

11 Box Hill Structure Plan Area

The Box Hill Structure Plan Area is in the City of Whitehorse. Box Hill is a focus for substantial development, growth, and investment in eastern Melbourne. Box Hill is recognised in Plan Melbourne as a designated Metropolitan Activity Centre, and has health and education precincts (Box Hill Hospital and Box Hill Institute) and a major transport interchange. A broad range of land uses are in Box Hill including medical centres and hospitals, primary, secondary and tertiary education facilities, a commercial centre located around Whitehorse Road, a bus interchange at the existing Box Hill Station and a mix of residential dwellings ranging from large, detached dwellings to multi-storey apartment buildings.

A diverse open space network provides opportunities for residents and workers to enjoy passive and active open spaces in the area.

The population in the Box Hill Structure Plan Area is forecast to more than double (119 per cent increase) by 2041. This highlights the need to plan public open spaces to serve the future population.

11.1 Existing open space network

This section describes existing open space in the Box Hill Structure Plan Area, and within a 1.6-kilometre radius (20-minute walk) of the SRL station at Box Hill.

This includes public open space, private open space (such as at non-government schools) and restricted open space (public spaces but with restricted access and uses, such as university campuses or cemeteries).

11.1.1 PUBLIC OPEN SPACE IN THE STRUCTURE PLAN AREA

There are 19 public open spaces covering a combined area of 351,863 m² in the Box Hill Structure Plan Area. This is the largest number and area of public open spaces of all six SRL East Structure Plan Areas.

These public open spaces are predominately owned by Whitehorse City Council.

Figure 11.1 shows their location and distribution.

Table 11.1 lists the primary function and catchment classification of the 19 public open spaces in the Structure Plan Area.

TABLE 11.1 PUBLIC OPEN SPACES IN BOX HILL STRUCTURE PLAN AREA

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE	PRIMARY FUNCTION	CATCHMENT CLASSIFICATION	AREA (M2)
Ashted Reserve	Linear Park	Pocket	793
Bolton Park	Community Park	Community	11,423
Box Hill City Oval*	Sports Park	Community	37,400
Box Hill Gardens	Community Park	District	67,073
Box Hill Town Hall Forecourt	Civic Space	Pocket	1063
Brougham Street Playground	Community Park	Pocket	1554
Glenmore Street Reserve	Linear Park	Pocket	1345
Graham Bend Park	Community Park	Pocket	1130
Kingsley Gardens	Community Park	Community	24,782
Linear public open space /PAW between William and Rose St	Linear Park	Pocket	1662
Linsley Park	Community Park	Pocket	1747
Pioneer Park	Civic Space	Pocket	1214
Surrey Drive Reserve	Linear Park	Neighbourhood	1975
Surrey Park	Sports Park	District	160,910
Victoria Rose Reserve	Community Park	Neighbourhood	6841
Victoria/Glenmore Chain	Linear Park	Pocket	49
Whitehorse Reserve	Sports Park	Community	347
Whitehorse Reserve/Howard Wilson Oval	Sports Park	Community	23,424
Whitehorse Road Linear Reserve	Linear Park	Neighbourhood	7132
Total			351,863

Note: *Box Hill City Oval is identified as public open space as it is publicly owned land that is generally accessible by the community outside of hours when it has restricted access due to organised sports training and games. It is classified as a municipal sporting reserve in the Whitehorse Open Space Strategy (2007). Proposed redevelopment of the site will further improve community access.

11.1.2 PUBLIC OPEN SPACE IN THE 1.6 KILOMETRE STATION RADIUS

There are 39 public open spaces covering a combined area of 739,853 m² within a 1.6-kilometre radius (20-minute walk) of the SRL station at Box Hill. This includes public open spaces that are partially within the 1.6-kilometre radius, where they straddle the boundary. The public open spaces are predominately owned by Whitehorse City Council.

Figure 11.1 shows their location and distribution.

11.1.3 PRIVATE AND RESTRICTED OPEN SPACE

The main locations with private or restricted open spaces in the Box Hill Structure Plan Area are:

- Schools – Box Hill High School, Our Lady of Sion College, St Francis Xavier's Catholic Primary School
- Tertiary institutions – Box Hill Institute (Nelson Campus), Box Hill Institute (Whitehorse Campus)
- Box Hill Cemetery, a large area of restricted open space, is just outside the Structure Plan Area but within the 1.6-kilometre station radius.

Some of these locations are in areas with gaps in walkable access to public open space. Increasing access to the private or restricted open spaces within these sites could be considered as a way of improving walkable access to public open spaces.

Figure 11.1 shows the location of private and restricted open spaces as well as public open spaces.

