



OPEN SPACE IN HORSHAM

ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Benchmarking

To plan the provision of open space, a benchmark of between 2.83 hectares (ha) and 5 ha per 1,000 people is used in most states. For Victoria, there is no consistent benchmark for open space provision that is commonly used across all municipalities. The 2.83ha figure is primarily used in NSW and is based on 0.8ha/1,000 for parklands and gardens and 2.0ha/1,000 for outdoor sports – it generally does not include drainage areas or natural areas.

In Western Australia, the requirement is that 10% of the gross sub-divisible area of a conditional subdivision shall be given up free of cost by the sub-divider for public open space. South Australia has a legislative requirement of '12.5% of land for open space' which equates to around 4 ha per 1,000 people in a lower density development area of 35 hectares (based on 15 dwellings per hectare and 1.9 persons per household). This figure is consistent with benchmarks used in the ACT (4ha) and Queensland (4-5ha) but greater than the NSW benchmark.

Current Situation

The municipality has approximately 403 ha of Council owned or managed public open space spread across 140 sites. This equates to approximately 20.5 hectares of open space per 1,000 people (based on Horsham's population of 19,627 people, 2016).

This 403 ha includes 54.33 ha of open space fronting the river (along Menadue Street, Barnes Boulevard, major Mitchell Drive and Burnt Creek), 4.33 ha of drainage and stormwater reserves, and 9.88 ha of public halls. If this is excluded from calculations for benchmarking purposes, it equates to approximately 17.05 ha of open space per 1,000 people.

The open space within Horsham is complimented by close access to a number of Regional, State and National Parks. Within the municipality there is also 28,547 ha of open space that is managed by Parks Victoria. This includes nature conservation reserves, natural features reserves, state parks such as the Black Range State Park and national parks such as the Grampians.

Benchmarking comparisons for Open Space provision in other shires and municipalities are provided in the table to below. As shown, Warrnambool has led the way in some LGA planning schemes and thinking – and Horsham is well below this specific benchmark.

OPEN SPACE PROVISION BENCHMARKS		
	Local Government Area	Hectares per 1000 people
Regional	Greater Geelong	46
	Warrnambool City Council	32.5
	Surf Coast	23
	Horsham	20.5
	Horsham (excluding river frontage, drainage reserves and public halls)	17.0
	Latrobe (excluding rural)	17.6
	Greater Bendigo	12.1
	Ballarat	9.7
	Metro	Melbourne
Moonee Valley		5
Port Phillip		4.9
Moreland		4
Maribyrnong		3.7
Yarra		3.1
Stonnington		2
Greater Dandenong		3.6
Knox		10

OPEN SPACE HIERARCHY SUMMARY

Hierarchy and Category

Horsham’s open spaces have been classified according to a system of two central classifications – hierarchy and category.

Four tiers of open space are proposed for Horsham: Local, Neighbourhood, Municipal and Regional. These outline the typical size and how far a user might travel to visit the site. These are outlined in further detail over the following pages.

Category is based on the primary intended function of an open space. Five categories have been developed for Horsham’s open space network: Sport grounds, recreation spaces, natural areas, linkages and civic spaces. Definitions of each are provided on page 25.

In assessing each open space, it became apparent that some areas have limitations around access.

It is not assumed that all open space will be able to match a specific definition. Categories and descriptions may need to be expanded or adapted within local policies to enable inclusion of specific sites, recognition of local characteristics and variation in application due to contextual setting (i.e. they can’t be rigid).

The Open Space Hierarchy will be used to inform the planning and management of open space, and as a tool to direct appropriate development and maintenance levels in different types of open space.

Current Supply of Open Space

A summary of HRCC’s current open space network by hierarchy and category is presented in the table on the following page.

- 61% of open space in Horsham is classified as local.
- 41% of open space in Horsham is classified as recreation spaces.
- 16% of open space is sports grounds.

