

City of Kingston

Open Space Strategy

Part 1: Overview

Final Version
June 2012



City of
KINGSTON

PART ONE: OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The City of Kingston is located in the middle and outer southern suburbs of Melbourne, covering an area between 15 and 34 kilometres south-east of the Melbourne. It is bounded by the Cities of Glen Eira and Monash to the north, the City of Greater Dandenong to the east, Frankston City to the south and Port Phillip Bay and Bayside City to the west. The origin of the name Kingston is uncertain, but may originate from the King brothers, a pioneering family in the area, who held thousands of acres referred to as "Kings Land" or "Kingstown". More recently the name is derived from Kingston Road and the Kingston Centre in Heatherton, which was named in 1970.

The City includes the suburbs of Aspendale, Aspendale Gardens, Bonbeach, Braeside, Carrum, Chelsea, Chelsea Heights, Cheltenham, Clarinda, Clayton South, Dingley Village, Edithvale, Heatherton, Highett, Mentone, Moorabbin, Moorabbin Airport, Mordialloc, Oakleigh South (part), Parkdale, Patterson Lakes and Waterways.

The City's boundaries are Port Phillip Bay to the south-west, Centre and Westall Roads to the north, the Frankston railway line and Charman Road to the west, Springvale Road and Frankston Freeway to the east, while the southern boundary with Frankston City is the Eel Race Drain in Carrum.

Major features of the City of Kingston include Moorabbin Airport, the Port Phillip Bay beaches, Braeside Park, Southland Shopping Centre, Moorabbin Oval, numerous golf courses and the large Braeside Industrial Area. The Patterson River runs through the southern part of the City.

Within the City's 91 square kilometres, residents and visitors have access to a wide selection of open space resources including approximately 13km of foreshore; wetlands; waterways; and a range of parks and reserves, of varied setting types and functionality including playgrounds, sporting grounds and shared paths.

The total population of the city of Kingston in 2011, according to ERP 2010 (ABS census data 2006) is 148,830.





THIS STUDY

This study reviews and updates **Kingston's Open Space Strategy 2005**. Its purpose is to guide local policy and decision making regarding open space provision, acquisition and management. It is a guiding document for future provision of accessible, safe and well utilised open spaces in Kingston which details principles and priority actions within local open space planning areas that can assist Council to provide residents and visitors with adequate access to a variety of local open space venues and opportunities."

Open Space benefits and their contributing factors

- The 2005 open Space Strategy identified that provision of and access to open space could afford Kingston residents and visitors the following benefits, and these remain in place as follows, as part of the 2012 update:

| BENEFIT | EXAMPLES OF CONTRIBUTING FACTORS |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Healthy Living City | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clean air • exercise • psychological need for contact with nature • personal space - relief from overcrowding and urban induced stress |
| Civic Pride | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • connection with and understanding of heritage and ancestral roots • pleasing and ornamental decoration • visual quality • community gathering points |
| Recreation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical exercise • relief from stressful roles and surroundings • amusement and social spectacle • social support and interaction • nature appreciation • spiritual fulfillment • artistic expression |
| Child Development (Play) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • risk and challenge • ability to manipulate the environment • environment as the inspiration and source of treasures • social interaction • co-ordination and physical agility |
| Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spatial knowledge and sense of direction • access to a range of life forms • environmental sustainability |

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Principles of Provision of Open Space

