



THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

OPEN SPACE

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN
GENERATION ONE: 2020-23

Council acknowledges Wadawurrung Traditional Owners of this land and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of the Greater Geelong community today.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The preparation of this Report has been a collaborative effort of our Council, all relevant Council departments, partner organisations, our community clubs, groups and associations, and the Greater Geelong community.

We would like to thank the involvement of all our key stakeholders for their collaboration, insight and commitment to the future of our community infrastructure and to a new way of working.

This plan was endorsed by council on 28 July 2020.

DISCLAIMER

This Report is prepared by the City of Greater Geelong. The Report is solely for the use of the City of Greater Geelong and is not intended to, and should not be used, or relied upon by anyone else. The City of Greater Geelong does not accept any duty of care, to any other person or entity other than itself.

The information contained in this document has been developed through an assessment of the current known state of the City's infrastructure, rigorous analysis of the available evidence, existing strategic guidance, plans and strategies, and extensive stakeholder and community consultation over the course of 2.5 years 2017 - 2020.

Information contained in the Report is current as at the relevant dates stated in the Report and may not reflect any event or circumstances which occur after the stated date. It has been prepared in good faith and neither the City of Greater Geelong, nor its servants, consultants, agents or staff shall be responsible in any way whatsoever to any person in respect to the report, including any errors or omission therein.

THE POLICY

The Social Infrastructure Planning and Investment Policy aims to provide Council and the City of Greater Geelong with a guide to fair and equitable decision making, and to provide our community with a clear understanding of Council's role and how decisions are made.

THE PLAN

The Social Infrastructure Plan will outline the needs of our community, investment priorities and the way forward to ensure that people know what is planned in the place that they live.

The plan is intended to provide Council and the community with a single, simpler and more integrated strategic summary of Council's investment priorities over the next 1-3 years.

The plan will be closely monitored and updated each year in line with the realisation of transformational elements identified in the document and as our understanding of social infrastructure continues to mature and grow.

THE NETWORK REPORT

The network reports provide a summary of social infrastructure needs and requirements for each specific network over the next 1-3 years, understanding that the plan component identified in each will be updated annually, as new information becomes available.

The identified projects within the summary plan for each network are broken down into five key streams:

- New
- Renew
- Maintenance
- Planning
- Services / People

This network report specifically relates to Open Spaces - Sport (Active), Community (Passive), Conservation and Other Open Space.

For a complete overview of all the social infrastructure needs and priorities across the City of Greater Geelong, please refer to the Social Infrastructure Plan - Generation One: 2020 - 2023.

NETWORK PROFILES

There are 13 individual network reports covering a diverse range of community places, spaces and services.

Generation One: The Networks Covered



Early Years



Youth Spaces



Libraries



Community Meeting and Program Spaces



Arts and Culture



Open Space **(THIS NETWORK REPORT)**



Play Spaces



Aquatics and Leisure



Indoor Sport and Recreation



Outdoor Sport and Recreation
(including sports pavilions)



Golf



Cycling and Trails



Public Toilets

WHAT CAN YOU FIND IN EACH NETWORK PROFILE AND PLAN

Overview of the network + Map

Each network consists of an introduction including background context and a map of known facilities, an overview of what the network is, what it is made up of, it's value and what some of the emerging issues and opportunities are, in addition to any related plans, community insights and key considerations.

Our guiding documents

A summary of related documents including strategies, plans, policies, needs assessments and technical reports.

What our community told us

A summary of relevant community feedback and insights.

Generation One – Things we considered

A summary of key considerations relating to each network (i.e. legislative changes, emerging issues and trends).

Current State - Snapshot

A snapshot of what we know about the network so far including, known provision, condition, travel accessibility and service provision.

A gap analysis based on existing industry benchmarks compared with today's provision.

Indicators of need by planning area

Provision, population, social and health indicators by each planning area to help inform any relevant areas of need and opportunities.

