priority	
ALPHINGTON / FARIFIELD	
TOTAL COST OF UPGRADE	\$512,114
PRIORITY = Level Five	
PRESTON WEST	
TOTAL COST OF UPGRADE	\$900,874
PRIORITY = Level One (highest levels of shortfall and high levels of growth)	
KINGSBURY	
TOTAL COST OF UPGRADE	\$4,714,535
PRIORITY = Level Four (high levels of growth)	
LATROBE & SURROUNDS	
TOTAL COST OF UPGRADE	\$10,237,914
PRIORITY = Level Two (high levels of shortfall and high levels of growth)	
NORTHCOTE EAST	
TOTAL COST OF UPGRADE	\$2,473,477
PRIORITY = Level Five	
NORTHCOTE WEST	
TOTAL COST OF UPGRADE	\$3,021,955
PRIORITY = Level Three (medium levels of shortfall and medium levels of growth)	
PRESTON CENTRAL	
TOTAL COST OF UPGRADE	\$1,054,364
PRIORITY = Level One (highest levels of shortfall and high levels of growth)	
PRESTON INDUSTRIAL	
TOTAL COST OF UPGRADE	\$6,306,552
PRIORITY = Level One (highest levels of shortfall and high levels of growth)	



PRESTON NORTHLAND	
TOTAL COST OF UPGRADE	\$2,905,180
PRIORITY = Level Three (medium levels of shortfall and medium levels of growth)	
RESERVOIR NORTH EAST	
TOTAL COST OF UPGRADE	\$8,737,516
PRIORITY = Level Five	
RESERVOIR NORTH WEST	
TOTAL COST OF UPGRADE	\$5,078,368
PRIORITY = Level Five	
RESERVOIR SOUTH	
TOTAL COST OF UPGRADE	\$82,505
PRIORITY = Level One (highest levels of shortfall and high levels of growth)	
RESERVOIR SOUTH WEST	
TOTAL COST OF UPGRADE	\$1,665,686
PRIORITY - Level Four (high levels of growth)	
RESERVOIR WEST	
TOTAL COST OF UPGRADE	\$2,605,464
PRIORITY - Level Four (high levels of growth)	
THORBURY EAST	
TOTAL COST OF UPGRADE	\$1,599,585
PRIORITY - Level Two (high levels of shortfall and high levels of growth)	
THORBURY WEST	
TOTAL COST OF UPGRADE	\$1,083,904
PRIORITY - Level Three (medium levels of shortfall and medium levels of growth)	

General improvements and renewals

In addition to costs which can be allocated to specific parks, and therefore to the relevant precincts, there are additional general improvements works which will be needed to ensure the on-going delivery of quality Public Open Space in Darebin.

These costs include:

- Delivery of public toilets
- Delivery of relevant upgrades and renewal of sporting facilities, such as fencing and Synthetic Cricket Wicket Installation.
- Irrigation Upgrades and Renewals, and other drainage related works such as Sportground sub-surface drainage.

- Park Assets and Playspace Renewal
- Renewal of other assets such as drinking fountains
- A conservative contingency for site remediation associated with upgrades.

These costs have been consolidated for the purpose of this document and have a total value of \$12,777,000 for the period of 2022-2028. This is aligned with the timeframes of *Breathing Space* and is therefore identified in Table 5 as a Short - Medium term Action.





4.0 PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION

This Section of *Implementing Breathing Space* addresses some of the practical considerations which underpin the *Breathing Space* Action Plan found at Section 5.0.

As identified, *Breathing Space* contains a total of 147 Actions across 15 objectives under three key directions. There are a number of Actions which are similar or complementary under different Objectives. In order to appropriately implement the 147 Actions of *Breathing Space* and avoid duplication, a number of steps were taken.

- Firstly, the Actions were assessed and then categorised as discussed at Section 4.1. This categorisation had a particular focus on the costs and funding mechanisms of the Actions.
- Secondly, a costing exercise was undertaken for those Actions which were assessed as having funding implications.
- Thirdly, Actions were prioritised and allocated to specific timeframes. This step was not applied to Actions considered to have already been 'implemented' in the process of adopting *Breathing Space*, or whose introduction is on-going through internal implementation (for example changes to practice or policy).

Group One Actions were prioritised according to need, and the decision-making frameworks embedded in the *Enhancing Open Space*. Group Two Actions were prioritised through engagement with relevant Stakeholder groups, including internal Council teams to ensure alignment with broader Council objectives. For all Actions, responsibilities and timeframes were then documented, along with relevant partnerships and other considerations.

And lastly, the costs associated with the delivery of *Breathing Space* were estimated, to allow an understanding of the 'high level' costs of delivering *Breathing Space*. The caveats on these costs are discussed in more detail in Section 4.2 of this report.

4.1 CATEGORISATION OF ACTIONS

All Actions of *Breathing Space* were tabulated and then assigned to a Group.

4.1.1 GROUP ONE: PUBLIC OPEN SPACE (PARKS) NETWORK

The bulk of the capital investment required to deliver a network of open space is tied up in 'Group One' Actions, which includes:

- New Open Space delivery – including land purchase (where relevant) and development
- Existing Open Space upgrades – to achieve identified quality (Type) to respond to growth

4.1.2 GROUP TWO: OTHER ACTIONS WITH COST IMPLICATIONS

This group captures a broad range of Actions with cost implications, including::

- Education & Training, such as Citizen Science programs etc
- Research & Review, where *Breathing Space* recommended further research be undertaken to support future change
- Physical works which deliver improvements of a specific nature and which sit outside the scope of the Group one upgrades
- Planning which includes the preparation of further plans or guidelines

4.1.3 GROUP THREE: ADDITIONAL FUNDING NOT REQUIRED

- Actions which are already funded, such as Action 5.10.
- Existing Policy Implementation, which includes Actions which support other adopted Council strategies.
- Internal policy directions (i.e. changes to place names)
- Internal design practice.



4.2 COSTING METHODOLOGIES

The full implementation of *Breathing Space* has very significant cost implications for Council. As such, it is important that there is clear identification of mechanisms for funding relevant Actions and a practical lens placed on how to best deliver the outcomes of *Breathing Space* 'on the ground'.

