

*Robin Crocker  
& Associates*



# Macedon Ranges Open Space Strategy

## Volume 2

Supporting information

---

Prepared by

Robin Crocker & Associates  
EDGe Environmental Design Pty Ltd  
Parklinks Pty Ltd

For

Macedon Ranges Shire Council

September 1999

---



## Macedon Ranges Open Space Strategy

### Volume 2

### Supporting information

Prepared by:

- Robin Crocker & Associates:  
*Robin Crocker*  
☎ 9830 2242
- EDGe Environmental Design Pty Ltd:  
*Michael Sandford*  
☎ 9329 7512
- Parklinks Pty Ltd:  
*Bill Johnsen*  
☎ 5278 5333

© Macedon Ranges Shire Council

September 1999

*Note: Volume 1 of this report provides the context for the plan and sets out the vision, goals and strategies. This volume contains supporting information.*

*Planvol2*

## Contents

---

1.	Notes on relevant plans, strategies and reports .....	4
2	Community questionnaire - analysis of responses .....	11
3	Summary of external community and user surveys .....	14
4	Assessment of open space for disposal .....	21
5	Site planning for open space .....	24
7	Guidelines for open space development and management .....	28
8	Guidelines for trail construction in the Shire .....	33
	Appendices .....	35
	Appendix 1 Design guidelines .....	36
	Appendix 2 VicRoads guidelines for local government proposals .....	39
	Appendix 3 Requirements for trails on railway reserves.....	42
	Appendix 4 Questionnaire sheet.....	43
	Appendix 5 Open space assessment sheet .....	44
	Appendix 6 Project newsletters .....	45
	Appendix 7 Project brief.....	46

# 1. Notes on relevant plans, strategies and reports

---

A wide range of plans and other documents were reviewed during the preparation of the strategy. The most relevant information regarding open space is summarised below.

## **1 Statewide policies and strategies**

### **Parks Victoria and Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) - various**

Range of policies, strategies and management plans guide use and management of Crown land. Provide guidance for management of regional parks, state forests and other open space not owned by Shire.

### **Active For Life: Promoting Physical Activity in Victoria, Draft, 1999, Sport and Recreation et al**

- Sets out the substantial health and economic benefits of physical activities and outlines participation in Victoria.
- Objectives include improved access to activity places, enhanced services and support and increased public awareness of benefits.
- Promotes brisk walking, cycling and other moderately energetic forms of activity and provision of well designed, safe areas, bicycle paths and pleasant walking paths to local destinations.

### **The Business of Sport, 1998, Sport and Recreation Victoria**

- Sets out economic value of sport, recreation and events.
- Discusses participation rates (based on ABS data).

### **Leisure Participation Victoria in 1996, Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1997, Canberra**

- Provides details of participation in recreation and other leisure activities.
- Walking for exercise is dominant physical activity (43%), followed by swimming (14%) and golf (9%).

### **Participation in Sport and Physical Activities in 1996-97, Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1998, Canberra**

- Shows that participation in organised sports and activities is relatively low.
- Most popular were: aerobics 4.1%, golf 3.2% and tennis 2.7%.

## **2 Regional strategies**

### **Macedon Ranges & Spa Country - Regional Tourism Development Plan, 1997, KPMG**

- Strategic industry plan designed to guide future tourism development.
- Vision for region is an accessible, short break, indulgent getaway destination offering quality visitor experiences.
- Competitive strengths include Hanging Rock, Mt Macedon, gardens, events and mineral springs.
- Sightseeing/pleasure driving and picnicking/barbecuing are among the most popular activities undertaken by visitors.
- Recommendations relevant to open space are few but include upgrading and development of walking and bicycle trails, support infrastructure and visitor interpretation.

## **Macedon Ranges and Spa Country Tourism Strategy, 1995, The Strategy Shop**

Superseded by 1997 strategy. Appears to have no relevance to open space strategy.

### **3 Shire: General plans and strategies**

#### **Corporate Plan 1998-99 to 1999-2000, Macedon Ranges Shire Council**

- The plan focuses on people, planning and progress.
- Planning will be research based, include input from the community, respect heritage and be mindful of future generations.
- In 1998-99 an open space plan will be completed, equestrian issues incorporated into planning, expenditure on parks and gardens increased and a festival based around gardens supported.

#### **Macedon Ranges Shire Planning Scheme, Draft 1999**

Municipal Strategic Statement provides framework for strategic planning, overlays etc. Includes:

- Objectives to provide safe, accessible and easily maintained open space, integrated networks of paths and walkways along watercourses, concentrating future development in major centres, designing to respond to environmental constraints and character.
- Objectives to protect landscape values and natural features, and strategies to protect Black gum areas and prepare an inventory of significant vegetation.
- Information on overlays including development areas, Black gum areas and ridges and escarpments.
- Township structure plans showing growth boundaries and strategic directions (some references to open space).
- Open space and recreation policy (section 22.09).
  - This includes two objectives – ‘To ‘protect and maintain useable and significant open space ...’ and ‘To ensure the provision of new open space through subdivisions’.
  - It is policy that:  
‘In general the provision of a Public Open Space resulting from subdivisions shall be in the form of cash contributions as outlined in the Subdivision Act.’ [Developer contributions of open space are not discussed.]  
‘Any land taken as a result of a subdivision shall be integrated with the development and any existing open space network.’  
Land acquisition for open space shall consider location, size, topography, natural features, vegetation and land degradation as a high priority.

#### **Macedon Ranges Shire Annual Report 1997-98**

- Macedon Ranges is one of the fastest growing municipalities with the population more than doubling in the last 25 years to about 32,400 in 1996. A population of about 53,000 is predicted by 2021.
- The shire covers 1,748 square kilometres and has an annual budget of \$22million.
- The southern districts, including Gisborne, Romsey and Macedon are a focus for Melbourne commuters. The northern districts including Woodend, Kyneton and Lancefield have a more rural and agricultural focus.
- Tourist numbers increased by 17% to 450,000 day visits with Hanging Rock one of the ten most visited parks in Victoria.
- A community survey in 1998 indicated that roads and footpaths were identified as the main area for improvement.
- Expenditure on parks and gardens was about \$650,000 plus about \$150,000 on public conveniences.

- Recreation projects completed included the Leisure Strategy Plan Review and ongoing improvements to waterways through community based groups. A streetscape plan was commenced.
- Work in parks and gardens included planting of 100 street trees and clearing of lakes at Malmsbury botanical gardens and Lake Park at Riddells Creek.

### **Macedon Ranges Demographic profile, TBA Planners, 1998**

- The fastest growing areas in the 1991-96 period were Gisborne/New Gisborne (28%), and Romsey (15%). Kyneton declined by 5%.
- The largest towns in 1996 were Gisborne/New Gisborne (4047), Kyneton (3737) and Woodend (2983).
- In 1996, 18251 people lived in towns and 14116 in rural areas.
- Increasing proportions of young people are present particularly in southern growth areas. There has also been noticeable growth in the 45-65 age groups. (MSD data not provided.)

### **Macedon Ranges Shire Environment Strategy, Draft 1999**

- The Municipal Planning Scheme indicates that:  
 Natural and built heritage will be preserved and maintained to ensure bio-diversity and environmental sustainability.  
 Residential growth will be directed to existing townships.  
 Development will be discouraged in areas with high landscape and/or environmental values and will complement or add to the character of the Shire.  
 Residents and visitors will have access to high quality services and facilities.  
 Council will endeavour to continually improve environmental performance.
- Strategic directions include:  
 Prepare and implement management plans for reserves and roadsides.  
 Promote wildlife corridors and sound waterways management.  
 Support surveys of flora and fauna and control of pest plants and animals.  
 Facilitate safe walking and cycling in urban areas.  
 Protect remnant native vegetation, trees, watercourses and other natural features.  
 Support the undergrounding of powerlines.  
 Introduce design guidelines to achieve high environmental quality and complementary townscapes.

### **Leisure Strategy Plan for Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Garry Henshall and Associates, 1996**

Includes 59 recommendations for implementation over 5 years including some related to open space:

- Develop Quahlee Reserve through a master plan process.
- Audit playgrounds and upgrade equipment.
- Develop an open space strategy plan.
- Develop concept master plans for all open space areas
- Continue development of Five Mile Creek Track at Woodend.
- Extend walking/cycle pathways in Gisborne through Jacksons Creek reserve.
- Extend walking track in Malmsbury.
- Formulate plan for Barringo reserve including pony club use.
- Assist in relocation of Riddells Creek Pony Club.
- Support public access to Rosslynne Reservoir for passive recreation and sailing.
- Develop mobile skateboard and rollerblade facilities.
- Provide access to future facilities for residents with disabilities.
- Provides information on recreation participation and demographics (now superseded).
- Stakeholder liaison indicated demand for better playgrounds, developed open space to service housing estates and additional youth facilities, (Sporting facilities including an indoor pool, sports stadium and netball courts were also requested.)

- Survey responses (p15) showed the most popular recreation activities away from home were:

Swimming	10%
Walking for exercise	6%
Golf	6%
Library use	6%
Cycling	5%

Recreational horse riding rated only 1.7% and pony club/eventing 0.6%.

The response rate for walking is well below other recreation surveys. This may relate to the questionnaire design.