The Principles of Open Space Provision which were adopted by Council as part of the 2005 Strategy remain valid; they have however been updated in response to identified opportunities within the current and forecast open space environment. These Principles shall guide the provision, acquisition and management of open space in Kingston and are indicated below:

| BENEFIT | EXAMPLES OF CONTRIBUTING FACTORS |
|--|---|
| Access and equity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to be considered in the location, character and design of an open space site |
| Adequacy of Open Space Provision | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> all new residential and commercial development proposed within areas of open space shortfall shall make adequate provision of land for open space purposes and/or meaningful open space links at appropriate locations and appropriate hierarchical levels any reduction in open space in non-shortfall areas, to be compensated by enhancement of other sites planning actions should enhance open spaces by integrating, connecting and adding to existing and future provision |
| Community consultations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> decisions to be fully explained, open to scrutiny and free from political intervention action to change use of any existing open space only to be taken after community consultation |
| Diversity of provision | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> within sites, between sites and between Local Areas |
| Environmental considerations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> intrinsic and natural attributes to be protected and national and international agreements observed sustainability to be pursued by monitoring use and impact open space to be managed at a standard appropriate to its use and purposes acquisition, development and management will contribute to the quality of the built environment, heritage protection and cultural values |
| Efficiency of resource management and use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> capacity of open space resources to be appropriately used before additional resources provided innovative approaches to be used to meet changing community aspirations and environmental circumstances |



Classifications of Kingston Open Space

As per the 2005 Open Space Strategy, this plan does not classify open space as “active” or “passive”. Rather, it classifies open space according to purpose, as well as the sphere of influence and origins of users (catchment) and attributes that affect users’ experience of place.

This typology provides the tools to assess distribution, diversity, and quality of open space in relation to its value (i.e. the reasons why open space is important) as well as providing a basis for decision-making and management.

Each open space in Kingston has been classified using the following three-tiered classification:

- A classification based on **primary function**, taking into account the primary purpose of an open space, important values, or the use of the open space within the network, i.e. what the park is mainly used for
- A classification based on **catchment** – the sphere of influence and origins of users - i.e. where people come from to use the park. This also has reference to how long people are likely to stay
- A **landscape setting** classification, considering the physical condition and characteristics of the area that influence a user’s experience, i.e. what the park is like.

By ensuring a range of types of open space across the City and within each local area/neighbourhood we can ensure equity and diversity while incorporating the ability to continue to meet local needs when demographics change.

Also, by varying these conditions of open space we can create diversity. For example, one space in a particular neighbourhood which may be just a play area could be developed to serve a social and family recreation function and thus attract and include other age groups and offer varied opportunities. Or a local park could be developed to target regional users by simply changing the landscape setting from mown grass to bushland and thus attract wider use by offering unique attributes.

This type of approach can be applied, for example, across one neighbourhood and indeed across the entire Kingston network of open space.

Classifications for each open space or specific park support Council to direct design and management practices even in the absence of a master or management plan.

Proposed functional classification

| FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION | ABBREVIATION | EXAMPLE |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Play | PLAY | Perry Street Reserve, Moorabbin |
| Social family/Recreation | SFR | Mentone Racecourse Reserve |
| Community horticulture | HOR | Mentone Community Garden |
| Cemetery/Memorial/Remembrance | MEM | Mentone RSL Reserve |
| Ornamental/botanic garden | OGARD | Cnr South and Rowans Road, Moorabbin |
| Access way trail corridor | AWTC | Mordialloc Creek Trail |
| Sport | SPORT | Edithvale Recreation Reserve |
| Flora/Fauna Conservation | FFCB | The Grange |
| No Identified function | NIF | Jacqueline Drive Reserve, Aspendale Gardens |
| Conservation of cultural heritage | HER | Retreat House |
| Drainage | DRAIN | Namatjira Park Retarding Basin |
| Visual Amenity | VA | Road verges/ estate entryways/medians |
| Relaxation Contemplation/ Escape | RCE | Hall Mark Close |
| Buffer | BUFF | Epsom Race Course Estate Buffer |
| Water based Recreation | WR | Waterways lake (primary contact water quality) |
| Forecourt/plaza | FCPLZ | Kingston Arts Centre, Mordialloc railway station forecourt |

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Open Space *Function* classification definitions

A classification based on primary function, taking into account the primary purpose of an open space, important values, or the use of the open space within the network, i.e. what the park is mainly used for.