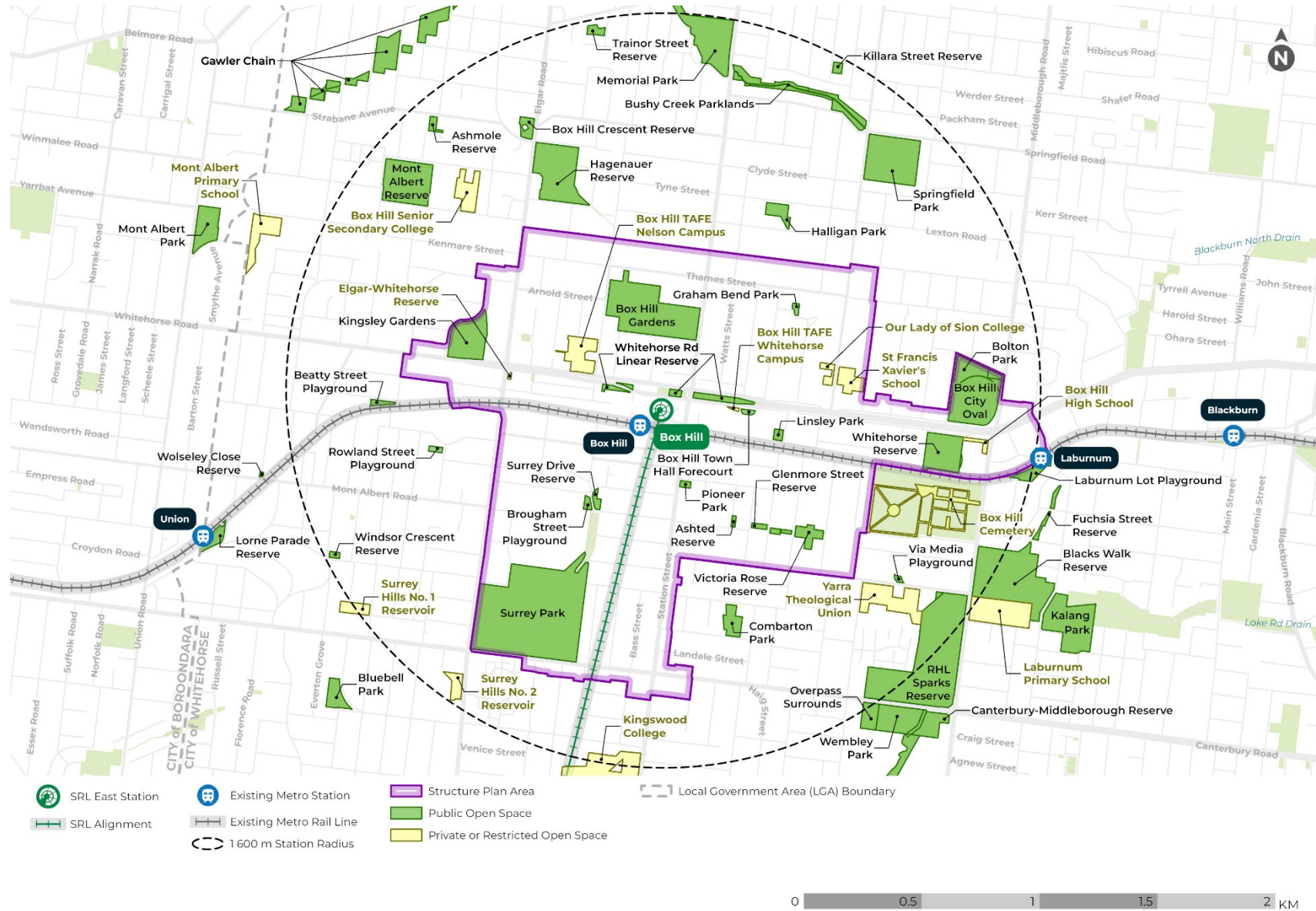


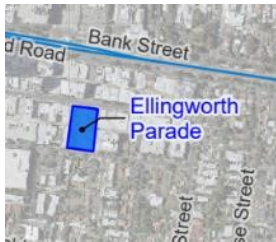

FIGURE 11.1 PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND RESTRICTED OPEN SPACE IN BOX HILL STRUCTURE PLAN AREA AND 1.6 KM STATION RADIUS

11.1.4 SRL EAST COMMITTED AND PROPOSED PROJECTS

Within the approvals for SRL East (rail and infrastructure) there are requirements to manage and mitigate impacts on public open space and recreational infrastructure. The requirements include temporarily offsetting open space impacted by construction, and the relocation of infrastructure near existing sites before SRL East construction starts.