Strategic focus areas and directions

In response to the needs and opportunities identified, this section outlines the strategic focus areas and directions for each network, including a high-level mantra to guide planning and investment for the next three years.

The Plan: 2020 - 2023

Generation One of the plan provides a summary table of identified projects by 'Network' broken down into five streams – New, Renew, Maintenance, Planning, and Services / People.

OPEN SPACE



SCOPE

Sport (Active), Community (Passive), Conservation and Other Open Space.

The City of Greater Geelong is committed to protecting and providing one of the communities most valued assets; an open space network that is fit-for-purpose, sustainable, accessible and safe for all residents and visitors to enjoy.

'Australian's rate access to parks and open space more highly than telecommunications and public transport when choosing where to live', as reported in the Australia Infrastructure Audit (2018).

The value of open space, through its public affinity and its social, environmental and economic benefits, demonstrates that it is crucial for: protecting our natural and heritage environments by conserving areas of vegetation and protecting biodiversity, offsetting the impacts of climate and extreme weather events, supporting community interaction, cultural and spiritual practices, contributing to the mental, physical wellbeing and quality of life of our community, driving economic growth through tourism and amenity uplift to surrounding properties, and the overall rise in liveability factors.

The City contains a variety of open spaces and recreation facilities that take advantage of the area's diverse landscapes of coastal and river foreshores, creek systems, wetlands, rural and heritage settings, as well as new and established suburbs.

There are over 1,000 individual parcels of open space in Greater Geelong covering an area of over 13,000 hectares. The City either owns or has management responsibility on behalf of the Crown for the majority of these open spaces, but other public land managers operating in the region are also responsible for large areas, including coastal reserves, Ramsar-listed wetland complexes, waterway corridors and National and Regional Parks. Not all of these open spaces have recreation or conservation as their primary use, and some have no recreational or conservation role at all.

The City's is in the process of developing an Open Space Strategy which will provide a framework to guide Council, the City, external stakeholders, the development industry, and the broader community on open space planning and its overall provision. The strategy will specifically relate to Council owned and / or managed open space. Open space owned or managed by other land managers, that is also available for the community to access, will form part of an integrated open space network but is considered outside of Council's control unless specific agreements have been established.

Over the past decade, Greater Geelong has seen a marked quantum and quality improvement in open space provision in the emerging growth areas, which has highlighted the disparity of provision in Greater Geelong's existing and older suburbs. These existing areas were developed under different planning eras when open space was not as highly valued as it is today. Compounding this inequity and pressure is the fact that many established areas are still undergoing significant growth through infill development and densification.

Where developable land is expensive 'Third Spaces' such as streets and footpaths will become an opportunity for adaptation to create open spaces and places for people to prevail rather than used for private motor vehicles.

There is a need to provide baseline provision and development standards for primary recreation open space that is in line with best practice and that will provide clarity as to Council's desired level of open space provision and service across the municipality. Assessment of the entire open space network against these standards is an integral part of the Open Space Strategy and will be completed once the proposed new standards of provision are tested with our community.

OPEN SPACE NETWORK – PROPOSED NEW PROVISION STANDARDS:

This Social Infrastructure Plan provides a unique component for its Open Space Network to reflect the propositions of the Draft Open Space Stagey – Open Space Framework and Future Directions Report (2020). A new hierarchy and classification system for public open space, including quantum and provision standards, has been proposed and will be tested through the Draft Social Infrastructure Plan community consultation.

These standards are designed to facilitate the diversification of the open space network while making the network easier to understand and accurately assess current provision. It will also be key to establishing new open space quality and provision standards extending to land delivery, design outcomes, infrastructure development and user experience.