Play

Small areas that are primarily for play and have no other recreation facilities.



Social Family/ Recreation Area

Areas that provide opportunities for a range of age groups typically catering for play, picnics, casual ball games, trail activities and possibly environmental activities.

Community Horticulture

Areas dedicated to horticultural or agricultural recreation activities, such as community garden plots.



Cemetery/ Memorial/ Remembrance

Areas dedicated to the memory of people/events.



Ornamental / Botanic Garden

Areas dedicated specifically to exotic floral/horticultural features/ vegetation.



Access Way/ Trail or Corridor

A green space trail, link or walkway between or along streets, transport corridors, waterways etc.

Sport

Areas reserved for sporting pursuits, eg baseball, soccer, cricket and football.



Relaxation, Contemplation/Escape

Parklands dedicated to relaxation, contemplation and escape, with no dedicated facilities other than seats, paths, viewing areas, signage etc.



Flora/Fauna Conservation

Areas protected and managed for significance of flora and fauna. May include recreational opportunities associated with interpreting these features.



No Identified Function

Visual Amenity

Small areas designed to provide visual relief from urban surroundings and enhance amenity of streetscapes. May also help meet tree canopy goals.



Drainage

Areas of open space designated for drainage/ water quality treatment functions, floodway or retardation.



Water-based Recreation

Areas principally designed to support water based recreation activities such as fishing and boating.



Buffer

Areas of open space retained as such to provide a buffer between residential areas and industry, hazardous areas, transport routes, or significant sites.

Conservation of Cultural Heritage

Areas dedicated to protection or interpretation of indigenous cultural heritage or European settlement, eg the garden of a historic homestead.



Plaza/Forecourt

Open spaces that principally support the use of an associated civic or community building, and are not just for the purpose of visual amenity but support community gatherings or related activities such as a market. (Amended from 2005 Strategy to include not only civic plazas and forecourts i.e. railway station forecourts)



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Open Space *Setting* type classification

This classification is proposed to assist with the differentiation of sites on the basis of experiences they offer, and to assist with planning, management and marketing. The same activity may be undertaken in places with different landscape settings and result in different experiences.

Proposed setting type classification

| SETTING CLASSIFICATION | ABBREVIATION | EXAMPLE |
|--|--------------|------------------------------|
| Bushland/ Woodland/ Forest | BL | The Grange |
| Exotic, ornamental or specimen plantings | FG | Royal Palms |
| Open Grassy Area | OG | Nancy St Reserve, Cheltenham |
| Specialised Sports Surfaces (eg synthetic) | SSS | Moorabbin Hockey Club |
| Native Grassland/ wetland | NATG | Former Epsom Racecourse |
| Lawn or Managed Sports Turf | TURF | Moorabbin Reserve SFC Oval |
| Open Parkland | OPRK | Namatjira Park |
| Creek/ River Corridor/ | CREEK | Mordialloc Creek |
| Foreshore | LCF | Edithvale Foreshore |
| Rough Natural Area | RNA | Bradshaw Park |
| Paved Area | PAVE | Mordialloc Pier |
| Vegetable Garden/ Pasture/ Agriculture | VG | Mentone Community Garden |
| Tree Plantation | PLANT | Nepean Highway |
| Beach | BEACH | 13 km of beach front |

Open Space *Catchment* classification

There are four levels of catchment (Regional, District, Local Area, Neighbourhood). The following table provide a summary of these classifications, as well as useful abbreviations and some examples.

Proposed catchment classification

| CATCHMENT | ABBREVIATION | DESCRIPTION |
|---------------|--------------|--|
| Regional | REG | Serving the whole of the City of Kingston or broader than the City |
| District | DIST | Serving more than the Local Area |
| Local Area | LA | Serving residents with the Local Area |
| Neighbourhood | N | Serving residents within the immediate locality Areas defines by 8 minutes walk or defined physical barriers within the Local Area |