Ratings of open space facilities of poor standard (p18) were:

Gisborne: nil

Woodend: Local playgrounds

Kyneton: Walking and cycle paths

Romsey: Walking and cycle paths

- Residents gave *high priority* to:
  - More recreation programs for teenagers
  - More off-road walking and cycle tracks
- And *medium priority* to:
  - More passive parkland areas
- Comments re large areas with low use:
  - *Outlook Lane*, Gisborne: supports sale (similar to Budge report)
  - *I R Robertson Reserve*, Gisborne South: suggests retaining use as is (Budge suggested retention for major recreation facility, or sale)
  - *Gilligan reserve*, SE of Gisborne: supports Budge proposal to sell land not used for tennis.
- Recommends minimum standards:
  - At least one park per town
  - At least one visible playground in each town
  - Feasibility study for any major capital facility
- Golf: Recommends provision of advice to Lancefield Golf Club but makes no other recommendations.

### **Street Tree Study (Draft), 1998, Chris Dance Land Design**

- Identifies existing streetscape character for 12 towns and future strategies for enhancement. Includes review of existing studies for Gisborne, Kyneton and New Gisborne.
- Recommends planting themes for towns including some minor areas of open space. Most recommended plantings are for exotic deciduous trees, derived from existing avenues etc. Makes little reference to sustainable planting or re-establishment of indigenous vegetation
- Makes several recommendations regarding pathways and links with open space areas.

### **Roadside Management Plan for the Shires of Newham, Woodend, Kyneton and Romsey, 1994**

- Assessed conservation value of large number of roadsides.
- Provides information on:
  - Original vegetation (p20-24)
  - Roadsides of botanical significance (p25-27 and maps in appendices)
  - Wildlife corridors (p 27-29 and maps 2.1 to 2.3)
  - Revegetation and control of major weeds - gorse, cape broom, English broom and blackberries (p43)
  - Roadsides of cultural/heritage significance (p63-65)
- Sets out management guidelines - section 2, p5 etc

### **Issues Paper (Shire) re disposal of Gilligan and I R Robertson reserves, Sth Gisborne, 1998?**

- Sets out steps for disposal of OS (re Planning Scheme etc).
- Both reserves could be sold (all or part) but likely to be resistance from users. Detailed rationale and criteria needed.

### **Recommended Action on Five Council Owned Public Open Space Sites, Shire of Gisborne, 1993, TBA Planners (T Budge)**

Identified lack of information on open space provision. Appears to be 361ha of open space in Shire of Gisborne.

Provides brief review of 5 sites. Recommendations:

- *Outlook Lane*, E of Gisborne - sell as rural residential block
- *I R Robertson Reserve*, S of Gisborne - retain and consider development as major rec site; if not needed, sell land except for horses area
- *Gillian Reserve*, Gisborne - retain and possibly extend tennis facility, sell rest
- *McBean Ave Reserve*, SW of Macedon - retain, investigate development
- *Ross Watt Reserve*, New Gisborne - retain, develop all or part as recreation facility

### **Recreation Needs Study, Shire of Newham and Woodend, 1992, Michael King and Associates**

Somewhat dated but findings (p84-85) of interest:

- Top priority facilities were swimming, indoor recreation, parks and gardens and walking and cycle trails. 93% said residents were interested in helping to develop and maintain local areas and 81% said Council should develop walking and cycle trails
- Most popular activities were, in order:  
Males and females: walking (18%), swimming (10%), cycling (8%), tennis (7%), golf (7%)  
Males: golf (14%), walking (13%), cycling, swimming, tennis  
Females: walking (23%), swimming 11%), cycling, tennis, aerobics/gym
- Most popular recreation locations were:  
Footpath/roadway (24%), swimming pool (15%), walking/cycle track (12%), oval/rec reserve (12%).

### **Shire of Kyneton Conservation (Heritage) Study, 1990, David Bick et al**

- Provides detailed information on cultural heritage including gardens.
- Kyneton Botanic Gardens is of special cultural value. One of a very small number of nineteenth century botanic gardens that survive in reasonably intact form ('though only trees survive). Recommends relocating caravan park and improving recreation area near river.
- Malmsbury Botanic Gardens is of significance of one of Victoria's earliest botanic gardens. It retains a significant proportion of early features and trees.

### **Schedule of User Contributions, Sporting Fields and Equestrian Facilities 1998-2001, 1998, Macedon Ranges Shire Council**

- Sets out principles and details for charges. Council to provide subsidy of 75% of maintenance costs of most facilities. To be phased in over three years.
- Contributions will increase from \$7,900 to \$14,000 over four years.

## **4 Shire: Site specific plans, reports and concepts**

### **a) Woodend**

#### **Woodend's Framework for the Future, Draft 1999**

Urban design framework setting out short and long term direction for Woodend.



Issues include high youth population and stable elderly population, need for more open space on main street for eating and festivals, poor link between Five Mile Ck and town, and Five Mile Ck seen by community as main focus for recreation and tourism.

Recommended actions include:

- Five Mile Ck upgrade - see p 20-25: includes relocating information centre, link to main street, link to golf course, upgraded picnic facilities, skate park, equestrian centre at Racecourse
- Developing marked trails (art themes?) from town centre
- Developing walking and riding trail to Hanging Rock
- Horse trails, cycleways and walking tracks connecting to surrounding district
- Black Forest Drive renamed and redeveloped with cycleway around Mt Macedon to Woodend
- Artists trail established (McCubbin etc)

### **Woodend Racecourse Concept, 1998, Macedon Ranges Shire Council**

Concept masterplan drawing shows proposed layout including walking and cycling track and grasslands.

### **Quahlee Reserve Plan, 1995, Mark McWah**

Drawings show varied planting proposals, walks, arboretum, picnic areas, play and recreation area.

### **Proposed development Five Mile Creek Valley, 1992, Shire of Newham and Woodend**

Drawing shows proposed staged development of pathways and other development along creek.

#### ***b) Gisborne***

### **Gisborne Botanic Gardens Masterplan, 1994, EDGe Environmental Design**

Plan proposes varied plantings, paths, creek crossings, pedestrian links and an information shelter.

### **Jacksons Creek Valley Landscape Study Gisborne, 1987, Tract Consultants**

Master plan includes development of Dixon Field, lake, tea house, tree planting, arboretum, parkland, and links to town

Regional potential includes vehicle routes and tourism sites (drawing 11)

#### ***c) Kyneton***

### **Campaspe River Kyneton, Landscape Concept, 1994, Chris Dance Land Design**

Generalised document proposing links to town, paths, signs, and mix of exotic and indigenous vegetation.

Current implementation varies from plan.

#### ***d) Hanging Rock/Mt Macedon***

### **Hanging Rock Recreation Reserve Management Plan, (1994?) Loder & Bayly**

Support document includes visitor survey.

### **Mt Macedon Summit Precinct Landscape Master Plan, 1995, Barry Murphy (for Committee of Management)**

Design for summit area including kiosk location.

#### ***e) Malmsbury***

### **Botanic Gardens – National Trust Aust (Vic) classification report**

Set aside in 1857, developed from 1863 in picturesque style. Conservation Analysis prepared in 1988 by Francine Gilfedder (for CFL). No gardens plan located – not known if Guilfoyle involved.

Considerable aesthetic significance. Rejuvenation work in 1970s and from 1984 "... ensured that the garden has a sound future".

NOTE: Topographic drawing of gardens and Concept Development Plan drawing by Gilfedder are held in Council collection.

See references in volume 1 for details of Gilfedder reports.

## 2 Community questionnaire - analysis of responses

### 1 Introduction

A questionnaire was developed based on previous survey work in other open space and leisure strategies. The main questions were designed to gain information about community preferences and priorities for open space management and development (appendix 4).

The questionnaire was mailed to all relevant community groups and organisations considered to have some interest in open space. Copies were also distributed at the Community Forum held at Woodend on 9 March and to people responding to newsletters and publicity about the project. Since the sample size was relatively small and respondents were not randomly selected, the results can not be statistically analysed. The findings should therefore be taken as only broadly indicative of community views.

### 2 Results

Forty-nine responses were received. These were from Kyneton (10 responses), Romsey (7), Gisborne (7), Riddells Creek (4), Woodend (4), Darraweit Guim (4), and others (13).

The main results were as follows.

*Q 3 Thinking of open space in the Shire, how important is it to improve or provide the following?*

To determine an importance score, 'Very Important' ratings were allocated two points, and 'Fairly Important' ratings one point.

Item	Importance Score	Ranking
1. general maintenance	82	1
2. trees and shrubs	76	2
3. natural bushland/birds	75	3
4. shade and shelter	74	4
5. seats	72	5
6. safety/security	71	6
7. cleaner toilets	70	7
8. walking tracks	62	=8
9. signs/information	62	=8
10. play facilities - 3-7 year olds	61	=10
11. facilities for teenagers	61	=10
12. wetlands/water features	58	=12
13. lighting at night	58	=12
14. barbecues and tables	57	14
15. lawn areas	56	15
16. play facilities - 8-12 yr olds	51	16
17. bicycle tracks	50	=17
18. sporting facilities	50	=17
19. more toilets	48	19
20. flower beds	36	20
21. visual arts	24	21
22. Other .....	2	22

The results show a high level of support for **improved maintenance, more trees and shrubs, shade and shelter, natural bushland, seats, improved safety/security and cleaner toilets**. Sporting facilities ranked equal 17<sup>th</sup> and flowerbeds and visual arts had low levels of support.

Q 4 The Council has limited resources to provide and manage open space. What types of open space do you believe should have the highest priority in the future?