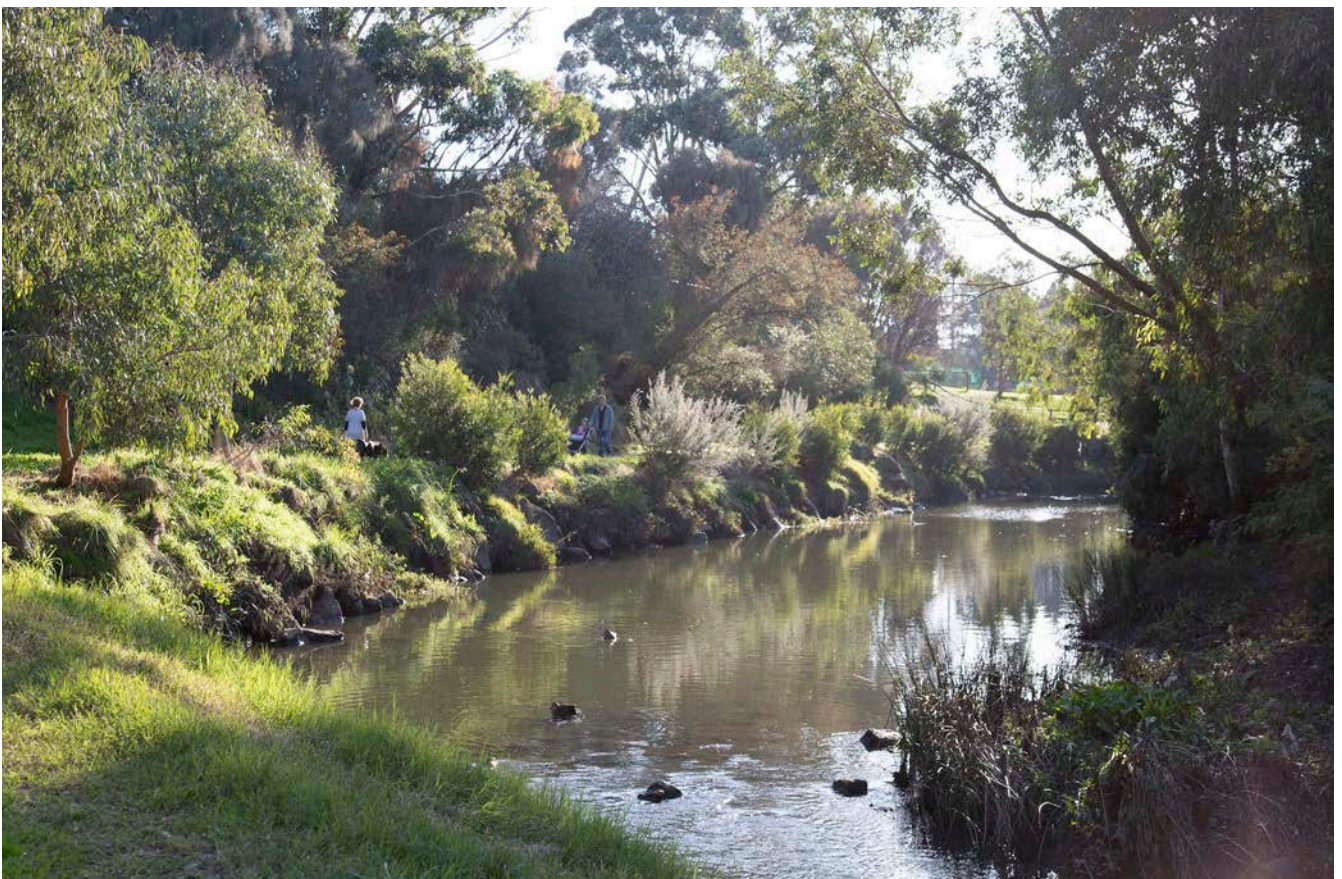
There are a series of differing costs which are outlined in this Section of the report. These all have differing implications and potentially differing funding sources (most notably the funding stream available to Council through the Open Space Levy). The parameters and caveats associated with the costs documented in the Action Plan are as follows:

4.2.1 GROUP ONE: PUBLIC OPEN SPACE (PARKS) NETWORK COSTS

These costs are broken down into two key areas, with each of these broken down further to allow a more in-depth understanding of cost components.

Firstly there are three Streams related to the delivery of new areas of public open space in Darebin. These are:

- Delivery of new public open space in Priority Investigation Areas (Stream A).
- Facilitation of access to other open space in Priority Investigation Areas, such as through shared use agreements or access improvements (Stream A).
- Delivery of new public open space in other areas, which will generally be either reactive in nature (Stream B).
- Delivery of open space along waterways or in areas of high biodiversity, which may not consistently, or to the same degree, accommodate use by the community (Stream C).





Secondly, there are the associated costs of upgrading existing parks to meet a higher service standard. These include.

- Relevant upgrades to all existing Council Public Open Space guided by Precinct priority levels.
- Other improvements to open space associated with municipal-wide upgrade and renewal programs

It is very important to note that the costs identified in relation to Group One only relate to the purchase of land, delivery of new or upgrades to existing open space. There are also significant additional costs to Council in maintenance which is associated with open space but which is not addressed by *Implementing Breathing Space*. Despite this, it is important to recognise that the true 'overall' cost to Council is higher than articulated through this document.

4.2.1.1 DELIVERY OF NEW PUBLIC OPEN SPACE IN PRIORITY INVESTIGATION AREAS

These costs reflect those associated with the 'proactive' delivery of new open space in areas where there are current gaps in residents' access to open space, coupled with high level of growth and existing and future deficiencies in per capita provision.

The costs allocated to this group is based on a series of considered opportunities for the delivery of new open space outlined in the document *Enhancing Open Space*.

The opportunities which have informed these high level costings do not represent a comprehensive list, and further investigations or discussions with local communities or landowners may result in some opportunities not being pursued. However, given the reasonably limited scope of potential open spaces and their modest size, compared the quantum of shortfall in the provision of open space in these Priority Investigation Areas (PIAs) the costing of a range of different opportunities for each PIA is important. As with other aspects of the Public Open Space network, the proposed new open space is required to service both existing populations and future populations to 2028, meaning their delivery needs to sit in the first phase of funding for *Breathing Space*.

Costing for new areas of open space in the PIAs is high level only and employs a range of assumptions. The costs were calculated using a standardised delivery cost and a corresponding land value calculation based on current valuations for the area, where applicable.

Cost associated with land purchase are as documented in *Enhancing Open Space*. For residential land the highest estimate of land value has been used. For land in commercial zones either a low, mid or high level value from within the identified range has been adopted depending on the location of the commercial land. For land in a Mixed Use Zone, the identified commercial rate has been applied.