HIERARCHY EXAMPLES	
Local	
Neighbourhood	
Municipal	
Regional	

CURRENT OPEN SPACE SUPPLY

Hierarchy and Category	Provision Count	Provision Area (ha)	Provision Ratio (ha/1,000)	Proportion of OS network
Sports grounds	23	109.9	5.6	16.4%
Local	8	13.3	0.7	5.7%
Neighbourhood	9	21.5	1.1	6.4%
Municipal	4	39.2	2.0	2.9%
Regional	2	36.0	1.8	1.4%
Recreation spaces	57	65.5	3.3	40.7%
Local	39	10.0	0.5	27.9%
Neighbourhood	10	23.9	1.2	7.1%
Municipal	3	23.5	1.2	2.1%
Regional	5	8.1	0.4	3.6%
Natural areas	10	89.7	4.6	7.1%
Local	2	0.3	0.0	1.4%
Neighbourhood	4	13.0	0.7	2.9%
Municipal	3	25.4	1.3	2.1%
Regional	1	51.1	2.6	0.7%
Linkages	9	44.0	2.2	6.4%
Local	3	0.9	0.0	2.1%
Neighbourhood	2	4.4	0.2	1.4%
Municipal	4	38.7	2.0	2.9%
Regional	-	-	-	-
Civic spaces	11	9.9	0.5	7.9%
Local	10	2.9	0.1	7.1%
Neighbourhood	-	-	-	-
Municipal	1	7.0	0.4	0.7%
Regional	-	-	-	-
Other	30	84.3	4.3	21.4%
Local	24	6.9	0.4	17.1%
Neighbourhood	4	11.0	0.6	2.9%
Municipal	1	44.6	2.3	0.7%
Regional	1	21.8	1.1	0.7%
Total	140	403.2	20.5	100.0%

OPEN SPACE SUPPLY AND FUTURE DEMAND

Future Demand for Open Space

Demand for open space is generally based on permanent residential population. However, a number of social and geographical inputs also affect the level of demand for open space, including:

- Age and population distribution.
- Housing type and access to private open space.
- Housing density.
- Tourism and visitation.
- Inputs such as natural and man-made geographic influences.

The potential future gap compares the 2031 projected population with the current open space footprint. In 2031, an additional 44.5ha of open space will be required to maintain the current open space provision (of 20.5ha per 1,000 residents).

With Horsham West predicted to be the key locality attracting population growth, this area should also be the focus for any additional parklands and gardens.

While there is currently a good supply of outdoor sporting facilities across Horsham, there are currently no outdoor sporting precincts in Horsham that align to sporting association requirements to host regional events.

Future planning to maintain the current provision of open space should include the development of regional standard sports facilities, in line with the Sporting Facilities Demand Study.

OPEN SPACE SUPPLY AND DEMAND				
Open Space Category	Current Supply (ha)	Current Supply (ha/1000 people)	Future Demand (ha)	Potential Future Gap
Sports grounds	109.9	5.6	122.0	12.1
Recreation spaces	65.6	3.3	72.8	7.2
Natural areas	116.9	6.0	129.8	12.9
Linkages	16.7	0.9	18.6	1.8
Civic spaces	9.9	0.5	11.0	1.1
Other	84.3	4.3	93.6	9.3
TOTAL	403.21	20.5	447.7	44.5