Type of open space	Votes	Ranking
Local footpaths / nature strips	66	1
Walking/bicycle paths, eg along Creeks	52	2
Botanic gardens	49	3
Playgrounds	45	4
Sporting reserves	37	5
Bushland reserves	32	6
Local parks	31	7
Large town parks	28	8
Regional parks, eg Hanging Rock	27	9
Roadside reserve, eg Village Green, Malmsbury	24	=10
Undeveloped land	24	=10
Other (Campaspe River open space)...	5	

The results show that **footpaths are a very high priority followed by walking/cycle paths, botanic gardens and playgrounds.**

The lowest priority areas were roadside reserves and undeveloped land.

Q 5 Please describe briefly any particular open space projects or opportunities you believe have a high priority and sufficient community support to justify Council involvement.

The following were suggested.

#### **Tracks/links/footpaths**

- Gisborne - better footpaths
- Darraweit Guim - footpaths and trees in town (2); walk along Deep Creek
- Woodend to Hanging Rock cycle track - finish as per plan
- Romsey to Lancefield walking/cycling track (3)
- More linked trails in Romsey and Lancefield
- Ample tracks for equestrian use
- Bush walking tracks including exercise facilities
- Designated bike lanes desirable in towns

#### **Management/maintenance/conservation**

- Weed control - needed along Lancefield Rd - Honeysuckle Lane and Romsey Rd
- Weed control - land developers should be made responsible
- Weed control - roadside land
- Weeds - important to control and improve appearance of open space before development
- Revegetation of Romsey, Lancefield and Rochford areas, eg Monument Ck.
- Preserve and expand bushland reserves
- More care of waterways
- Streamside corridors - lack management - work with NRE (LandVic)
- Darraweit - consider removal of willows along creek in town
- Malmsbury - resurface tennis courts
- Riddells Ck Reserve - Pony Club excessive use - causing soil erosion
- Dogs: provide more areas for exercise off leads; provide pooper scooper facilities

#### **Development/improvement**

- No new open space areas developed until existing areas improved
- More playgrounds
- More work by artists/sculptors visible in community
- Gisborne Bot Gardens - further development and support
- Gisborne - Honey Ck open space
- Kyneton - Campaspe River and Burke St entrance
- Kyneton - Campaspe River beautification project

- Kyneton - more picnic facilities
- Kyneton - improve streetscapes
- Kyneton - Botanic gardens under-utilised
- Romsey - Lions Park and Metcalfe Drive
- Woodend - toilet near info centre; develop riverside area
- Lancefield - main street
- Lancefield - multipurpose building in Lancefield Park
- Dixons Field sporting complex and Lt Athletics Club
- Riddells Creek - park needs trees and shrubs
- Tylden - playground, barbecue and seats at Hall Reserve
- Darraweit Guim - sports ground with playground, picnic facilities (2 responses)
- Clarkfield - need welcome signs in SE of Shire; don't forget town

### **Partnerships/support**

- Support work of Friends along Jacksons Ck in Gisborne

No single project attracted a high level of support:

- Several suggestions were made for the development of footpaths and shared paths.
- Weed control was raised as an important issue by several respondents and bushland reserves, waterways and streambanks were mentioned.
- A wide range of suggestions was made for open space developments or improvements.

## **3 Conclusions**

The 49 completed questionnaires can not be taken as representative of the whole community, but do provide useful information to assist in determining future strategies and priorities.

Priority tasks identified include:

- Improving footpaths to provide safe pedestrian access to facilities and to improve walking opportunities.
- Improving or extending walking/cycling paths.
- Providing more trees and shrubs and shade and shelter to improve visual amenity and enhance use of open space.
- Improving maintenance of existing open space particularly weed control.
- Improving management of botanic gardens.
- Providing more seats and signs, improved security and cleaner toilets

Low priorities include provision of flowerbeds and visual arts and development of undeveloped open space.

### 3 Summary of external community and user surveys

---

These notes outline the findings of a range of park and open space surveys conducted in Victoria since 1992. These and other survey findings were considered in preparing the strategy, in conjunction with the outcomes of the local community questionnaire survey (section 2).

#### Metropolitan-wide surveys

##### **1 Parks and open space customer research project, K Marriott et al for Melbourne Water, 1992**

Provides overview on urban parks, management issues and survey methodology. Includes surveys at two MW parks. Largely superseded by later surveys.

##### **2 Community attitudes towards parks, open space and recreation, ARM: Quantum for Melbourne Parks and Waterways, 1993**

- Following focus group research, 500 face to face interviews were held in metropolitan Melbourne to determine community attitudes to open space. The findings are very relevant to Whittlesea although demographic differences between the sample and Whittlesea should be considered. Surveys and community consultation should test the applicability of the results.

Very important features to have in parks and open space were:

- clean toilets 60%
- litter collection 47%
- trees 46%
- play areas away from cars 37%
- nature conservation areas 31%
- picnic areas away from cars 31%
- appearance/views/scenery 29%
- walking tracks/trails 27%
- wildlife 27%
- access to facilities 24%
- plenty of space 24%
- bushland 23%
- shelters 22%
- To encourage use, people wanted :
  - better facilities 34%
  - improved park layout 33%
  - better maintenance 21%
  - more for children 17%
- Specific improvements suggested included:
  - children's playgrounds/rides 12%
  - more barbecues 11%
  - cleaner/better maintained 11%
  - more seating/tables 9%
  - more/better/cleaner toilets 8%
  - more trees 7%
  - better security/more rangers 6%
  - more parks/local/accessible 5%
  - shade/shelter from weather 5%
  - landscaped gardens/beds 5%
  - more natural parkland/fauna 4%
  - bigger range sport facilities 4%

- The main reasons for not visiting parks were:

	Playground %	Local park %	Sports reserve %	Larger park %
Not interested	28	27	<b>56</b>	27
No time/too busy	14	27	12	24
Too old	16	12	15	10
Not appropriate at present	<b>43</b>	17	3	3

Lack of interest or time were the main factors. A majority were not interested in sports reserves.

- Popular spare time activities (undertaken at least monthly) that could be undertaken in parks/open space were:

- walking 91%
- socialising - friends/family 78%
- relaxing/reading 75%
- supervising kids play 40%
- walking dog 28%
- bike riding 24%
- jogging 20%
- picnicking 15%

- The most important recreation experiences were:

- doing something with family
- feeling safe and secure
- being with friends
- resting and relaxing

### **3 Parks Satisfaction Monitor for MP&W, TQA Research, 1994-95**

- The survey involved 4,535 face to face interviews in 29 MP&W parks.
- Satisfaction with park facilities and amenities was rated on a six point scale:

- Excellent 100
- Very good 80
- Fairly good 60
- Leaves a little to be desired 40
- Not too good 20
- Not good at all 0

Satisfaction was high with a mean score of 83%.

A "chip game" was used to determine the most important attributes to users. The highest ranking were:

- clean toilets
- shelter from weather
- picnic facilities/furniture
- adequate no. toilets
- barbecue facilities
- tracks/trails
- litter control
- car parking
- playgrounds/play areas

- Suggestions for park improvements were included. Major attributes were:
  - more shelter
  - more playground equipment
  - more/better signs/maps
  - more bins
  - more tables/seats
  - more toilets

Given that MP&W parks are very well developed and maintained, different attributes may be identified for Macedon Ranges open space.

- Major activities undertaken were:
  - walking - 69%
  - picnicking - 52%
  - socialising with family/friends - 46%
  - sightseeing - 34%
  - doing nothing - 33%
  - supervising children's play - 33%
  - relaxing - 31%
  - studying nature - 22%
  - walking the dog - 14%
  - cycling - 13%

The monitor also covers ratings for 17 park attributes, factors contributing to enjoyment, modes of travel, market segments etc.

## Surveys for specific areas

### **4 Lower Plenty River Community Survey, J Bruce for Board of Works, 1991**

- Major problems identified were litter, water pollution, excess undergrowth, weeds, poor water flow and fire hazards.
- Most desired facilities were walking and bike paths, barbecues, picnic areas and wildlife viewing.

The findings are in line with other waterways studies.

### **5 Merri Creek Concept Plan, MP&W, 1993**

Survey of residents listed very important features as:

- |                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| • the creek                 | 66% |
| • trees                     | 64% |
| • wildlife/birds            | 59% |
| • bushland                  | 52% |
| • walking tracks/trails     | 52% |
| • nature/conservation areas | 47% |
| • appearance/vistas         | 45% |
| • bike/walk tracks          | 43% |

### **6 Greenvale Reservoir Park Setting Plan, MP&W, 1995**

Satisfaction surveys indicated below average satisfaction with shelter, play, picnic and barbecue facilities, information, toilets and paths. Greenvale attracts many people with Italian, Greek and other non-Australian backgrounds.



## **7      *Boroondara Open Space Strategy, B Murphy et al, 1996***

A mail-out survey was conducted, with 25% of 2000 questionnaires returned.

- The most frequent activities were walking, socialising and supervising children's play.
- Linear parks and local parks had the most frequent use.
- Major parks outside the municipality had high levels of use.
- Sports grounds were used more frequently for passive use than active sport.