In identifying the delivery costs, projects were generally costed as:

- Linkage / pathway improvements which were calculated at a per linear metre rate of \$120.
- Development of a 'community' types park on a residential block, where costs comprised a per sqm rate of \$386, plus an additional allocation of \$70,000 for design and other fees. The per sqm rate included consideration of demolition of existing dwellings, lighting, playground, garden beds and trees, drinking fountain, bins, picnic table, bench seat, minor earthworks and site prep and reseeding grass and concrete pavement (based on a 1000sqm site).
- Development of 'grey to green' type 'pocket park'. For these areas a fee of \$1660 per sqm has been applied, along with an engineering and design fee of \$60,000. The per sqm estimate includes trees and shrubs, some structural soil, custom seating, all surfaces, lighting relocation and upgrades and pedestrian crossings.

Costs for managing contamination can be very high so the presence of potential contamination is an important issue. For all sites where potential contamination has been identified an additional \$50,000 has been included for investigations but further fees for addressing any contamination found have not been included.

4.2.1.2 DELIVERY OF NEW PUBLIC OPEN SPACE OUTSIDE PRIORITY INVESTIGATION AREAS

These costs reflect those associated with maximising opportunities which arise to deliver new open space in areas where there is a medium or high level of existing or future shortfall or where a relatively smaller number of residents lack access within the specified distance.

The cost allocated to this is a nominal 'budget' for 'reactive' purchases of land in accordance with an adopted decision-making framework for the purchase of land which has regard to the objectives of *Breathing Space*. The costs associated with them are estimates based on land values and assumptions about the number of purchases per annum that could be achieved, having regard to *Breathing Space* timeframes.



4.2.1.3 DELIVERY OF NEW OPEN SPACE ALONG WATERWAYS OR FOR BIODIVERSITY

These costs reflect the costs associated with maximising the use of opportunities which arise to deliver new open space in areas along waterways. While these purchases may not always provide Public Open Space they are nonetheless an important part of *Breathing Space*'s implementation.

As above, the cost allocated to this is a nominal 'budget' for reactive' purchases of land in accordance with an adopted decision-making framework for the purchase of land which has regard to the objectives of *Breathing Space*. The costs associated with them are estimates based on land values and assumptions about the number of purchases per annum that could be achieved, having regard to *Breathing Space* timeframes.

4.2.1.3 DELIVERY OF UPGRADES TO EXISTING OPEN SPACE

The costs for relevant upgrades to existing open space have been drawn from the findings of the asset management review, and costing estimates for adopted masterplans, relevant capital works projects and vegetation improvements.

Costs for the relevant open space upgrades are outlined in more detail in Section 3.5.4.1.

The upgrade costs are presented in the Action Plan at Section 5 according to timings guided by Precinct priority (refer Section 3.5.4):

- Short term - upgrading Priority Level One to Three Precincts
- Short to Medium term - upgrading Priority Level Four and Five Precincts

4.2.2 Group Two: Other Actions with cost implications

The costs for the Actions identified in Group Two have been estimated by Council on the basis of precedents and existing budgets. They fall into two different categories:

- One-off project costs - These are the most straightforward costs associated *Breathing Space*, being single projects or Actions with single nominated budgets that should be allocated to relevant funding cycles.
- Recurring costs - There are a number of Actions which are not just 'one-off costs' which will be allocated to a single years budget, but represent a recurring annual cost above usual budgeting practice.

4.3 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

There are a number of potential funding sources which can be used to deliver the Actions identified in *Breathing Space*. These include but are not limited to:

- Government grants
- Council funds from a range of sources including:
 - Capital works, and asset management program budgets
 - Other internal sources such as community grants/ sport programs targeting users
 - Land sales
- Philanthropic trusts / foundation grants / bequests etc.
- Reinvestment of funds generated from use of council facilities
- Public Open Space Contributions from developers triggered by subdivision (levy)
- Development contributions
- Public open space provided by other Government bodies or agencies, on their landholdings

The largest funding requirements associated with *Breathing Space* are associated with the acquisition and delivery of new Public Open Space. While joint access arrangements, developments and partnerships with schools or other public agencies may provide some opportunities, the Public Open Space Contribution (the Open Space Levy / OSL) is by far the most important funding stream for Council.

There is some 'grey area' in terms of what can and should be funded through the Open Space Levy under the Subdivision Act. This remains however, one of the key funding sources available to Council in delivering public open space, and there are more than sufficient projects and areas to which any generated funds could be directed without regard for additional 'semi public' areas.

Critically, it is noted that even with the increase in the Levy as proposed by a current Planning Scheme Amendment (yet to be approved), there will remain a very significant gap in the funds generated through the Levy and the costs to Council of delivering an appropriate network of open space.



While *Breathing Space* used a precinct based approach to identify shortfalls in the provision of public open space, funds generated through the Open Space Levy are not proposed to be allocated on a precinct basis as the principle of municipal wide distribution has been well established and remains appropriate. However, allocation of funds will be guided by the priorities identified in this document, which has had regard to areas anticipated to experience higher levels of growth.

For the purposes of *Implementing Breathing Space*, the allocation of funds generated through the Open Space Levy to the costs identified in this plan are that they must be directed to area set aside for the *primary* purpose of public recreation or parklands (or similar). This has been taken as meaning:

- Cost must be associated with land that is on public ownership and is zoned or otherwise clearly identified for use as open space. For the most part while this means Council ownership, it may also include land which is in other public ownership but which is leased and / or managed by Council for the purposes of open space.
- The open space in question must be publicly accessible. This has implications for some of the *Breathing Space* objectives around land for biodiversity purposes etc. Land for which the primary purpose is, for example, the protection of endangered flora may not be suitable for public access and therefore should be funded through other sources. It is also noted that some of these areas may also be acquired in areas to which public access is not currently available, and so would not be suitable to be funded through the OSL.

4.4 PARTNERSHIPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

While Council will retain ownership of the delivery of *Breathing Space*, the successful implementation will require strategic partnerships to be developed in order to maximise the opportunities to most fully deliver on relevant objectives. Put simply, Council cannot deliver *Breathing Space* on its own.

This Section of the report outlines some of the key partnerships which have the potential to assist in implementation, and which are referenced in the relevant Action Plan tables which follow. This list is by no means comprehensive but represents the key partnership that have been identified through this project - future partnerships may, and hopefully will, emerge over the coming years.