OPEN SPACE HIERARCHY

	Local	Neighbourhood	Municipal	Regional
Description	Provides at least enough space for two activities or groups to use the open space simultaneously, for example an open grassed area with seating and playground. Primarily used for recreation. frequent, short duration visits within a short walking distance of users.	Provides facilities and features that appeal to the neighbourhood population including a range of unstructured recreation and informal facilities. Intended for frequent, short duration visits within a walking or cycling distance of users.	Provides facilities and features that attract the municipal-wide population and/or protect municipal biodiversity/heritage values. This can include structured sporting facilities, historical gardens or major unstructured recreation facilities including fitness equipment and multi-purpose courts. People may need to travel a short distance to reach them.	Primarily caters to the broader regional population and/or protection and enhancement of biodiversity values in a regional context. These parks attract users from within and beyond the municipality and cater for a broad cross-section of ages. Most people drive to these.
Activities	Should have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's play spaces • Seating • Relaxation/resting spots 	Should have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combination of open parkland and bushland • Sport and recreation facilities for unstructured activity • Spaces for casual play • Seating • Relaxation/resting spots 	Should have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient space to accommodate a variety of concurrent activities • Children's play spaces • Seating May have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of organised sports • Dog exercise areas 	Should have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant environmental or tourism value • Seating • Public toilets • Drinking fountains May have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural wetlands and reserves • Organised sports • Dog exercise areas
Typical Size	• 0.2ha – 1ha	• Minimum 1 ha	• Minimum 5 ha	• Unlimited
Typical Catchment	• 300m – 500m safe walking distance from dwellings and workplaces	• 500m to 1km safe walking distance from dwellings and workplaces or approx. 10 minute walk	• Located within 2 km of 95% of dwellings • 500m walking distance applied for neighbourhood use	• Unlimited for regional visitors • 500m distance applied for neighbourhood use
Example for Horsham	• Charisma Park	• Natimuk Creek Reserve	• Haven Recreation Reserve	• May Park, Weir Park and Adventure Island

* Definitions have been developed in alignment with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

CATEGORIES OF OPEN SPACE IN HORSHAM

CATEGORY					
Sport grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic spaces	Other
Facilities used for competitive sport, including sports fields and courts, as well as supporting infrastructure such as play spaces, seating, clubhouses and amenities.	Active or passive recreation spaces including parks with social areas such as BBQs, gardens, play spaces for young and old, walking tracks and fitness equipment, and dog exercise areas. Also includes unembellished parks.	Spaces managed to protect, enhance and create natural environments such as waterways (which include wetlands), increased habitat for wildlife, restoration and preservation of existing bushland areas and increased tree canopy coverage of the municipality.	Cycle and/or pedestrian paths that connect to other areas of open space or destinations such as town centres, schools and natural assets.	Spaces for community and civic events like town halls and community centres.	Types of open space that do not fit into any of the previous categories and do not have a distinct purpose, such as drainage reserves and stormwater basins.
Example: City Oval	Example: Weir Park	Example: Burnt Creek Reserve	Example: Barnes Boulevard Walking Track	Example: Telangatuk East Hall Reserve	Example: Osbourne Road Drainage Reserve

Note: Definitions have been developed in alignment with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

SUB-CATEGORIES OF OPEN SPACE IN HORSHAM

SUB-CATEGORY							
SPORT GROUNDS	RECREATION SPACES		NATURAL AREAS		LINKAGES	CIVIC SPACES	OTHER
Sports fields and organised recreation	Parks and gardens	Transport reservations	Conservation reserves	Natural and semi-natural open space	Recreation corridors	Civic squares and promenades	Drainage Reserves and Stormwater Basins
Areas primarily used for playing organised (often club-based) sport in an outdoor setting. These places can accommodate informal recreation activities, e.g. picnic areas, play spaces.	Landscaped areas that provide for a range of non-organised recreation and informal activities. Such areas can also have natural values and may provide pedestrian and or bicycle links between streets.	Areas of informal open space within or adjacent to an existing or future transport reservation. Such spaces can be of a temporary nature and subject to transformation in response to evolving transport priorities.	Areas set aside for the conservation and protection of natural ecosystems, landscape character and/or historical and scenic features. Generally these areas are Crown land and part of Victoria's protected area system.	May include land managed for the conservation that is not included in Victoria's protected area system. Can include long, interconnected areas of open space which may provide visual buffers, movement corridors for pedestrians, cyclists) and/or flora and fauna.	Trails used for walking and/ or cycling that link areas of open space, and provide formal or informal connections between and within neighbourhoods and districts.	Major open areas used for non-organised recreation and informal activities, such as community gatherings.	A parcel of land set aside for drainage purposes. Drainage Reserves usually contain either a drainage basin or an open drain.
Example: Haven Tennis Courts	Example: Botanical Gardens	Example: Manadue Street Roadside Reserve	Example: Mitre Lake Flora and Fauna Reserve	Example: Haven Community Dam	Example: Major Mitchell Drive River Frontage	Example: Horsham Skate Park	Example: Burnt Creek Drainage Reserve

Note: Definitions have been developed in alignment with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

OPEN SPACE AND PLAY SPACE DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

The following table provides guidance for the upgrade and development of existing open space and play spaces.