## **8      *City of Whittlesea Recreation Services Plan, Viney Consulting P L, Aug 1996***

Useful information on open space from surveys and consultation. Community consultation included survey of 600 households by mail-back survey (202 responses), survey of 80 students and telephone survey of 200 residents. Customer Measurement surveys also conducted by Council. Outcomes:

- Strong criticism of open space, eg ugly, lacking character, in wrong place, lacking facilities
- High demand for bike/walk tracks and local parks but low level of satisfaction with existing provision.
- Demand for more information on services and improved playgrounds

Major issues raised on parks: poor appearance, lack of facilities and trees, need for more OS in Lalor, need for major district park, inadequate playground equipment, lack of bike/walk tracks, safety, drainage

## **9      *Riverside Residents Survey, City of Whittlesea, 1996***

Mail-back survey of approx 470 residents of new housing estate - high response rate.

Key findings relevant to open space:

- Very high demand for playground(s) and more tree planting (particularly native)
- Moderate demand for more/better park maintenance, development and facilities eg seats, barbecues, walking and bicycle tracks
- Limited demand for better access to Gorge and for leisure/sporting facilities
- Residents value the area's peace and quiet, space, cleanliness, scenery (Gorge), wildlife and access to bush

## **10     *Community Open Space Survey, City of Whittlesea, 1996***

A self-administered questionnaire was distributed to residents by mail, and at schools and a shopping centre. Analysis of 223 mail-back and 110 other questionnaires indicated that:

- The most popular activities undertaken were walking, socialising, picnicking, relaxing and supervising play.
- Major items requiring improvement or provision were cleaner toilets, safety/security, shade and shelter, lighting at night, seats and general maintenance. Some variation in responses occurred between suburbs, age groups and sexes. The responses were fairly similar to those from the questionnaire survey in Macedon Ranges (see pages 11 and 19).
- Small local parks, sporting reserves and playgrounds were the most frequently visited types of open space.
- Reasons for not visiting included lack of interest, lack of facilities, poor maintenance and distance to travel.
- School students gave a high priority to improved facilities for teenagers.
- Satisfaction with areas and facilities was moderate, scoring 65 on a 1:100 scale.
- Written comments indicated concern about safety (loutish behaviour, discarded syringes, vandalism etc), lack of maintenance and the need for more trees and large parks.

## 4 Open space inventory: types and use of open space in the Shire

---

Public open space across the Shire of Macedon Ranges was assessed for current use and potential open space value, as part of the strategy planning process (volume 1 section 3.2). All areas shown in the Shire's planning scheme designated as public open space, or proposed public open space, were included. The inventory also included land shown in public ownership or land considered to have an open space function, but not formally zoned as public open space or proposed public open space.

The inventory and assessment process involved site inspections and mapping of current use categories at each site. A field assessment sheet was completed for each site and a photograph was taken to support the assessment data. Information recorded included the specific type of park or reserve, current and potential use of areas within the park or reserve, the adequacy of development and recreation facilities, vegetation, linkage values and other comments as appropriate.

The information compiled in the field assessment sheets was entered into a database for analysis of distribution and provision of types of open space. This database is linked Council's Geographic Information System so that the inventory information is directly available to Council staff for use in future.

### OPEN SPACE TYPES

The type of park or reserve was recorded in the following categories.

- **Local Parks**

Local Parks are provided to satisfy the general day-to-day informal recreation needs of the local or neighbourhood population in urban township areas. To be effective a minimum area of 0.25ha is needed to accommodate the requirements of a Local Park, although they may be much bigger and include neighbourhood playing fields. Typical Local Park development includes children's playground and informal recreation facilities. These may be provided or incorporated into a larger park or a linked network to allow flexibility in catering for a range of age groups, activities and population change over time.

Ideally a Local Park should be provided within walking distance from all residences within a township. The park should be designed to encourage social interaction and informal recreation, be sheltered from strong winds and excessive noise, with shade in summer and sunlight in winter. There are many local parks throughout the Shire. Examples include St Pauls Reserve in Kyneton, Christian Reserve in Woodend and Banksia Grove Reserve in Gisborne.

- **District or Town Parks**

A District or Town Park is a large open space area with established infrastructure and facilities for a range of recreation activities. It will attract visitors from several kilometres away, for visits of several hours and cater for a wide cross-section of community interests, including informal recreation, appreciation of natural or cultural heritage, relaxation, social interaction, solitude, education, and floodplain and waterway protection. Many incorporate or adjoin sporting areas. They are usually at least 3 ha in size, but can be smaller if located and developed appropriately.

Typically a District Park will provide sporting activities, barbecue, picnic and toilet facilities, appreciation of natural or cultural heritage, relaxation, social interaction, and floodplain and waterway protection. District Parks cater for family or group outings and usually contain children's play equipment, which is more sophisticated than that provided in neighbourhood or local parks.

District Parks require a high level of planning and design to ensure that the resource is used to its maximum potential, presents a suitable image of the municipality and is developed as a coherent whole. A contemporary and distinctive character can be achieved with careful planning and design, which may include special Arts projects for the design and construction of park elements and furniture.

District Parks in the Shire of Macedon include Gardiner Reserve in Gisborne and the Gilbert Gordon Oval/Racecourse Reserve complex in Woodend.

- **Regional Parks**

Regional Parks are major open space areas or parks that provide opportunities for informal recreation and/or appreciation of the natural or cultural heritage outside the metropolitan area. They generally allow scope for visits of several hours and attract visitors from all parts of the shire or state. Regional Parks include features of regional, State or national significance and are often listed on tourist itineraries.

Regional Parks usually include large areas of open space for nature conservation and appreciation and provide toilet, barbecue and picnicking facilities. Regional Parks usually do not provide for organised sporting activities.

In the Shire of Macedon Ranges all Regional Parks are owned or managed by Parks Victoria, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, or other state government agencies. The most significant parks of Regional importance in the Shire of Macedon Ranges are the Macedon Regional Park (which includes the Mt Macedon Cross), Hanging Rock Reserve (managed by the Shire as committee of management) and the Lerderderg State Park.

- **Botanic Gardens**

A Botanic Garden is an open space developed and managed primarily for botanic displays, informal recreation and relaxation. Botanic Gardens are typically highly developed in design and layout and can include trees in avenues, specimen trees (usually exotic species), and formal border planting treatments. Infrastructure developments within a Botanic Garden may include associated buildings and structures, shelters, fencing, paving, picnic tables and toilets. The primary value is the botanical resource, although a Botanic Garden may provide a range of recreational experiences, which are usually informal, and non-activity based.

In the Shire of Macedon Ranges, Botanic Gardens have been established at Kyneton and Malmsbury. A new Botanic Garden is in the process of development at Gisborne.

- **Rail/Road Easements**

There are many rail easements, road reserves and disused railway reserves in the Shire. Aside from their designated purpose, these easements also function as corridors for nature conservation and contain much of the Shire's nature conservation and bushland resources. This may not be acknowledged or encouraged by the management authority.

Road and rail easements often contain important remnant vegetation and function as vegetation corridors, which link larger areas of habitat. This means that they are important for the opportunity they provide for movement of native wildlife. Some species of wildlife can live in small areas of suitable habitat, and narrow corridors of vegetation may be sufficient for their year-round needs.

While rail and road easements are generally not owned or managed by the Shire of Macedon Ranges, they often function informally as pathways for pedestrians and bicyclists, providing links between open spaces and other public spaces and parks, community facilities, shops and residential areas. As such, road and rail easements can provide opportunities for a wide range of conservation and informal recreation activities. As green corridors they can provide connections between areas that provide wildlife habitat. The rail reserves in Woodend and Macedon provides an important conservation and recreation resource.

- **Linear Park/Trails**

Linear parks are designated open spaces which act both as formal connections between open spaces, community facilities, shops and residential areas, and as green corridors which provide habitat for native wildlife and connect habitat areas. They can also provide opportunities for a wide range of informal, non-motorised recreation activities.

Linear parks and trails in the Shire include the reserves along Five Mile Creek in Woodend, Jackson Creek in Gisborne and the Campaspe River in Kyneton.

- **Undeveloped/Potential Open Space**

Undeveloped open spaces are areas, which have been left vacant with no improvements for recreational use or for conservation. They are occasionally mown or slashed, but have no planting or facilities. Some undeveloped open space areas may be unsuitable for open space uses, and could be better re-allocated to another use, while others should be developed for informal recreation use or conservation.

## OPEN SPACE USE

The current use of each park or reserve was assessed in the following categories. Recommendations are made in the inventory for proposed future uses of open space areas where these differ from current usage.

Note that the categories used here were later modified to reflect the open space identified in the planning process (volume 1).

### **Conservation Parkland**

Conservation Parkland refers to 'natural' areas of open space with low-key recreation only. These are areas of natural or indigenous vegetation communities, with pathways, rest areas and signs only. Conservation Parkland does not include formal picnic or barbecue areas and may be part of a larger park or reserve.

### **Conservation Bushland**

Conservation Bushland areas are set aside for conservation of remnant habitats or habitat restoration. Typically no facilities for public use or recreation are provided, except for interpretation trails and bird watching. Public access may be restricted and some areas may be fenced off for regeneration or habitat restoration.

### **Informal Passive Recreation**

Areas of Informal Open Space are dedicated to non-activity based recreation. They are primarily intended for informal, non-structured, outdoor recreation, including activities such as strolling, play and picnicking. Developing of informal open space areas will usually be restricted to picnic or barbecue facilities, lighting, seating, children's play equipment, some planting beds, shade trees, lawn areas and pathways. Informal open space areas do not include sports fields, but may be part of a sports park, where there are picnic or barbecue facilities, children's play structures, seating and shade areas etc. While informal open space areas may form part of a larger park or reserve, they are not usually included in conservation, or protected areas.