Internal responsibilities

Unlike many other Open Space Strategies, *Breathing Space* is a whole-of-council Strategy crossing areas relating to transport, equity and diversity, design, community engagement and property. As such, the spirit of collaboration which has informed the preparation of this document must continue in order to deliver successful implementation. The Action Plan tables document the relevant internal departments who will lead or partner in the delivery of the identified Actions.

Darebin Nature Trust.

This group of qualified and passionate individuals provides Council with the opportunity to test ideas and be guided by the professional expertise of residents across a range of relevant disciplines. This group will be instrumental in *Breathing Space's* implementation, particularly those Actions which fall under Objectives 2: Rewilding Darebin

Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation

The ongoing engagement and active participation in the delivery of many of the Actions of the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation is also critical. The embedding of this partnership in the planning and care for Darebin's open spaces is explicit in *Breathing Space*, and represents a true opportunity for collaboration, and for learning.



Partnerships with other public land owners

There are a number of public landholders within Darebin with whom on-going discussions are identified in the delivery of new open space. Of particular note is Melbourne Water, who hold a number of undeveloped land assets. Melbourne Water's recognition of the benefits of appropriate multi-purpose spaces, and precedents for their delivery such as the Greening the Pipeline project offers a real opportunity to expand the amount of accessible open space for Darebin's residents. The other public landowners of note within Darebin are VicTrack, and the Department of Education - VicTrack for their landholdings, many of which are currently used for open space, and schools, which offer the greatest potential for shared use arrangements in areas where shortfalls are identified.

Community

Also critical partners in the delivery of *Breathing Space* are the members of Darebin's community, those who will use and enjoy the open spaces and who will contribute along the way - from inputting to vision setting processes, to getting their hands dirty on community planting days, the involvement and endorsement of the community is fundamental.

4.5 COMPLEMENTARY STRATEGIES

An important acknowledgement in the implementation of *Breathing Space* is that the strategy itself does not stand alone. It is supported by, and supports, a number of other Council strategies and policies.

Of particular relevance to *Breathing Space's* implementation are the following strategies which are referenced in various Actions. Many of these have their own implementation plans.

- *Playspace Strategy*
- *Leisure Strategy*
- *Greenstreets Strategy*
- *Public Toilet Strategy*
- *Natural Heritage Strategy*

Where referenced strategies have expired, reference should be taken as to any replacement or 'follow-on' strategy (ie the leisure Strategy references should consider the The Outdoor Sports Infrastructure Framework, adopted in 2020.)

Of particular note also is Council's *Climate Emergency Plan* which has a close relationship to *Breathing Space*, and contains many complementary objectives and actions. Other more recent work by Council also has relevance to the implementation of *Breathing Space* including the Streets for People project which established a framework of key streets where a shift in the balance between movement hierarchies is to be facilitated. Streets for People corridors are identified on the relevant precinct mapping.





5.0 BREATHING SPACE ACTION PLAN

This chapter contains the refined list of Actions needed to deliver *Breathing Space*, including their relevant categorisation, costs, partnerships and funding opportunities, and timeframes.

5.1 ACTION PLAN FORMAT

The Tables included in this section of *Implementing Breathing Space* are broken down into the Groups and categories described in Section 4.1 for ease of understanding.

5.1.1 Definitions

The following definitions inform the Action Plan tables which are contained within this section of the report.

Timeframes

Actions which require the identification of a timeframe (i.e those which have not already been implemented or represent practice or process changes) have been assigned one of three timeframes.

-  • Short term (to 2025) - the 'priority' Actions. Many of these are 'foundation' Actions on which later Actions or new practices rely.
-  • Medium Term (2025 - 2035) - this is where many of the Actions of *Breathing Space* will be delivered 'on the ground' following planning and funding.
-  • Long Term (beyond 2035) - longer term Actions or lesser priorities

Most Actions will be identified in the Short or Medium categories given *Breathing Space* is based on requirements to 2028. (7 years from the date of this document). Long Term items are not generally identified but a Short - Long Term designation is used to acknowledge Actions which may commence in the Short Term but which will be implemented over a longer timeframe.

Costings

The methodologies for costing various Actions of *Breathing Space* are outlined at Section 4.2. In the Action Plan these are categorised as follows:

-  • Low cost - a one-off or recurring costs which will equate to less than \$150,000 over the relevant time period.
-  • Medium cost - a one-off or recurring costs which will equate to less than \$1,000,000 over the relevant time period.
-  • High cost - a one-off or recurring costs which will equate to more than \$1,000,000 over the relevant time period.

Costs are identified as 'One-off' or 'Recurring', identified respectively by an O or R in the Table. Recurring costs should be taken as a per annum amount. No cost is allocated to Group Three Actions.

The Tables also identify the most likely funding sources for the Actions but it should be noted that funding avenues are continually evolving and a continual process of reviewing available funding avenues is presumed.

Key partnerships and responsibilities

Understanding who is taking responsibility for the delivery of the various Actions is a critical component of any implementation plan. As such, each Action (including Group Three Actions), has the relevant internal department who will drive delivery of the Action identified, as well as other departments where an important input has been established.

Importantly, many of the Actions also have other partnerships which are important to their implementation and these are also identified where relevant. Some of these key partners include:

- Melbourne Water
- Private landowners
- Schools / Department of Education
- VicTrack / VicRoads
- Darebin Nature Trust
- Aboriginal Advisory Committee



5.2 GROUPS ONE: OPEN SPACE NETWORK COSTS

Group One Actions will require significant funding allocation. They represent the Actions and associated funding requirements to deliver new, and to upgrade existing, open space to reflect the ambitions of *Breathing Space*.

The 'overarching' Actions contained in *Breathing Space* have been broken down into a series of 'sub-actions' to guide the detailed steps to be undertaken.

Given the importance of the funding source/s for these Actions, and in particular the relationship to the Open Space Levy which represents a major funding source, they have been structured with reference to their relevant funding mechanism. They have been subject to the consultation process outlined at Section 1.4 which has informed their prioritisation and the associated timeframes, where relevant.