OUR GUIDING DOCUMENTS:

The following related documents were used to inform this Plan (including strategic plans, policies, legislation and infrastructure plans):

- Greater Geelong Planning Scheme
- Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines (VPA)
- Subdivisions Act
- Open space Planning and Design Guidelines (PLA)
- Sustainable Communities: Infrastructure Development Guidelines (2016)
- City of Greater Geelong Urban Forest Strategy (2015 - 2025)
- Landscape Standards Manual and the Infrastructure Design Manual
- City of Greater Geelong Play Strategy (2012 - 2021)
- City of Greater Geelong Physical Activity Strategy (2014 - 2017)

THINGS WE CONSIDERED:

- Changing planning standards over the past few decades have resulted in the delivery of high quality recreational open spaces in our newer growth areas. This improved provision has raised the community's general expectations of open space embellishment and as a result most of the parks within the established areas fall short of these expectations.
- Provision of a recreational 'hub' model for active open spaces by providing a high level of embellishment (i.e. playgrounds, informal courts, picnic areas) of the 'peripheral' open space to encourage greater utilisation of the reserve for passive (non-sporting) uses.
- Recognition of the value, importance and significant community affiliation with public open spaces.

WHAT OUR COMMUNITY TOLD US:

- Our Clever and Creative Future engagement revealed that; the outdoor recreational choices available within the region were highly valued, especially walking and cycling tracks, parks and gardens, the Waterfront, Botanic Gardens, Eastern Beach and Barwon River. Also mentioned were playgrounds and skate parks.
- Many people valued Greater Geelong's diverse and natural environment, including our clean beaches and air, nature reserves, open spaces, parks and the You Yangs, the rivers, sea, beaches and foreshore.
- Our Community Places and Spaces engagement revealed that; parks and playgrounds are seen as valuable community spaces and there is a need to ensure they keep pace with changing demographics while providing attractive and stimulating environments and equipment for children, teenagers and adults. Respondents felt that the provision of toilets and shade should be considered as a standard level of amenity and identified the need for access to more dog parks.
- The Australia Infrastructure Audit (2018) identified that Australian's rate access to parks and open space more highly than telecommunications and public transport when choosing where to live.

OPEN SPACE

Sport (Active), Community (Passive), Conservation and Other Open Space.

BUILDINGS & OWNERSHIP



SPORT OPEN SPACE (ACTIVE)



COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE (PASSIVE)



CONSERVATION OPEN SPACE



OTHER OPEN SPACE

PROPOSED QUANTUM PROVISION STANDARDS FOR OPEN SPACE

CLASSIFICATION	PARK SUB-CLASSIFICATION	HIERARCHY	VPA PROVISION STANDARDS	QUANTUM EXPRESSED AS HA / 1,000 PEOPLE (UNENCUMBERED)
Sport	Sport Open Space	Local*	6% NDAR (Residential)	2 ha / 1,000 people (Collectively)
		District		
		Regional**	0.5 ha / 1,000 people	
Community	Sports Venue	District / Regional	5 ha / 60,000 people	5 ha / 60,000 people
	Community Open Space	Local / District / Regional		
	Civic	District / Regional	4% NDAR (Residential)	1 ha / 1,000 people (Collectively)
	Linear***	District / Regional		
Employment	Local	2% NDAE (Employment)		

Definitions:

VPA – Victorian Planning Authority / NDAR – Net Developable Land – Residential / NDAE – Net Developable Land – Employment

Data Notes:

* Local AOS is not a provision standard supported in current planning. In the established areas, there are however AOS sites that due to their size, configuration and embellishment level only function at a local standard level.

** Land allocated in the PSP. In new PSP's the City is to purchase as this provision is not DCP funded (Armstrong Creek PSP's have designated 3 'regional' sport open spaces. Two are being delivered as part of the 10% OSC. One is in addition to the district provision on encumbered flood land and being purchased via a DCP contribution.)

***Linear open space only forms part of the credited open space contribution under strict circumstances. Conservation, encumbered, landscape amenity and other linear do not have quantum provision standards.