### **Sporting**

These are areas set aside for formal sporting activities, ie organised sporting activities, such as football ovals, soccer fields, tennis courts, netball courts, lawn bowls clubs etc and include associated practice areas and car parking areas. Several sporting codes may occupy one reserve or open space, which often includes club rooms and pavilions.

### **Links**

Linkages include road and rail easements linear parks and trails as well as informal connections. Links may offer a range of development options from constructed shared footways for bicycles and pedestrians, to a green corridor between parks and reserves with no formal pathways. The principal purpose of pedestrian and bicycle links is to connect one open space with another, and to facilitate safe pedestrian or bicycle travel off busy roadways.

Green corridors provide habitat connections between Conservation Bushland and Conservation Parkland reserves, and other areas, which may provide wildlife habitat. Green corridors may also include a shared pathway linkage. Linkages also connect areas and shared pathway networks beyond the municipal boundary.

## 4 Assessment of open space for disposal

---

The following reserves and open space areas were assessed as having little or no strategic value as open space and are recommended for review and potential sale (volume 1, section 6.2.3 and relevant figures).

### Woodend

<i>Reserve Name and Address</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Wood Street Reserve (Five Mile Creek Reserve)	Large block access to Five Mile Creek. Res. Retain access to Five Mile Creek. Review remainder with view to sale.
East Street Reserve (East Street)	Large vacant block on East Street. No obvious open space or conservation values.
South Road Reserve (South Road)	Large block on southern edge of town. Current use for agriculture/agistment. No obvious open space or conservation values.

### Gisborne and South Gisborne

<i>Reserve Name and Address</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Turanga Reserve (16 Turanga Rd, Gisborne)	Undeveloped house block. No strategic open space value. No apparent conservation values Review with view to sale.
Gardiner Reserve, Gisborne (Cnr Gardiner St and Sheedy Rd)	Undeveloped house block No strategic open space value. No apparent conservation values. Review with view to sale.
Wyralla Close (Wyralla Cl/Kurung Ct corner)	Two house blocks in new subdivision Minor strategic open space value. No apparent conservation values. Review with informal O/S development on 50% Potential sale remaining 50%.
Birchwood Rise, South Gisborne (Cnr Birchwood R/Namnan Way)	Undeveloped house block. No strategic open space value. No apparent conservation values Review with view to sale.
Gilligan Reserve, South Gisborne (Millet Rd, South Gisborne)	Large block with partial development. Major tennis facility, minor informal facilities. Large area undeveloped. Identify future sporting facility dev. requirements. Review with view to sale of surplus.

### Kyneton

<i>Reserve Name and Address</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Palmer Place Reserve (Palmer Place)	Undeveloped house block. Potential access to Campaspe River. No strategic open space value. No apparent conservation values Review to retain potential access to River Review potential sale of remainder.
Hurry Reserve (Trentham Road)	Velodrome in poor condition. Assess current and potential use. Investigate repair and on going management costs. Review with view to sale.

Quin Crescent Reserve (Quin Crescent)	Large house blocks in new subdivision Adjacent to freeway. No strategic open space value. No apparent conservation values Review with view to sale.
--	---

**Lancefield**

<i>Reserve Name and Address</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Chauncey Road Reserve (Chauncey Road)	Undeveloped house block. No strategic open space value. No apparent conservation values Review potential sale.
Chisholm Drive Reserve (4-6 Chilholm Drive)	Undeveloped house block. No strategic open space value. No apparent conservation values Review potential sale.
Gwen Place Reserve (Gwen Place)	Undeveloped house blocks. New subdivision area. No strategic open space value. No apparent conservation values Review potential sale.
High Street (High Street)	Large open space adjacent to school Potential heritage values. No strategic open space value. Investigate tenure and heritage values. Review with view to sale of all or part

**Romsey**

<i>Reserve Name and Address</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Ewing Drive Reserve (Ewing Drive)	Undeveloped house block. No strategic open space value. No apparent conservation values Review potential sale.
Coleraine Drive Reserve (Coleraine Drive)	Undeveloped house block. No strategic open space value. No apparent conservation values Review potential sale.
Metcalfe Drive Reserve (Metcalfe Drive)	Large undeveloped house block. No strategic open space value. No apparent conservation values Review potential sale of all or part.
Bowkett Close Reserve (Bowkett Close)	Large undeveloped house block with semi advanced tree planting. No strategic open space value. No apparent conservation values Review potential sale of non-treed area.
Desmond Cresent	Narrow block of limited value for open space Review use and function and potential sale

## **Tylden**

<i>Reserve Name and Address</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Tylden Woodend Grazing Land (Tylden Woodend Rd)	Large area of grazing land. No strategic open space value. No apparent conservation values Retain and revegetate creek frontage Review future use and function of remainder.

## **Land for acquisition**

Land along Five Mile Creek (Romsey)	Further investigate acquisition of land along Five Mile Creek to enable development of proposed parklands (Vol. 1, figure 5)
--	--

## 5 Site planning for open space

---

Open space 'development' can range from seemingly simple decisions such as 'improving' a park or open space by installing new picnic tables, to full scale plans to provide a wide range of activities, facilities and structures, or the establishment of a new park.

Open space development includes improving park facilities, upgrading or building new shelters, car parking, playgrounds, structures, picnic and barbecue facilities, as well as installing park furniture, lighting and other site elements. A decision to build a children's playground is 'development'. Open space development also includes consciously deciding *not to develop* an area and manage it for nature conservation.

Parks and open spaces often suffer from the tyranny of small decisions, where providing facilities or resolving 'problems' are addressed outside the context of the overall site and broad community needs. This ad-hoc' process is a common response to open space development. Managing a park and open space in this manner can create more problems than it resolves in the long run. It can also constrain options for the future, erode resources and create community distrust and confusion. For example, sealing a car parking area, before examining the need, the planned location or organisation of the setting, can restrict future options for open space development, and can create on going management problems. This applies equally to the provision, location and design of other open space facilities.

With this in mind it is often better to manage and develop parklands and open space within the context of a Management Plan, Master Plan or Site Development Plan.

Specific priorities agreed for site planning are set out in volume 1.

Design guidelines for open space development are shown in appendix 1

### Types of plans

A Management Plan (in the case of established parks), Master Plan or Site Development Plan (for a new park or major redevelopment/upgrading of an existing park) prepared by experienced park designers / planners will often achieve cost-effective results which will provide the maximum benefit for the community and the environment. Moreover the design, or management planning, process provides the opportunity to consult directly with the local community and other stakeholders, about their specific needs and requirements. This will reflect well on council and achieve a result that is rooted in community ownership. Thereby increasing community ownership of the project, park or open space area, and helping to improve ongoing management and reduce vandalism.

- **Management Plans**

Already 'developed' parks may require a Management Plan to guide on-going maintenance and management works. A Park Management Plan will provide the context and direction for all works within a park or reserve. Management Plans are documents in words and with broad design principles and directions, which provide instructions about how to manage the park resources into the future. The first step therefore is to identify the particular resources of the park, or reserve, and clearly articulate the desired management aims, principles and outcomes. The Plan may also include specific design recommendations, landscape or architectural plans.

A Management plan should have a clearly defined 'life' or timetable, and be reviewed regularly. The purpose of a Management Plan is to strike a suitable balance between past, present and future needs, and identify all activities and functions, which are to occur on the site. And, of course those which are not.

- **Master Plans and Site Development Plans**

Master Plans (including Concept Plans) and Site Development Plans are precise landscape plans or design drawings which illustrate a desired 'end' point for the development of a park, reserve or open space area, at a particular time.

Master Plans and concept drawings are broad design drawings, which illustrate the overall concept for the development of a park or reserve. A Site Development Plan is a similar drawing



but focuses on a more detailed area within a park or reserve, and in a more resolved manner. Both Master Plans and Site Development Plans should be measured drawings prepared on a properly scaled base plan which locate and identify all activities and functions, (including planting and re-vegetation), intended to occur in the park or open space or on the site.

Generally a Master Plan should not be used for construction purposes. It will usually require 'documentation' of the design in the form of construction drawings, design details and specifications to ensure that the intentions of the Master Plan or Site Development Plan are accurately translated into actions on the ground. This is also largely true for Site Development Plans although the smaller scale and more detailed site context of Site Development Plans can mean that they may be implemented directly from the original drawings.

## Design and development model

The following design process model should be applied to guide the development of all open space across the shire. The basic steps in the design process are:

1. *Project Inception* Prepare design brief
2. *Design Phase* Master Plan and Site Development Plans  
[to include dev. stages and analysis of probable costs]  
Design Development [for each stage]  
Design Documentation and Specifications
3. *Construction Phase* Tender for construction  
Let construction tender  
Administer construction contract

This design/development process will actively involve local community groups and other stakeholders and be guided by a project steering committee wherever possible. The roles for participants in this model are:

### 1. Project Inception

Task	Responsibility
Appoint Project Manager	Shire of Macedon Ranges
Convene Project Steering Committee	Shire of Macedon Ranges
Members to include: Local community and other stakeholders, Shire staff.	

(The composition of the Project Steering Committee will depend upon the nature and scale of each development project.)