5.2.1 Group One Implementation Priorities

Given the extent of the existing shortfall in access to open space in Darebin, and the fact that the identified shortfalls only reflect population growth to 2028, all Actions within Table 4 are priorities for implementation. However, in recognition that there will need to be some prioritisation of these Actions, the following should be priorities:

- Deliver new Public Open Space (as defined by the Subdivision Act) in Priority Investigation Areas
- Deliver new publicly accessible open space in Priority Investigation Areas
- Require the delivery of new Public Open Space in the form of land contribution in the following locations:
 - Preston Market precinct
 - Northland precinct (subject to rezoning proceeding)
 - Summerhill Shopping Centre precinct
- Pursue the purchase of additional land along designated waterways or areas of high biodiversity value in accordance with the relevant decision making framework
- Undertake relevant upgrades to existing Public Open Space in Precincts identified in Table 2, according to Priority Levels

5.2.2 Group One Costs

Total Group One costs are summarised as follows:

- Delivery of new open space: \$69,584,700.00 + \$6,268,400.00 + \$12,000,000.00 + \$3,900,000.00
- Upgrades and improvements to existing open space: \$52,979,993.00 + \$12,777,000.00
- Recurring associated costs (2022-2028): \$805,000.00

TOTAL GROUP ONE COSTS = \$158,315,093.00

Group One costs attributable to the Open Space Levy (cash contributions) = \$148,146,693



1.1	Acquire additional open space. This may be through purchase, joint use agreements and/or partnerships with public and private entities. <i>This Action requires an increase in the quantity of publicly accessible Open Space available to Darebin's existing and future residents.</i>				
Sub-action	Timing	Indicative Cost / Type of cost		Funding Mechanisms	Partnerships
Deliver new Public Open Space (as defined by the <i>Subdivision Act</i>) in Priority Investigation Areas.	Short	\$69,584,700	0	OSL (cash contribution), State funding, Council funding,	Melbourne Water
Deliver new publicly accessible open space in Priority Investigation Areas.	Short	\$6,268,400	0	Council funding, Grants, Partnership agreements	Department of Education, Melbourne Water
Require the delivery of new Public Open Space in the form of land contribution in the following locations: - Preston Market precinct - Northland precinct (subject to rezoning proceeding) - Summerhill Shopping Centre precinct	Short - Medium	-	0	OSL (land contribution)	Developers / Landowners, Public Landowners, VPA
Deliver additional new publicly accessible open space in accordance with relevant decision-making frameworks, by; - Pursuing the expansion of existing parks in areas high level of growth - Acquiring new Public Open Space when public land offered for sale - Delivering new Public Open Space (as defined by the <i>Subdivision Act</i>) in Secondary Investigation Areas.	Short - Medium	\$12,000,000	0	OSL (cash contribution), Council funding,	Public Landowners
Pursue the purchase of additional land along designated waterways or areas of high biodiversity value in accordance with the relevant decision-making framework	Short - Medium	\$3,900,000	0	Grants, Council funding,	Developers / Landowners, Public Land Owners, Melbourne Water
Hire an Open Space delivery officer to coordinate the purchase, negotiation and delivery of new open space.	Short	\$115,000	R	OSL (cash contribution)	



5.1	Over time, upgrade open spaces in need of safety, quality and amenity improvements. <i>This Action requires an increase in the quality of Public Open Space available to Darebin’s existing and future residents. It is underpinned by the draft levels of Service framework and Open Space Asset Management Plan.</i>					
Sub-Action		Timing	Cost		Funding Mechanisms	Responsibility
Undertake relevant upgrades to existing Public Open Space in areas identified in Table 2 as Level One priorities		Short	\$8,344,295	0	OSL (cash contribution), Grants, Council funding,	Parks and Open Space
Undertake relevant upgrades to existing Public Open Space in areas identified in Table 2 as Level Two priorities		Short	\$11,837,499	0	OSL (cash contribution), Grants, Council funding,	Parks and Open Space
Undertake relevant upgrades to existing Public Open Space in areas identified in Table 2 as Level Three priorities		Short	\$7,011,039	0	OSL (cash contribution), Grants, Council funding,	Parks and Open Space
Undertake relevant upgrades to existing Public Open Space in areas identified in Table 2 as Level Four priorities		Short - Medium	\$8,985,685	0	OSL (cash contribution), Grants, Council funding,	Parks and Open Space
Undertake relevant upgrades to existing Public Open Space in areas identified in Table 2 as Level Five priorities		Short - Medium	\$16,801,475	0	OSL (cash contribution), Grants, Council funding,	Parks and Open Space
Undertake other general improvement and renewal works to the broader network of Public Open Space (i.e. fencing, public toilets, land improvement)		Short - Medium (costs calculated to 2028)	\$12,777,000	0	OSL (cash contribution), Grants, Council funding,	Parks and Open Space

Table 4: Group One: Open Space Network Actions



5.3 GROUP TWO: OTHER BREATHING SPACE ACTIONS REQUIRING FUNDING

These Actions are those to which new and additional funds will need to be allocated. They have been subject to the consultation process outlined at Section 1.4 which has informed their prioritisation and the associated timeframes where relevant.

5.3.1 Group Two Implementation Priorities

The timing and priorities identified in Table 5 reflect both the relationship between the various types of Actions identified in *Breathing Space* (for example, there are Actions which are 'planning' such as "*develop Nature Play Guidelines*", which would logically occur prior to the development of additional nature play areas) and the priorities of the various stakeholder groups consulted.

On that basis, the following implementation priorities from this group of Actions have been identified:

- Hire a Biodiversity Officer (ongoing - Council has a biodiversity officer and this position should continue to be funded)
- Prepare of a new Urban Forest Strategy
- Further developing existing and new Aboriginal tourism experiences including the Spiritual and Healing Trail, Merri Creek, the Koori Mural, the site where the Batman "Treaty" was first "signed", and contemporary experiences, in consultation with Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung elders and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders particularly DAAC.
- Prepare a Biodiversity Management Plan
- Increase the annual Council budget for revegetation (ongoing - Council has increased annual spend but should continue)

5.3.2 Group Two Costs

Total Group Two costs are summarised as follows:

- Actions associated with biodiversity and land management improvements: \$17,770,000.00
- Improving the use of open space: \$22,865,000.00
- Other costs: \$675,000.00

TOTAL GROUP TWO COSTS = \$41,310,000.00

Group Two costs attributable to the Open Space Levy (cash contributions) = \$20,600,000.00



Action		Type	Indicative cost / type of cost		Responsibility / Partners	Timing / Priority
Deliver an expanded program of education and training focussed on Darebin's biodiversity including:		Education & Training	\$400,000	0	Parks and Open Space Climate Emergency Youth Services Darebin Nature Trust	Short
9.2	Deliver education and training initiatives to Council and community focussed on increasing understanding of biodiversity values.					
9.5	Develop community science projects to engage and educate the community and to foster custodianship.					
11.4	Commit resources to support the founding, development, programming and longevity of community stewards to identify local projects, 'get their hands dirty' and make a positive change locally.					
11.7	Engage the community in citizen science activities such as monitoring local species.					
10.11	Hire a biodiversity officer.	Education & Training	\$100,000 (2022-2028 = \$700,000)	R		Short
Undertake research to improve use of open space by diverse groups		Research & Reviews	\$195,000	0	Parks and Open Space City Design Equity and diversity Age and Disability Youth Services	Short
3.1	Undertake research to identify and understand the cultural and linguistic groups surrounding areas of open space being considered for improvements, and ensure engagement activities to plan these improvements reach these groups.					
6.1	Identify opportunities that enable diversification of public space types to meet the needs of a diverse community within a growing urban setting.					
3.3	Work with the University of Melbourne's Designing for Difference program to deliver a pilot project which addresses the intersections of cultural and ethnic difference in public space and the development of design and policy toolkits to optimise diverse public space use.					
4.3	A safety and gender based audit should be conducted where possible engaging a user based community group to assist in the design and planning of equitable open spaces.					