**Tract Integrated Open Space Report (2011) prepared as a background document for the development of the VPA PSP Guidelines recommended on the back of work undertaken by Sport and Recreation Victoria, the provision of 2ha/1000people for Active Open Space (AOS). It was then translated into 6% NDAR for 'local' AOS plus 0.5ha/1000 regional AOS provision for growth area 'greenfield' planning areas.

^ Passive Open Space (POS) provision of 1ha/1000 against AOS 2ha/1000 with an original 4/6% split is in recognition of the move towards creating larger sport recreation 'hub's which serve both sport and community leisure needs.

HIERARCHY, CLASSIFICATION, SIZE, DIMENSION, CATCHMENT, POPULATION AND LENGTH OF STAY STANDARDS

HIERARCHY	DESCRIPTION	CLASSIFICATION			SIZE	DISTANCE / CATCHMENT	DIMENSIONS **	POPULATION CATCHMENT	LENGTH OF STAY
		SPORT	COMMUNITY	LINEAR					
Local	Services the immediate neighbourhood	a	a	x	Sport: <5ha <hr/> Community :>0.5-1ha (Preference 1ha)	Urban & Suburban: 400m <hr/> Rural Living: NA <hr/> Urban & Suburban: 400m <hr/> Rural Living: NA	Broadly Square or Rectangular with sides no greater than 2:1	750 - 3,000	Short
District	Services several neighbourhoods	a	a	a	Sport: 8-15ha (Preference 12-15ha) <hr/> Community (Civic): <0.3ha <hr/> Community: 1-2.5ha	Urban & Suburban: 1km <hr/> Rural Living: 5km <hr/> Urban: 200m <hr/> Suburban: 1km <hr/> Rural Living: 5km	Broadly Square or Rectangular Broadly Square or Rectangular, with sides no greater than 3:1	3,000 - 5,000	Long
Regional	Serves one or more geographical regions and will attract visitors from across and outside the local government area	a	a	a	Sport & Community: As required <hr/> Linear	Urban, Suburban & Rural Living: NA <hr/> Linear	Broadly Square or Rectangular, with sides no greater than 3:1 <hr/> Minimum of 25m width	200,00+ or 20min drive	Long

Data Notes:

* Linear open space will only be accepted as credited open space under strict criteria and at the City's discretion.

District and Sub-Regional sport open space is typically embellished to the same standard, with the district sport open space catering to the top 5 sports and the sub-regional sport open space catering to the minority sports (hence larger distance & population catchments). Both typically cater to a 'district' level of play.

** Park dimensions minimums as stated. Alternative dimension requires design justification and approval by the City of Greater Geelong's Open Space Planning team.