### 2. Design Phase

Task	Responsibility
Prepare design brief	Steering Committee
Appoint consultant(s)	Shire/Steering Committee
Prepare Concept/Master Plan	Consultant(s)
Report to Steering Committee/Project Manager	Consultant(s)
Prepare Design Development	Consultant(s)
Report to Steering Committee/Project Manager	Consultant(s)
Design Documentation and Specifications	Consultant(s)
Report to Steering Committee/Project Manager	Consultant(s)

### 3. Construction Phase

Task	Responsibility
Appoint Project Manager	Shire of Macedon Ranges
Prepare tender documents	Shire of Macedon Ranges/Consultant
Tender for construction works	Shire of Macedon Ranges
Let construction tender	Shire of Macedon Ranges
Administer construction contract	Shire of Macedon Ranges

## Extent of design process required

The extent and length of this process will depend upon the nature and scale of each development. The recommended design process for each open space category is given below.

Open Space Category	Design Process
District or Town Park	Concept or Master Plan Detailed Site Development Plan [for each stage] Documentation and specification [for each stage] Construction Contract
Local or Neighbourhood Park	Concept/Site development plan Standard materials specification Construction Contract
Botanic Garden etc	Conservation management plan Detailed management plan [for each stage as required] Documentation and specification [for each stage as required] Construction Contract
Conservation Parkland Area	Concept or Management plan Standard materials specification Mgt/implementation contract
Link	Concept plan Standard materials specification Construction Contract
Sporting Reserve	Concept or Master Plan Detailed Site Development plan [for each stage] Documentation and Specification [for each stage] Construction Contract

## Plans already completed

Typically the better presented parks and reserves across the Shire of Macedon Ranges have been developed and/or managed on the basis of a Landscape Master Plan or Management Plan. Of course, preparing Management Plans, Site Development and Master Plans is a costly business, so it is important to determine where it is most effective to spend energy and money on this activity and where it is not. The first part of this process is to review plans already completed for parks or reserve within the municipality. Following is a summary and review of Master Plans and Concepts already completed.

Landscape Master Plans have been prepared for the following parks and reserves

Reserve Name	Plan Date	Implementation Progress
. Gisborne Botanic Gardens (EDGE Env Design)	1994	Part implemented
. Woodend Racecourse Concept	Oct 1998	None evident
. Quahlee Reserve (Mark McWha Design)	May 1995	Minor planting/play equip
. Five Mile Creek Concept (Mark McWha Design)	Sept 1987 (amended Aug 1992)	In progress
. Woodend Streetscape (Chris Dance Land Design)	1996	Part implemented
. Jackson Creek Landscape Study (Tract)	July 1987	Minor Works

· Malmsbury Botanic Garden Conservation/development plans, (Francine Gilfedder)	Dec 1988	None Evident
· Shire of Macedon Ranges Street Tree Study, Draft (Chris Dance Land Design)	July 1998	Some works
· Campaspe River, Kyneton Landscape Concept (Chris Dance Land Design)	July 1994	Part implemented
· Hanging Rock Recreation Reserve Management Plan (Loder and Bayly)	July 1994	In progress

Some of these plans now require updating and review because of changing circumstances (volume 1, section 6.2).

### Plans required

Several other reserves would benefit from site plans:

<u>Reserve Name</u>	<u>Plan(s) Required</u>
· Willowbank Rd-Mt Gisborne-Wyralla Rd-Gisborne Link (Gisborne)	Master Plan
· Bullengarook Reserve (Bullengarook)	Management Plan and Master Plan
· Stanley Park Reserve (Gisborne)	Master Plan
· Tony Clarke Reserve (Macedon)	Master Plan
· Barringo Reserve (Macedon)	Management Plan
· DNRE Nursery Dam (Macedon)	Site Development Plan
· Kyneton Botanic Gardens (Kyneton)	Conservation Mgt Plan
· Rollinson Reserve (Kyneton)	Management Plan and Master Plan
· Kyneton Showgrounds (Kyneton)	Conservation and Mgt Plan
· Malmsbury Village Green (Malmsbury)	Site Development Plan (picnic and information area only)

[see also volume 1 section 6.2]

## **7 Guidelines for open space development and management**

---

On-going management and development of open space across the Shire should proceed within the context of development and management principles for specific open space type (or use). Management and development prescriptions for each open space type are given below. Information on design standards is also included.

### **• Informal open space: town and local parks**

#### **Management and development objective**

To provide developed open spaces of appropriate size and quality for informal and unstructured recreation to meet a range of community needs and expectations.

#### **Character**

As the most common category, Informal open space projects a significant image of the Shire of Macedon Ranges. As such it will project an image of a contemporary palette of local and exotic (or introduced) materials, colours and textures. This will be achieved through a blend of locally indigenous and exotic plant materials, local rocks, timber and durable metals. The colours and textures used for paving and other surface treatments, the materials, colours and textures used in park furniture and other site elements, and the materials used to construct walls and structures are also important.

A contemporary and distinctive character can be achieved with the inclusion of commissioned and community arts projects. Arts projects can range from special commissioned arts works to the design and construction of park elements and furniture. While this may not be possible for every informal open space, art projects should be included where possible.

#### **Planting**

Generally planting is to be based on indigenous tree, shrub and groundcover species. Planting design is to be built around sustainable plant communities as far as possible with extensive tree planting to provide shade.

Tree, shrub and ground covers are to be planted from 150mm pots and tube stock to maximise vigorous and strong growth potential. Semi-advanced tree species are to be planted only in special circumstances to provide shade cover and emphasise new developments and only where regular watering is achievable. Mulch all planting beds to a minimum depth of 100mm with approved weed free mulch, material to reduce weed infestation and conserve ground moisture.

#### **Facilities**

- Bollards and barriers to exclude vehicles.
- Lighting to be proprietary brand photocell operated lights along main pathways and other designated areas [such as barbecue and picnic areas], and to illuminate principal entry and access points. Solar powered lighting to be used wherever possible.
- Seating to be a mix of propriety brand seats and informal seating [ie rocks, logs etc.].
- Pathways to be hard surface pavement to all shared footways, and principal pedestrian pathways, compacted gravel surface with timber edging to pedestrian only paths.
- Children's play facilities to cater for as wide a range of play experiences, for as wide a range of ages, as possible [given open space available]. Provide semi-natural bush settings for children's play as much as is possible.
- Barbecue facilities to be a suitable propriety brand.

#### **Development process**

A Concept or Master Plan will be prepared to guide the future development and management of informal open spaces. This will include staged development and an analysis of probable costs as required. Detailed site development plans, design documentation and specifications will be prepared as required. Standard site treatments and materials specification only will be required for small informal open spaces or neighbourhood parks. All planning and design will actively

involve local community groups and other stakeholders and be guided by a project steering committee, as far as possible.

- **Conservation bushland**

**Management Objective**

To manage and conserve remnant indigenous vegetation and to recreate habitat areas for indigenous plants and animals.

Remnant vegetation areas are to be retained and managed to minimise weed growth and other disturbances.

**Character**

Existing or revegetated indigenous plant communities and sustainable ecosystems. No facilities for public use, and public access may be restricted.

**Planting**

Planting to be sustainable ecosystems of indigenous plant communities, which represent, as far as is possible tree, ecosystems and plant communities typically found prior to European settlement.

Remove all weeds and prepare planting areas before planting proceeds. Plant communities to be established from tube stock or direct seeding, as appropriate. Plant only indigenous species of local provenance. Plant densities must be such that mature plantings form a weed barrier or make weed establishment difficult. Some plantings may require densities of up to 30 plants/sq. metre in order that ongoing weed management requirements are reduced.

Mulch all planting beds to a minimum depth of 100mm, except in wetlands and areas subjected to regular flooding. All mulching material to be approved weed free material to reduce weed infestation and conserve ground moisture.

**Facilities**

- Name sign where appropriate
- Fencing to exclude dogs, and to manage public access.
- Informal gravel surface pathways only, where required for pedestrians.
- Optional interpretation trails in particular circumstances.

**Development process**

A conservation plan and/or re-vegetation or rehabilitation plan should be prepared to guide development of Conservation Bushland. Standard site treatments, materials and specifications may be used. The development and on going management of Conservation bushland areas should actively involve local community groups and other stake holders as far as possible.

- **Links**

**Management objective**

To provide links between areas of open space or other public areas.

**Character**

The principal purpose of linkages is to provide physical off road connections between one open space and another, or to provide safe pedestrian or bicycle travel off established and busy roadways. This offers the potential to expand territory by walking or bicycling away from traffic. Where the open space is extensive enough to have a recreation and/or habitat function, it has been categorised as Informal or Conservation Parkland.

**Planting**

Planting should principally be to provide shade along pathways, for amenity value, and for wildlife corridors. As far as is possible planting design is to be built around sustainable plant communities of indigenous species to encourage wild life and bird life and to minimise maintenance. Exotic species may be appropriate in some locations. Extensive tree planting to provide shade along pathways and minimal lawn areas to reduce mowing and maintenance costs.

### **Facilities**

- Fencing, bollards or barriers where links adjoin streets and roadways, to allow pedestrian and bicycle access and to exclude vehicles.
- Seating to be provided at strategic locations along the route. Approximate 500m distance between seating. Seating can be proprietary brand seats, seating platforms, sleeper seats or informal seating as appropriate.
- Hard surface pavement to all shared footways.
- Directional signs indicating distances to destinations along footways.
- Gravel surface [or similar] pathways, with timber edge, for pedestrian only paths.
- Lighting to be proprietary brand photocell operated lights along main pathways. Solar powered lighting to be used wherever possible.