Action		Type	Indicative cost / type of cost		Responsibility / Partners	Timing / Priority
Preparation of a new Urban Forest Strategy		Planning	\$100,000	0	Parks and Open Space Climate Emergency Darebin Nature Trust Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Group	Short
5.21	Review the tree canopy cover target to establish a long term target (beyond 2028) and milestones that maximise tree canopy cover and support maximising vegetation cover, taking into consideration: —The need to create habitat and to layer understorey plantings with trees in an integrated way —What is achievable from the point of view of available land, including considering functional uses that necessarily restrict cover (e.g. sports fields) —Leading examples from other parts of Melbourne and the world					
13.4	In consultation with council advisory committees, create a list of preferred trees and plants to be used in the Green Streets Network which prioritise shade provision, and include indigenous and drought tolerant tree and plant species.					
13.2	Ensure a minimum of 25 per cent of land is planned to be covered by multilayered vegetation and tree canopy					
Review of dog parks including signage and facilities		Research & Review	\$100,000 (OSL)	0	Parks and Open Space	Medium
6.4	Review the provision of dog on and off lead areas in parks across the municipality to determine suitability of existing network in consultation with community and in line with the dog off lead principles.					
6.5	Undertake a review of signs in all dog off lead areas to ensure it is correct and clear.					
Development / review, publication and distribution of a preferred species palette		Planning	\$20,000	0	Parks and Open Space City Design Darebin Nature Trust	Short
6.15	Create a species palette of hardy plants including perennial productive food plants.					
	<i>Note: should be integrated with other relevant palettes such as indigenous species, climate resilient species, street tree species as referenced in Breathing Space and published.</i>					
2.4	Further developing existing and new Aboriginal tourism experiences including the Spiritual and Healing Trail, Merri Creek, the Koori Mural, the site where the Batman "Treaty" was first "signed", and contemporary experiences, in consultation with Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung elders and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders particularly DAAC.	Physical Works	\$150,000	0	Parks and Open Space Equity and diversity Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Group	Short
4.4	Develop an intergenerational playspace with equipment, activities and amenities specifically targeted at all ages in an area of high population density.	Physical Works	\$500,000 (OSL)	0	Parks and Open Space Youth Services	Medium



Action		Type	Indicative cost / type of cost		Responsibility / Partners	Timing / Priority
Prepare a Biodiversity Management Plan		Planning	\$250,000	0	Parks and Open Space Climate Emergency Darebin Nature Trust	Short
9.6	Conduct a biodiversity survey and develop a Biodiversity Management Plan (refer break out box on page 60) which identifies a street tree and open space plant palette.					
10.2	As part of the implementation of the Biodiversity Management Plan, develop an action plan which covers all relevant activities of Council to ensure integrated planning, and identifies priorities for protection of biodiversity sites					
10.12	Select key species to preserve and protect following a review of the existing flora and fauna audit as a key action of the Biodiversity Management Plan (see page 60).					
10.3	Undertake a Vegetation Assessment to understand the quantity, quality, extent, location and habitat value of existing vegetation in open spaces.					
7.7	Identify priorities for 'wild spaces' that conserve natural character and habitat.					
10.4	Develop revegetation priorities for strengthening existing habitats and filling gaps in habitat corridors as a priority action.					
10.10	Investigate other resourcing arrangements (capital and recurrent) in relation to indigenous vegetation cover.					
4.5	Incorporate a purpose built space or area for youth in all upgrades to district and regional parks. This space will be gender inclusive and include a youth focused consultation process to understand what infrastructure the user groups need. <i>Note: cost covers all District & Regional parks</i>	Physical Works	\$20,000,000 (OSL)	0	Parks and Open Space Youth Services	Short - Long
5.2	Install water fountains at key nodes such as trail junctions and key destinations along all major cycling trails and walking paths throughout the municipality including as a priority the Darebin Creek Trail, Merri Creek Trail and St Georges Road Shared Path / Northern Pipe Trail.	Physical Works	\$150,000	0	Parks and Open Space City Design	Medium
5.8	Identify locations and install free public Wi Fi hot spots. Seating, shade, sealed paths and wayfinding signage should accompany the hot spot. Priority should be given to regional parks.	Physical Works	\$1,200,000	0	Parks and Open Space	Medium



Action		Type	Indicative cost / type of cost		Responsibility / Partners	Timing / Priority
Increased per annum spend on signage (wayfinding, information, Aboriginal culture)		Physical Works	\$50,000 (2022-2028 \$350,000)	R	Parks and Open Space Equity and diversity Transport Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Group	Short - Medium
6.12	Implement wayfinding signage and user etiquette messaging along shared paths over time. <i>Note: also reflects various other directions regarding signage found in Breathing Space Actions</i>					
9.4	Increase the provision of purpose built nature play and bush kinder areas throughout the municipality.	Physical Works	\$200,000	0	Parks and Open Space	Short - Medium
Increase the annual Council budget for revegetation		Physical Works	\$200,000 (2022-2028 = \$1,400,000)	R	Parks and Open Space Climate Emergency Darebin Nature Trust	Short
10.18	Increase investment for remnant site management, revegetation programs and weed control guided by the following order of site priority as per the Natural Heritage Strategy: - Remnant vegetation sites of national and state significance. - Remnant vegetation sites of regional and local significance. - Revegetated sites. - Degraded sites, noting that additional resources for ongoing maintenance would also be required.					
	<i>Note: also reflects various other directions regarding vegetation management found in Breathing Space Actions</i>					
13.9	Improve water quality in creeks and water bodies through increased use of WSUD on streets	Physical Works	\$200,000 (2022-2028 = \$1,400,000)	R	Parks and Open Space Climate Emergency Engineering services	Short - Long
10.26	Continue to implement and maintain WSUD throughout the municipality including wetlands, swales and detention systems as a response to declining rainfall.	Physical Works	\$13,000,000	0	Parks and Open Space Climate Emergency Engineering services	Short - Long
9.6	Develop nature play guidelines	Planning	\$20,000	0	City Design Darebin Nature Trust	Short