OPEN SPACE



IMAGE: COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING DAY

OPEN SPACE

INDICATES A METRIC THAT IS OF SIGNIFICANCE TO ASSESSING NEED

DESCRIPTION OF SMALL AREAS	BY PLANNING AREA														
	Armstrong Creek - Marshall - Charlemont	Barwon Heads - Ocean Grove - Rural Bellarine Peninsula	Clifton Springs - Curlewis - Drysdale - Bellarine	Portarlington - St Leonards - Indented Head	Leopold	Newcomb - Moolap - Thomson - Breakwater - Whitington	Grovedale - Mount Duneed - Waurn Ponds	Belmont - Highton - Wandana Heights - Ceres	East Geelong - Geelong - South Geelong - Drumcondra	Geelong West - Manifold Heights - Newtown	Bell Park - Bell Post Hill - North Geelong - Ripplside	Hamlyn Heights - Herne Hill - Fyansford	Corio - Norlane - North Shore	Lara	Lovely Banks - Batesford - Moorabool - Rural North
KNOWN PROVISION	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	To be completed on endorsement of new provision standards														
PROVISION GAP	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	To be completed on endorsement of new provision standards														
OTHER INDICATORS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Access by area	Poor	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor
SOCIAL INDICATORS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Households with Families	1974	4023	2666	936	2358	2895	3765	6314	1619	3425	2512	1747	4504	3056	826
Vulnerability* *% of children surveyed who are deemed vulnerable on one of more domain in their first year of school	N/A	19.5%	15.1%	30.8%	17.1%	35.2%	13.4%	16.4%	22.0%	16.4%	19.3%	15.1%	35.7%	17.8%	17.4%
SEIFA - Average of local area scores	1030	1064	993	945	987	891	1020	1024	1037	1050	937	968	793	1000	1001
Workforce Participation % of Planning Area population	67.9%	59.7%	54.9%	39.6%	61.2%	53.0%	60.2%	61.7%	62.8%	64.9%	53.7%	60.9%	45.9%	60.6%	62.2%
Car Ownership % of households without access to a car	2.3%	2.3%	3.0%	4.1%	2.3%	9.1%	4.7%	5.2%	8.2%	7.9%	8.2%	7.5%	12.2%	2.9%	1.4%
HEALTH INDICATORS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Self-rate health (%) - rated their health as fair or poor	9.5%	5.2%	8.8%	15.3%	11.4%	18.4%	11.9%	7.3%	10.1%	11.5%	6.6%	6.3%	21.2%	14.0%	9.5%
Physical activity (%) - Classified as sedentary	10.4%	5.1%	11.9%	8.3%	9.1%	14.1%	14.3%	6.7%	2.8%	8.0%	8.8%	4.1%	22.6%	13.1%	11.7%
Overweight (%) - Based on Body Mass Index	50.6%	29.4%	35.1%	31.6%	35.8%	47.0%	34.7%	34.4%	39.1%	37.4%	30.9%	28.2%	25.9%	45.4%	35.9%
Obese (%) - Based on Body Mass Index	15.4%	21.6%	18.9%	31.6%	26.6%	29.5%	19.5%	10.9%	12.9%	12.5%	30.9%	23.9%	28.4%	31.1%	19.8%
Psychological distress (%) - High / Very high distress rates	9.1%	6.8%	7.1%	12.0%	13.8%	12.0%	10.1%	10.6%	3.7%	8.7%	6.5%	4.1%	21.3%	8.5%	11.0%
Life satisfaction (%) - Rated their life satisfaction as high or very high.	82.6%	95.8%	84.8%	90.4%	86.8%	83.2%	85.7%	87.0%	88.6%	88.6%	80.3%	95.1%	68.1%	88.9%	84.9%

OPEN SPACE

OPEN SPACE



IN THE NEXT 3 YEARS WE WILL FOCUS ON:

STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS



SETTING THE STANDARDS

Adopting provision, service and experiential standards across the open space network.



UNDERSTANDING THE NETWORK

Assessing the existing network against agreed standards.



INVESTING IN THE NETWORK

Ensure equitable opens pace provision across the City.



ONGOING MONITORING

Align strategic planning, maintenance, renewal programs and budgets to meet agreed service levels.