Table 11.2 summarises the proposed temporary public open spaces (as of September 2024) to be considered as offset locations while Box Hill Gardens is occupied for construction of SRL East. A third temporary offset open space is likely to be located on Victoria Crescent, Mont Albert. Although this will be located outside the Box Hill Structure Plan Area, it will be within walkable access to residents and workers within the north-western section of the Box Hill Structure Plan Area, contributing to the broader open space network. There are opportunities for these temporary open spaces to become permanent.

TABLE 11.2 PROPOSED OFFSET PUBLIC OPEN SPACE SITES

OFFSET PUBLIC OPEN SPACE	LOCATION	APPROX SIZE	DESCRIPTION
Ellingworth Parade car park, 20 to 24 Ellingworth Parade, Box Hill		3500 m ²	Current land use of car park to be converted to public open space.
11 Court Street and 10 to 12 Watts Street, Box Hill		2750 m ²	Former childcare centre and car park. All structures would be demolished, and land converted to public open space.

11.2 Performance of existing open space network

This section outlines the quantitative and qualitative performance of the existing open space network, with reference to:

- Access to open space, and where the significant gaps are, including the extent of private and restricted open space
- Quality of existing open space
- Diversity of function and catchment classification across the open space network
- Provision of open space across the 1.6-kilometre station radius and within the Structure Plan Area.

11.2.1 ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE

The primary metrics for assessing the performance of existing public open space networks measure the access and quality of public open space.

Access is assessed by identifying gaps in walkable (400 metres) access to public open space in the Box Hill Structure Plan Area.

11.2.1.1 Extent of existing public open space within a 400-metre walk

The spatial analysis in Figure 11.2 shows that most of the Box Hill Structure Plan Area (91%) has access to public open space within a 400-metre walk.

Table 11.3 shows the existing area proportion and number of addresses in the Structure Plan Area with 400-metre walkable access to public open space. Refer to Appendix H and Appendix I for mapping analysis of each open space classification and its associated walkable catchment.

TABLE 11.3 BOX HILL EXISTING ACCESS TO PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

BOX HILL STRUCTURE PLAN AREA	EXISTING ACCESS TO PUBLIC OPEN SPACE WITHIN 400 M WALKABLE DISTANCE
PROPORTION OF STRUCTURE PLAN AREA COVERED	91%
NUMBER OF ADDRESSES	11,497

11.2.1.2 Walkable access gaps

Three significant gaps in access to public open space are shown in Figure 11.2 below.

Gap area 1

The western section of the Structure Plan Area, south of Whitehorse Road.

This area is primarily characterised by commercial buildings between Whitehorse Road and the Lilydale Line and has an absence of public open space. There is a lack of north-south permeability due to the constrained crossing points of the Lilydale Line. This area was identified in the Whitehorse Open Space Strategy (2007) as an opportunity to investigate provision of a new 'small local' public open space in the area bounded by the rail line to the north, Elgar Road to the west, Thurston Street to the east and Kintore Crescent to the south.

The Review of Strategic Direction, Box Hill Metropolitan Activity Centre, Analysis and Options (MGS Architects, 2019) identified the potential for green infrastructure in this area and improved pedestrian connections.

The Box Hill Transit City Structure Plan (City of Whitehorse 2007) notes a lack of small public open spaces south of the railway to serve the commercial area.

Gap area 2

In the north-eastern section of the Structure Plan Area, north of Whitehorse Road.

This gap area is centred around Dorking Road and partially includes the school sites of Our Lady of Sion College and St Francis Xavier's Catholic Primary School. Both include private open space within the school grounds. Dorking Road is primarily a residential area with limited proximity to open spaces outside of the walkable catchment to Bolton Park and Box Hill City Oval, and Graham Bend Park.

Gap area 3

On the eastern side of the Structure Plan Area south of Whitehorse Road.

This gap area consists of long street block lengths and a lack of permeability. Victoria Rose Reserve and Whitehorse Reserve are located near this gap area with access restricted to these spaces by the Lilydale Line and lack of connections through street blocks. A large portion of this gap area consists of Box Hill Cemetery which is outside the Structure Plan Area.