Action		Type	Indicative cost / type of cost		Responsibility / Partners	Timing / Priority
10.9	Develop and implement a land management plan over time.	Planning	\$500,000	0	Parks and Open Space Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Group	Medium - Long
Continue program of subsidies for schools and local communities for small scale local open space enhancement		Physical Works	\$25,000 (2022-2028 = \$175,000)	R	Parks and Open Space Climate Emergency Darebin Nature Trust	Short - Long
11.1	Create a program where Council subsidises planting of indigenous gardens and trees on school grounds and private land.					
11.5	Work with communities who want to increase the open space on their streets. This could include removal of on street parking of a lane of travel and upgrading nature strips.					
8.4	Develop the following precinct plans (refer <i>Breathing Space</i> Table 5 p. 55): - A premier arts precinct at Darebin Arts Centre including Ray Bramham Gardens. - A premier arts precincts at Northcote Town Hall and Bundoora Homestead. - A landscape upgrade plan for Northcote Town Hall including Civic Square. – - A landscape plan for premier events spaces at Edwardes Lake Park, All Nations Park, Ray Bramham Gardens and TW Blake Reserve.	Planning	\$500,000	0	Strategic Planning City Design Parks and Open Space Creative Culture Team	Medium

Table 5: Group Two: Other Breathing Space Actions



5.4 GROUP THREE: ACTIONS NOT REQUIRING ADDITIONAL FUNDING

While Groups One and Two outline Actions which will significant funding implications, Group Three Actions are not considered to require any new funding sources. Many Actions outlined in this Section of *Implementing Breathing Space* have already been implemented in the years since the adoption of *Breathing Space*, including:

- Actions which have already been delivered or are being delivered currently
- Actions which represent changes in policy and direction related to internal Council decision-making
- Actions which provide guidance for the design process Council undertaken in developing and managing open space. This includes a number of more 'generic' actions which would be delivered as part of standard practice, and so did not require identification as a Group two cost.

For these Actions, responsibilities and partnerships are identified but are considered to have been 'implemented' as practice upon adoption of *Breathing Space*. Where additional changes to internal processes are required by Actions in this Table they would be addressed by internal implementation planning, separate from this Plan.

CURRENT AND DELIVERED ACTIONS		
Action		STATUS
1.2	Implement a higher open space contribution rate as a schedule to Clause 53.01 in the Darebin Planning Scheme, across all land uses.	Current
7.3	Identify parcels of land owned by schools, government bodies and private land owners and develop partnerships with their owners to increase access to open space.	Current
10.23	Create a Strategic Land Acquisition Plan that contains a decision making framework to guide selection of open space for biodiversity referencing section 6.4 of this strategy.	Current
5.10	Review Council's Open Space Asset Management Plan to include a clear table of responsibilities, action plan and service level agreements regarding maintenance.	Current
5.19	Continue to implement the Darebin Public Toilet Strategy (noting some aspects are also addressed through identified open space upgrades).	Ongoing
6.18	Continue to implement actions from the Darebin GreenStreets Streetscape Strategy and Urban Food Production Strategy.	Ongoing
11.2	Continue to provide community planting days	Ongoing
14.1	Increase the use of sustainable and active transport through the design and implementation of the Green Streets Network (GreenStreets Streetscape Strategy)	Ongoing
14.2	Enhance bicycle links through the creation of on and off road trails, additional bike racks and improved bicycling connections at intersections. (Bicycle Strategy)	Ongoing

Table 6: Current and delivered Actions



INTERNAL POLICY DIRECTIONS & PRACTICE			
Action		Responsibility	Partners
2.1	Naming at least 50% of new public open spaces for significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, figures, symbols or items, with particular attention to Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners	Property Services	Darebin's Traditional Owners, Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Group
2.2	Engaging with Registered Aboriginal Parties when creating strategies and master plans on culturally significant land	City Design Parks & Open Space	Darebin's Traditional Owners, Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Group
3.2	Name at least 25% of new public open spaces for significant members, figures, symbols, items or terms of CALD communities.	Property Services	CALD community
3.4	Create and implement strategies around best practice engagement with CALD communities.	Equity & Diversity	CALD community
3.5	Include a reflection of the cultural make up of an area in all master planning and open space design.	City Design Parks & Open Space	CALD community
3.6	Ensure that wayfinding signage is clear and usable to individuals of CALD backgrounds. This can mean translation information, infographics or easily understood icons.	City Design Parks & Open Space Equity & Diversity	CALD community
3.7	Include a variety of seating and gathering area types, layouts and configurations in designs and upgrades to open spaces to allow for CALD communities to choose the areas that most appeal to them. These areas should be identified through inclusive engagement.	City Design Parks & Open Space	CALD community
3.8	Identify universal activities like play and exercise, and design for diversity in these spaces to appeal to a wide user base.	City Design Parks & Open Space	
3.9	Ensure that community engagement is done in Darebin's top languages inclusive of print materials and translation services for all District and Regional major park upgrades.	Parks & Open Space	
3.10	Celebrate diversity in open space by programming open spaces to reflect the community's unique make up. This can include art, music, food, storytelling or celebrating culturally significant dates.	Parks & Open Space Equity & Diversity Creative Culture Team	CALD community, Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Group
4.1	When planning and designing new and upgraded open space, include safe and equitable access for all residents, particularly those with a disability, older people, children and young people and gender diverse residents.	Parks & Open Space Equity & Diversity Youth Services	
4.2	When planning and designing new and upgraded open space, utilise Principles of Universal Design, the World Health Organisation's Age Friendly Cities Framework and all relevant Australian Standards regarding accessibility.	Parks & Open Space	
4.6	Update the Civic Recognition Policy to ensure the contributions of diverse individuals in the municipality are reflected in the names of Council assets, open spaces and memorials.	Equity & Diversity	