## **• Botanic Gardens, Heritage and Historic Areas**

### **Management Objective**

To conserve the botanic, heritage or historic values and features within the context of contemporary needs and uses.

### **Character**

Botanic Gardens, heritage or historic areas should be managed to give priority to the conservation of significant plantings, structures or landscape features. This can include established mature trees in avenues, or as specimen trees (usually exotic species), border treatments, buildings and structures, shelters, bandstands, fencing, paving and park layout and design. These areas may also provide a range of informal recreational experiences.

### **Conservation Planning and Management Process**

The re-development and on going management of Botanic Gardens, heritage or historic areas is to proceed within the context of a comprehensive Conservation Management Plan. This should define the significance of the area, the elements to be conserved and guide all on-going maintenance and works in the park.

A Conservation Management Plan should seek to provide a suitable balance between present and future requirements of the park, and the particular heritage or historic values, giving priority to conserving significant elements. This process should seek to involve local community groups and other stakeholders within the framework of a project steering committee, as far as possible. The extent of the management planning process should depend upon the particular value of the Botanic Gardens, heritage or historic area.

### **Planting**

Conservation of existing trees and plantings may require intensive maintenance to ensure their longevity. New planting should seek to follow, as much as possible, the planting patterns and species mix of the original plantings. This will often, but not always, be exotic tree and shrub species, and floral displays. Usually new planting works will require re-planting to replace established specimen trees and to retain established avenues, as existing mature trees die. New plantings may also reintroduce known earlier planting patterns where this should help retain the historic significance of the park.

### **Facilities**

- Retain and maintain all existing features that are part of the park's significance. Where new facilities (such as fences, bollards, lights, paths) are needed within Heritage Parkland, the first option is to consider reintroducing past examples that are known to have been located within the park, and which would add to the appreciation of its significance if reintroduced today. This requires researching the initial development of the park, as well as development of the park over time. It is important to avoid the temptation to introduce standard 'heritage' elements, which are not authentic to the park. Using good contemporary design facilities, which are sympathetic to the park, is a better option than fake 'heritage' elements.
- Name sign at all main entries and access points to be specifically designed.

- Fencing, in a style sympathetic to the park, to all main streets and roadways. Bollards and Barriers, in a style sympathetic to the park, to exclude vehicles. Lighting to be compatible along main pathways and other designated areas [such as barbecue and picnic areas], and to illuminate principal entry and access points. Solar powered lighting to be used wherever possible.
- Seating sympathetic to the park.
- Pathways to be surfaced with material appropriate to the period. This may include hard pavement treatments as well as gravel surface treatments. Edges of pathways to be in the appropriate style.
- Children's play facilities to be sensitively located respecting the historic values of the park, and to provide for as wide a range of play experiences and ages as possible. Play structures to be of the highest possible standard in design and construction.
- Barbecue facilities to be suitably located within the context of the heritage values of the park, and to be suitable in style, materials and construction.

## **Sporting reserves**

### **Management Objective**

To provide appropriate open spaces of suitable quality for female and male contemporary sport and other structured recreation activities. All infrastructure elements, buildings and structures are to be carefully sited and designed according to a park Master Plan which should outline the overall context of the open space area.

### **Character**

Structured sporting reserves and parks are open spaces, which are dominated by formal sporting activities. Typically this is a football code (soccer or AFL) and cricket oval, but may also include netball, tennis or lawn bowls facilities. Several of these sporting codes may be included in the one reserve or open space. Often the open space should also include clubrooms and pavilion as well as car parking. The margins of sporting areas are well suited to informal open space activities.

### **Planting**

Minimal planting, other than turf, associated with active sporting areas. Canopy tree planting to provide shade in spectator areas, along pathways and avenues and in car parking areas as much as possible.

Planting around the margins to be hardy shade tree and shrub species requiring minimum maintenance. Planting design to be built around sustainable plant communities as far as possible with extensive tree planting to provide shade throughout.

Use tube-stock, or where necessary to maximise shade cover, use semi-advanced or advanced tree species. Mulch all planting beds to a minimum depth of 100mm with approved weed free mulch, material to reduce weed infestation and conserve ground moisture.

### **Facilities**

- Name sign at all main entries and access points.
- Low fencing to all main streets and roadways.
- Bollards and barriers to manage vehicle access.
- Specialist lighting to illuminate areas for night use as required.
- Lighting to be proprietary brand photocell operated lights along main pathways and other designated areas [such as barbecue and picnic areas], and to illuminate principal entry and access points. Solar powered lighting to be used wherever possible.
- Seating to be a mix of propriety brand seats and informal seating [i.e. rocks, logs etc.].
- Pathways to be hard surface pavement to all shared footways, and principal pedestrian pathways, compacted gravel surface with timber edging to pedestrian only paths.
- Children's play facilities to cater for as wide a range of play experiences, for as wide a range of ages, as possible [given open space available]. Provide semi-natural bush settings for children's play as much as is possible.
- Barbecue facilities to be a suitable propriety brand.

### **Development process**

A Concept or Master Plan should be prepared to guide the development and management of active sporting areas. This should include staged development, and an analysis of probable costs as required. Detailed site development plans, design documentation and specifications should be prepared as required. This process should actively involve sporting clubs, local community groups and other stakeholders within the framework of a project steering committee as far as possible.

- **Improving design standards**

Many of the Shire's reserves lack a distinctive character and have poorly designed facilities resulting in a very limited experience for users. Such undeveloped, or under-developed, open space presents a poor image of the Shire. This does not mean that there are not some exciting and attractive open spaces in the Shire that present a positive image of the Shire. However, there is much that can be done to improve the quality and image of open space by consistent design and maintenance of facilities.

### **Objective**

- To improve the image and presentation of parks, reserves and open spaces in the Shire.

### **Guiding principles:**

- Ensure that all implementation works proceed within the context of an agreed and approved masterplan/site development plan and appropriate specifications.
- Name all parks, trails and reserves and provide a name sign suited to each open space category at each park or reserve. All name signs should carry the corporate image of the Shire.
- Improve direction and information signs across the open space network. Use symbol signs for activities and regulations where possible, e.g. to Parks Victoria standards.
- Use standard material specifications for open space development, re-development and management.
- Wherever general park furniture is required, use park furniture from an approved suite of park furniture elements suited to each open space category. These include seating, fences and barriers. Special park furniture and site elements may be developed for specific circumstances.
- Improve maintenance and access to toilet facilities across the network.
- Improve appearance of toilets, pavilions and other structures, e.g. by bagging brick and block-work and painting in compatible colours.
- Do not permit advertising signs in public open space except sporting grounds where permitted by Council.
- Commission artwork installations for specific sites.
- Ensure that maintenance/management standards include regular replacement of damaged facilities.



## 8 Guidelines for trail construction in the Shire

---

The following specifications are suggested for use in the Shire for trails associated with the Open Space Strategy.

Drawings of trail construction details have been provided separately to the Council.

### 8.1 Surface materials

It is recommended that the following surface materials are used.

#### Trails in towns

The surface should be sealed, providing a smooth even surface which will facilitate use by pedestrians, cyclists, people in wheel chairs and with walking difficulties and also other users such as prams, shopping carts, and rollerblades and skateboards where permitted.

*Concrete* is the preferred material because of the economics of a long-term life and minimal maintenance requirements.

*Asphalt* may often have a lower initial cost but requires more maintenance and, because of the low weight of traffic on the trails, tends to break up much faster on trails. Edge spraying is also a regular requirement with asphalt that has an environmental disadvantage as well as the continuing cost.

The location of concrete and asphalt batching plants may have an impact on the cost of the materials.

The concrete should be at least 100 mm thick with either F 72 mesh reinforcement or a product similar to Fibremesh MD that may also include F42 mesh reinforcement in unstable areas. The concrete should have a crushed rock sub base of 50 to 100mm depending on the stability of the soils.

Colour additive can provide an attractive alternative to plain concrete particularly in areas where the visual amenity of the trail is a consideration.

The major factor affecting the long life and stability of the trail will be drainage. The trail should therefore have a formation that includes drains on either side with regular outlets to a drainage system. The surface must be shaped to facilitate the run off of water.

#### Other trails

Trails outside of the main towns are likely to have a much lower level of use and will not attract the same range of users. The focus for these trails should therefore be for pedestrian and mountain bike use.

The preferred material will be a *crushed rock base* that may or may not have a final layer of *granitic sand or other fine grain material* for the final surface. The decision to include the final surface will be determined by the level and type of use for the trail.

### 8.2 Trail widths

It is recommended that the following trail widths be used.

#### Trails in towns

The predominate use for these trails will be for social and recreation purposes. This means that most people will be travelling in groups of two or more and therefore there must be sufficient space for people to walk together on the trails. The guidelines for bicycle use recommend a width of *2.5m* based on required passing widths but the relatively lower numbers of users that are likely within Macedon Ranges means that widths of *2.1 or 1.8m* can be used if cost is a major consideration.

In choosing the width, consideration must be given to the long-term use of the trail, as later widening of trails is generally not practical.

## Other trails

The unsealed shared trails in the Shire should be constructed to a width of 2.5m. This will enable some leeway in the maintenance requirements for edge control and enables better access for emergency vehicles, which may need to use the trail for rescue or access purposes.