DIRECTIONS

REF	DIRECTION	POLICY / RESPONSE ALIGNMENT
1.	<p>Adopt an open space hierarchy and classification system that facilitates the diversification of the open space network whilst making the network easier to analyse against adopted standards and ongoing inventory assessment.</p> <p>Adopt desired open space quantum provision standards across the network based on those being utilised in Geelong's new growth areas.</p> <p>Adopt desired open space accessibility provision standards based on the Municipality's three distinct settlement types; Urban, Suburban and Rural Living.</p> <p>Set open space quality standards covering land delivery, design, infrastructure and user experience.</p>	<p>In response to the need to understand what type of open space exists within the network.</p> <p>In response to the need to understand how much open space is within the network.</p> <p>In response to the need to understand how accessible open space is within the network.</p> <p>In response to the need to ensure the provision and maintenance of quality and fit-for-purpose open spaces.</p>
2.	<p>Digitally map the open space network according to hierarchy, classification and other relevant property information. Ensure that this information available on the City's GIS spatial mapping system.</p> <p>Undertake municipal-wide and small area assessments of the open space network to understand the open space supply at the local, district and municipal level.</p> <p>Develop a robust understanding of the networks performance by conducting fit-for-purpose audits and user satisfaction surveys for the existing open space network (including quality, condition, amenity, accessibility and safety).</p>	<p>In response to the need to have 'real-time' digital understanding of the open space network.</p> <p>In response to the need to compare open space provision against the adopted standards, and to be able to inform improvements in the network.</p> <p>In response to ensure our parks are fit-for-purpose according to their hierarchy, classification and user satisfaction.</p>
3.	<p>Ensure all new subdivisions are contributing to open space, through land, financial contribution or both. As the municipality grows, so does the need to provide open space for residents, workers and visitors to enjoy. Development must support Council in the provision of quality open space for our community.</p> <p>Review and update City of Greater Geelong's Planning Scheme to support Councils open space objectives and the collection of Public Open Space Contributions.</p> <p>Develop an Integrated Asset Management Plan to ensure all open space assets are captured in Council's asset register, and that maintenance and renewal budgets are commensurate with the agreed service levels for the open space network.</p> <p>Review existing Council opens space policies to ensure compliance and that they reflect best practice.</p>	<p>In response to the need for new development to provide open space to support the open space needs of their communities.</p> <p>In response to the requirement to update the Planning Scheme to deliver Council open space planning objectives.</p> <p>In response to the need to provide a true indication of Councils open space assets to inform management, maintenance and renewal.</p> <p>To ensure Council is meeting all policy and regulatory obligations.</p>

DIRECTIONS, CONT.

REF	DIRECTION	POLICY / RESPONSE ALIGNMENT
4.	<p>Undertake an Open Space Acquisition and Retirement Plan that ultimately strengthens the open space network based on the provision and quality standards adopted. Thoroughly investigate opportunities to acquire larger land parcels when schools and other larger sites become surplus to need.</p> <p>Complete a Play Space Needs Study and renewal program. Playgrounds are a key infrastructure item that is often the main attractor to an open space. Ensure the provision of play (and supporting infrastructure) best meets community expectation while meeting the open space hierarchy standards.</p> <p>Review the Sustainable Communities Infrastructure Development Guidelines to ensure both internal and external stakeholders delivering and designing open space are guided by Council's adopted standards and preferred practices.</p> <p>Fund the renewal of five 'whole of park' local passive open space each year to gradually improve the amenity of the local park network and to encourage everyday use.</p> <p>Invest to improve the local park network by improving the basic amenity provided such as shade, shelter, seating, access, drinking fountains, signage, garden beds and trees, in our local park network in the older established areas.</p> <p>Provide one district passive park per planning area. District passive parks are characterised by increased infrastructure that support a diversity of recreation and social opportunities in the one location and promote longer stays.</p>	<p>In response to the need to provide a high quality accessible open space network.</p> <p>In response to the need to better understand the communities desired embellishment standards for play whilst being matched against provision standards.</p> <p>In response to providing guidance on the development levels of open spaces.</p> <p>In response to the need to offer better quality and diversification of our local park network, by addressing the whole park not just the playgrounds in renewal activities.</p> <p>In response to the need to improve experiential factors relating to open space at the local level.</p> <p>In response to ensuring our communities have at least one 'destination park' that supports longer park stays within close proximity to home.</p>

IDENTIFIED PROJECTS

SUMMARY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT OVER THE NEXT 3 YEARS (2020-23)