4.7	Achieve gender parity in the naming of open spaces as quickly as possible over the course of this strategy (and beyond) through naming at least 80% of new public open spaces (and renaming existing spaces where appropriate) for significant women	Property Services	
4.8	Reflect the community profile and diversity notably of the contribution of the elderly, children, the LGBTIQ community and people with a disability in the naming of open spaces.	Property Services	LGBTIQ community, Disability advocacy groups
4.9	Reflect the community profile and diversity on all community reference groups or advisory committees.	All	
5.18	Improve relationships and co-working with non-council landowners and bordering local government areas to identify opportunities for joint projects	All	Moreland, Wittlesea, Banyule and Yarra Councils, non-council landowners
6.3	Explore the opportunity to provide designated times of day for dogs to be off lead, to ensure Darebin's space is accessible to multiple users.	Parks & Open Space	
6.6	Ensure that all dog off lead areas are clearly identified in Council's website.	Parks & Open Space	
6.16	Consult with the Aboriginal community regarding opportunities and concepts for growing indigenous foods.	Parks & Open Space	Darebin's Traditional Owners, Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Group
6.17	Identify opportunities to collaborate with community groups on urban food production projects, including mentoring programs.	Climate Emergency	
7.2	Test goods and services associated with open space through a social procurement rating with preference given to local providers and social enterprises.	Parks & Open Space	
7.6	Make sporting grounds available for public use when games or training sessions are not in session.	Parks & Open Space	Sporting Groups
8.5	Create a booking policy inclusive of a fees and charges schedule for all arts facilities, sites and places.	Parks & Open Space	
9.3	Join the Gardens for Wildlife program.	Parks & Open Space	
12.3	Cease mowing of areas known to comprise remnant indigenous vegetation to allow regeneration while reducing Council's reliance on fossil fuel.	Parks & Open Space	
13.3	Seek opportunities to put power lines underground as part of public or private development works.	All	Power companies
15.4	Develop and maintain working relationships with entities like VicTrack, Vic Roads, Melbourne Water, schools and private land owners and advocate for the strategy's vision, objectives and goals on their land.	All	VicTrack, Vic Roads, Melbourne Water, schools and private land owners

Table 7 - Internal Policy Directions and Practice



CHANGES TO DESIGN PRACTICE			
Action		Responsibility	Partners
2.3	Designing public open spaces and streetscapes to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage	Parks & Open Space City Design	Darebin's Traditional Owners, Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Group
5.3	Include a water fountain with dog bowl (where appropriate) in the design for public spaces particularly around sports pavilions, playspaces and BBQ areas.	Parks & Open Space	
5.6	Include provision of rubbish and recycle bin suites in the design for parks and open space.	Parks & Open Space	
5.11	Design paths to safely accommodate a range of users in terms of surface materials, width and location. Paths should be fit for purpose.	Parks & Open Space Sustainable Transport City Works	
5.14	Incorporate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles such as encouraging increased activation, passive surveillance and the thoughtful provision of lighting to increase perceptions of safety.	Parks & Open Space City Design	
6.7	Consider separating uses which can conflict with cycling as part of the design process.	Parks & Open Space Sustainable Transport	
6.8	Consider adding cycling links through key open spaces, where it can improve the network of off road cycling paths.	Parks & Open Space Sustainable Transport	
6.14	Design new and upgraded paths as low stress environments for all path users, and where high volume travel is expected, consider separation of pedestrians and cyclists.	Parks & Open Space Sustainable Transport	
7.4	Minimise the fencing of public open spaces.	Parks & Open Space	
7.5	Use planting and other well placed barriers as boundaries to playspaces. Sections of fencing for playspaces may be considered along busy roads.	Parks & Open Space	
7.8	Incorporate bushland or 'wild' spaces in designs for park upgrades.	Parks & Open Space	
7.10	Select a variety of tree species to provide for multiple uses including shade, habitat and urban cooling.	Parks & Open Space	
8.2	Use public art as a placemaking tool to create iconic places within Darebin.	Parks & Open Space City Design	
8.3	Use art as a consultation tool when designing for open spaces.	Parks & Open Space City Design	
9.1	In open space designs, include areas of indigenous plantings to increase contact with nature.	Parks & Open Space	Darebin's Traditional Owners, Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Group
10.5	Use local provenance indigenous species in all revegetation sites, and increase biodiverse plantings.	Parks & Open Space	
10.6	Include nesting boxes, logs, rocks and water sources in parks and open spaces to increase habitat value.	Parks & Open Space	Darebin Nature Trust, Melbourne Water, Latrobe University



Action		Responsibility	Partners
10.7	When designing open spaces consider the impact of infrastructure such as lighting and paths to indigenous flora and fauna.	Parks & Open Space	Darebin Nature Trust
10.8	Prioritise conservation and enhancement of sites with remnant biodiversity values.	Parks & Open Space	
10.13	Habitat for bees and insects should be reflected in designs for open spaces and considered in land management practices including stepping stones and hotels.	Parks & Open Space	Darebin Nature Trust
10.15	When planting indigenous vegetation, use plants of local provenance wherever possible.	Parks & Open Space	
10.17	Minimise requirements for ongoing maintenance including weed management through good design, reduction in edges and effective use of surface material	Parks & Open Space	
10.20	Use smaller areas of open space as building blocks towards connectivity, especially where there is re introduction of indigenous vegetation.	Parks & Open Space	
11.3	Engage with community and advisory groups in the planning and design of biodiverse open space.	Parks & Open Space	Darebin Nature Trust
11.6	Use all forms of art as a way to activate open spaces, create a sense of connection to place and as an education tool.	Parks & Open Space Creative Culture and Events	
12.1	Consider indigenous vegetation ahead of native or exotic vegetation to improve complexity and recover biodiversity, including in water sensitive urban design treatments.	Parks & Open Space	
12.2	Increase the use of indigenous vegetation when planning new open spaces.	Parks & Open Space	
13.5	Increase the biodiversity value of streets through the use of multi layered, local provenance indigenous species in the green streets network	Parks & Open Space Sustainable Transport	VicRoads
13.6	Plant the largest tree possible.	Parks & Open Space City Design	
13.7	Prioritise infill planting on the Principle Pedestrian Network.	Parks & Open Space Sustainable Transport	
13.10	Employ passive irrigation measures to water 50 per cent of street trees planted.	Parks & Open Space	
13.11	When designing the Green Streets Network, focus on sustainable technology, skills and actions.	Parks & Open Space	
13.12	Increase urban food production through fruiting trees in streetscapes and open space upgrades.	Parks & Open Space	Local community garden groups
14.3	Ensure clear delineation of spaces for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers including clear line marking.	Parks & Open Space Sustainable Transport	VicRoads

Table 8: Changes to design practice