	Local parks & play spaces	Neighbourhood parks & play spaces	Municipal parks & play spaces	Regional parks & play spaces
Play equipment for different ages	Unlikely – focus on natural play/green space	Focus on 2 – 7 yrs	✓	✓
Open areas for informal play	✓	✓	✓	✓
Natural play	Value add	Value add	✓	✓
Irrigated grass	Value add	Recommended	✓	✓
Landscaping – shrub vegetation/garden beds	✓	✓	✓	✓
Basketball goals/nets/hitting walls	✘	Value add	Recommended	Subject to demand
Accessible Equipment	Value add	Recommended	Recommended	✓
Pathways	✓	✓	✓	✓
Disability access	✓	✓	✓	✓
Natural shade	✓	✓	✓	✓
Structured shade/shelter	✘	✘	Might have shelter	✓
Seating	✓	✓	✓	✓
Picnic tables	Recommended	Recommended	✓	✓
Public toilets	✘	✘	✓	✓
BBQ's	✘	✘	Value add	✓
Access to water	✘	✘	✓	✓
Bins – Waste and Recycling	✘	Recommended	Both	✓
Lighting	✘	Recommended	✓	✓
Signage – Wayfinding and history	Recommended	✓	✓	✓
Car parking	✘	✘	✘	✓
Bicycle racks	Value add	Value add	Recommended	✓
Public art	Value add	Value add	Recommended	✓
Maintenance frequency	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Daily
Inspections	3 times per year	3 times per year	4 times per year	Monthly and annual
Access for maintenance vehicles	✓	✓	✓	✓

Note: Fencing to be determined on a site-by-site basis and all future redevelopments to be designed by a landscape architect

OPEN SPACE AND PLAY SPACE DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

In addition to the Open Space and Play Space Development Guidelines on the previous page, the following Urban Design Guidelines and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Guidelines should be incorporated when designing, developing and upgrading open space and play spaces.

Urban Design Guidelines

The Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria support state agencies, local government and the urban development sector to deliver functional and enjoyable places for people to live, work, and spend leisure time. The guidelines are based around six key areas:

- **Urban structure:** Urban structure principles, activity centre structure, large development site structure, higher density residential precinct structure, and public realm structure.
- **Movement network:** Movement network principles, pedestrian priority streets, pedestrian and bicycle paths, pedestrian and bicycle crossings, major roads, public transport on roads, on-street parking, and car parking lots.
- **Public spaces:** Public space principles, street spaces and plazas, local parks, communal open spaces.
- **Public transport environs:** Public transport environs principles. railway station precincts, public transport interchanges, and railway corridor environs.
- **Buildings:** Buildings in activity centres, higher density residential buildings, large format retail premises, and car parking structures.
- **Objects in the public realm:** Principles for objects in the public realm, street and park furniture, trees and planting, barriers and fences, lighting, signs and way-finding, and small public buildings and structures.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

The aim of these Guidelines is to influence and inform decisions about designing and managing the built environment, so that our communities, towns and cities are safer. Each CPTED response needs to focus on:

- Local space
- Local people
- Local situations and solutions

Key CPTED principles to be incorporated into open space planning and Horsham's open space network are outlined below:

- **Natural Surveillance:** Criminals are less likely to commit a crime when there is a chance they may be seen. Likewise, members of the community are likely to feel safer if they can be seen. Landscape planning and urban design that enhances the chance of being seen is a form of natural surveillance.
- **Natural Access Control:** Part of creating a controlled open space is focusing on entry and exit points into parks, neighbourhoods and parking lots.
- **Space Activation and Management:** Well maintained open space creates a sense of place for the community and spaces that are well looked after send out messages to would-be offenders that the community cares.
- **Territorial Reinforcement:** The use of physical attributes creates defined lines between public open spaces such as low shrub plantings, lighting, signage and landscaping.