Walking tracks can be 1m wide or less and of basic construction in bushland areas. Detailed specifications for a range of track standards are available from Parks Victoria.

### 8.3 Other design factors

- **Grade**

The grade of trails should not exceed 1 in 14. This is a disabled access requirement and if the maximum grade is used regular rest stops on the grade should also be included.

- **Clearance**

The minimum overhead clearance for trails should be 2.5m under bridges and other obstructions. This can be reduced but should then be accompanied by appropriate warning signs, padding and other safety requirements.

Side clearance from trees should be maintained for a width of at least one metre either side of the trail. Tree planting should recognise the final shape and size of the trees being planted to ensure that they do not overlap or overhang the trail.

- **Security**

Security of users is a major factor in use of the trail particularly for females. The location of main trails should avoid secluded areas and be as visible as possible from adjoining areas, particularly in townships.

- **Risks**

Risk management issues need to be considered in the location of the trail. In particular care should be taken to avoid placing the trail under large limbs of trees. Steep areas near trails will require fencing and drains and holes near the trail should be avoided or clearly marked by fencing and signs. Access for fire and emergency vehicle needs to be considered in the location and alignment of the trail.

- **Crossings**

Road crossings for trails require at least four signs with two on the trail to warn of the roadway ahead and two on the road to advise motorists that people may cross in the area. If possible a maze crossing or chicane should be included at the road crossing to slow the trail users and to provide a safe refuge from which to negotiate the road crossing.

### 8.4 Costs

Indicative costs for trails in the Shire are set out below. Considerable variations can occur depending particularly on the availability of materials and of experienced contractors to undertake the works. Maintenance costs also vary substantially, with low construction costs often resulting in high maintenance costs.

- *Gravel*: \$20 to 60/linear metre for 2.5m wide trail (higher cost includes substantial formation and good drainage)
- *Asphalt spray and seal*: \$25/linear m for 2.5m wide
- *Asphalt*: \$60 to 90/linear m for 2.5m wide trail (\$90 for 200mm base and 40mm wearing course)
- *Concrete*: \$105/linear m for 2.5m wide trail (coloured with F72 reinforcing)

## Appendices

---

1. *Design guidelines*
2. *VicRoads guidelines for local government proposals*
3. *Requirements for trails on railway reserves*
4. *Questionnaire sheet*
5. *Open space assessment sheet*
6. *Publicity material for project*
7. *Project brief*

**Appendix 1 Design guidelines (a)**

*Appendix 1    Design guidelines (b)*

*Appendix 1    Design guidelines (c)*

## Appendix 2 VicRoads guidelines for local government proposals

These Guidelines were compiled to assist councils in preparing proposals for consideration in the development of Road Programs. The Guidelines provide information on:

The Road System Management Program

The Traffic and Road Use Management Program, which comprises:

Corridor and Localised Area Improvements

Bicycle Facilities

Street Lighting

Priority Access

The Guidelines reflect the directions outlined in the following Government Strategies:

*Stitch in Time (1993) and Victoria's Bridges (1995)* which establish priorities for maintenance of pavement and bridges.

*Linking Melbourne (1994) and Linking Victoria (1996)* which establish priorities for management of the metropolitan road network and the rural road network respectively.

*Safety First (1995)* which establishes priorities for road safety programs, across various Government agencies.

The Guidelines also provide for new submissions for funding under the Government's *Better Roads Victoria Program*.

The performance Standards for development projects are to be in accordance with *Linking Victoria* and are shown in table 2. Projects, which exceed the Standards, will not be considered.

Table 2 Performance Standards for improvements on arterial roads

Standard	B roads	C roads
Lane width	Two 3.3 metre sealed lanes (refer note 1)	Generally maintain existing widths and Standards unless upgrading warranted by accident records
Shoulder width	2.0 metres	
Shoulder seals	Where warranted by accident records	
Bridge widths	Generally, the width between barriers shall be the full traffic lane and shoulder width on B roads where bridges are less than 10 metres long. For longer bridges the width between barriers on each road shall be 2.0 metres wider than the traffic lanes.	
Centre line marking	Yes	Yes
Edge lines	Yes; 100 millimetres wide	Where warranted by accident records
Pavement markers	Where warranted by accident records	Where warranted by accident records
Guide posts and reflectors	Yes	Yes
Overtaking opportunities	Additional lanes provided for safety and capacity on	

	designated routes	
Smooth roads (refer note 2)	Good quality riding surface with some rougher sections	Good quality riding surface with some rougher sections.
Clear/consistent signing	Yes	Yes
Access control	Some limitations on new access	Direct access generally permitted

Note 1: Two 3.5 metre wide traffic lanes may be adopted on 'B' roads where traffic volumes are generally greater than 1500 vehicles per day.

Note 2: Levels of road roughness/rutting consistent with 'Stitch in Time' road maintenance Strategy.

### Traffic and Road Use Management Program

The Transporting Melbourne, Linking Melbourne and Transporting Victoria Strategies detail the priorities for the Traffic and Road Use Management Program.

### Bicycle Facilities

VicRoads is funding the development of bicycle facilities that enhance the opportunity for, and safety of, cycling. Bicycle projects will be viewed more favourably if they form part of a visible and connected network that allows people to travel by bicycle within their community.

### Bicycle Projects in Rural Cities and Towns

VicRoads will consider funding bicycle facilities in rural cities and towns on the basis of the information provided below.

Bicycle projects will be viewed more favourably if they provide main linkages for bicycle travel within rural towns and cities.

Strategic Bicycle Plan	VicRoads will consider funding	Level of Funding
No	Development of a Strategic bicycle plan. On-road bicycle facilities on State Highways and Main Roads. Off-road bicycle facilities within the road reservation of State Highways and Main Roads.	50% 100% 100%
Strategic Bicycle Plan	VicRoads will consider funding	Level of Funding
Yes	On-road bicycle facilities on State Highways and Main Roads that are on the Strategic bicycle network.  Off-road bicycle facilities within the road reservation of State Highways and Main Roads that are on the Strategic bicycle network.  All other bicycle facilities in the Strategic bicycle network.	100%  100%  66%



### **Bicycle Co-ordinators**

VicRoads will consider providing seed funding for employment of a Bicycle Co-ordinator. Funding will be for a Bicycle Co-ordinator who is shared between at least two Councils, or 0.5 time for one Council. VicRoads will contribute to a base grade salary on the basis of 60 per cent of salary for year 1, 40 per cent year two and 20 per cent year three. Funding will not be provided beyond three years. VicRoads contribution is a percentage of the base salary only and does not include overheads and on costs.

As part of the role of the Bicycle Co-ordinator, the person will liaise with Council and VicRoads to develop bicycle infrastructure projects. The officer will also identify opportunities for the inclusion of bicycle facilities during road maintenance. The Bicycle Co-ordinator will provide a written summary report on these activities at the end of each year to the VicRoads Regional Manager.

### **Bicycle Facility Maintenance Responsibility**

Where VicRoads provides funds for the construction of on-road bicycle facilities and the Council is the maintenance agency (main or local roads), or for any off-road bicycle path, Council is required to provide written confirmation to the Region of acceptance of full responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the facility or path prior to construction work commencing.

### **Priority Access**

Consideration should be given to proposals addressing the needs of specific user groups, particularly pedestrians, disabled users, freight vehicles, emergency service vehicles and public transport users. Examples could be installation of bus bays or retrofitting audio-tactile units to traffic signals.

### ***Appendix 3 Requirements for trails on railway reserves***

- The pathway shall be placed as near as possible to the railway reserve boundary with a minimum clearance of five metres to the nearest rail and one metre clear to any cable trunking, while the edge of the path is to be clear of the top of cuttings and toe of embankments. Where there is a parallel road, consideration should be given to locating the trail within the road reserve, with appropriate protection rather than within the rail reserve.
- The trail shall be fenced on the railway side, with gated access openings for Victrack's maintenance staff at appropriate locations. These will be advised on receipt of detailed drawings.
- Drainage of the path shall be arranged to direct water away from the railway. Computations may be requested and, if so, will be required to be prepared on the basis of a one in one hundred year return cycle.
- The trail shall not terminate at, or pass through, a commuter car park or leasehold.
- Additional at grade crossings of the trail over the railway shall not be approved unless equipped with automatic motorised gates. The order of cost for such treatment at each site is \$150,000, which must be funded by other than Victrack.
- The trail and associated signage shall be in accordance with the Australian Standard 1742 Part 9 - Bicycle Facilities.
- The Councils participating in the project shall be responsible for lighting along the trail.
- The trail shall be separate from the pedestrian pathways, which are used to gain access to railway stations.
- In instances where it is unavoidable to share the proposed trail with pedestrians on existing subways and footbridges, dismount signs shall be required at each end of these access facilities.

Issues, which will affect the proposal, are:

- The Corporation is not in a position to fund any portion of the project.
- Maintenance of the trail shall not be the responsibility of Victrack.
- In view of safety issues and the costs outlined in item 5 above consideration should be given to use any existing bridges and subways where ever possible.
- A Licence with Victrack will need to be entered into by Council, which would provide for issues such as maintenance, safety, indemnity and protection of Victrack facilities.

## ***Appendix 4 Questionnaire sheet***

***Appendix 5 Open space assessment sheet***

## ***Appendix 6 Project newsletters***

## ***Appendix 7 Project brief***