OPEN SPACE

HARD INFRASTRUCTURE			SOFT INFRASTRUCTURE	
NEW	RENEW	MAINTENANCE	PLANNING	SERVICES / PEOPLE
<p>New:</p> <p>Utilise the Public Open Space Reserve Fund to purchase land and/or upgrade existing open space in line with public open space retirement or acquisition plan.</p> <p>Implement 30% tree canopy cover target with the introduction of 1,000,000 Trees Program over 10 years (starting with 300,000 trees in 3 years). \$1M per year = 100,000 trees per year of largely tube stock).</p>	<p>Minor refurbishment:</p> <p>As required.</p> <p>Major Refurbishment:</p> <p>Initially identify one passive park per planning area for elevating to district level and formulate a capital improvement program to deliver.</p> <p>Renew up to five 'whole of park' local passive parks per year. Focus initial renewal activity in Bell Park, Corio, Lara (Chirside Park), Norlane and Whittington.</p> <p>Seek investment to improve the basic amenity of the local park network within the older established suburbs.</p> <p>Beacon Point Reserve Master Plan Implementation.</p> <p>Hume Reserve Master Plan Implementation – paths and park furniture.</p> <p>Aldershot Master Plan Implementation – Stage 1 subdivide and detailed design.</p> <p>St Leonards Foreshore Pavilion (shaded seating and showers) to support community and visitor use and experience.</p> <p>Drewan Park, Wandana Heights – reinstatement of public open space (including demolition of existing dwelling on site).</p> <p>Irrigate five district parks as part of 'Greening Geelong':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stead Park Open Space (investigate opportunities for water re-use of water from surrounds). Corio Community Park, Corio Petit Park – Bell Post Hill in line with any reclamation works St Helens, Ripplside Austin Park, Central Geelong 	<p>Based on Asset Management Plan – develop annual maintenance program(s).</p> <p>Establish a dedicated Passive Open Space Reserve Planning and Upgrade Program (and budget) to include passive open space areas, park furniture, drinking fountains, BBQ's, retaining walls, minor structures and landscaping. Signage can also be considered in this program.</p> <p>Seek investment to improve the basic amenity of the local park network within the older established suburbs.</p>	<p>Council to develop and implement land acquisition framework and budget for open space and community infrastructure across the municipality and formulate an acquisition and redundancy plan that will strengthen the open space network.</p> <p>Develop Asset Management Plan in line with asset condition, fit-for-purpose and criticality audits.</p> <p>Develop open space irrigation plan as part of Greening Geelong with a focus on district parks.</p> <p>Commence planning to address open space needs in Central Geelong and immediate areas to include consideration of a central park or town square and Green space, retention of parkland and open recreation spaces for local residents.</p> <p>Complete the City of Greater Geelong Open Space Strategy.</p> <p>Adopt the suite of desired open space provision standards and assess the current network against these standards.</p> <p>Update the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the immediate application of 5% open space requirement under the Subdivision Act for all non-residential zoned subdivision. Planning scheme adoption may be required. Develop Council's Open Space Contributions Framework to support any changes proposed to clause 53.01 Public Open Space Contribution and Subdivision of the Planning Scheme. Update relevant section of the City of Greater Geelong's Planning Scheme (MSS, Open Space Policy). <p>Review the Sustainable Communities Infrastructure Development Guidelines.</p>	<p>Work in collaboration with other open space landowners and/or managers to ensure reasonable access to public open space and parklands across the municipality. Facilitate partnerships with other public land managers to address gaps in provision.</p> <p>Collaborate with Revitalising Central Geelong Project Team to deliver the objectives of the Revitalising Central Geelong Public Open Space Network Report.</p> <p>Partner with Parks and Gardens Department to formulate open space standards of service based on adopted provision standards.</p> <p>Identify opportunities for tree planting within open space to support the objectives of the Urban Forest Strategy.</p> <p>Map the open space network according to classification and hierarchy.</p> <p>Introduce an open space layer into Council's GIS spatial mapping platform.</p> <p>Explore innovative communication methods for residents to access information regarding the open space network.</p> <p>Implement Smart City Technology assessing existing service performance, including use of sensor data to understand open space usage and patterns.</p> <p>Undertake park intercept surveys to gauge community experiences and satisfaction levels with open space.</p>

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