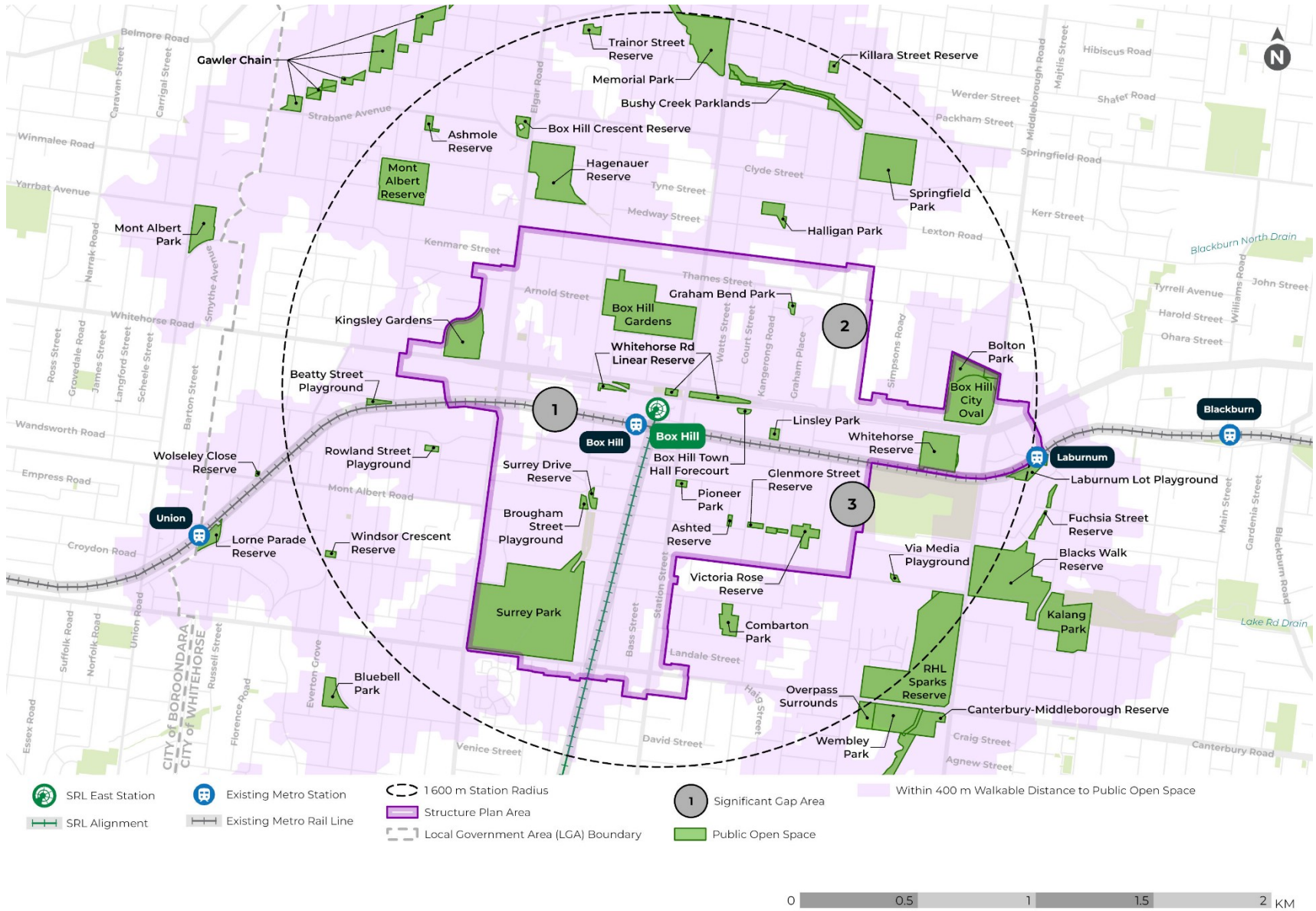


FIGURE 11.2 400 M WALKABLE ACCESS TO PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AND SIGNIFICANT GAP AREAS IN THE BOX HILL STRUCTURE PLAN AREA

11.2.2 QUALITY OF OPEN SPACE

An assessment of the quality of the current public open spaces informed this technical assessment. The quality assessment framework is described in more detail in Appendix D.

The methodology for assessing the quality of the public open spaces involved:

- A site visit to observe thoroughly, work through considerations, assign a performance score of 1 to 5 against the criteria, taking notes and photos to support findings
- Calculating a quality performance score for each site (1 to 5 rating scale)
- Assigning a site / activation potential score (this indicator is not a direct performance score; it is a professional observation of what 'could be' and assists with prioritisation).

The performance criteria rating scale is shown in Table 11.4.

TABLE 11.4 CRITERIA RATING SCALE

SCORE			RANK	DESCRIPTION
5	Very good		High	Meets criteria very effectively
4	Good			Meets criteria adequately with minor limitation
3	Fair		Medium	Criteria partially met
2	Poor			Criteria poorly or only partially met
1	Very poor		Low	Criteria not achieved

Table 11.5 shows the overall quality assessment and site potential rating score for each public open space.

TABLE 11.5 BOX HILL STRUCTURE PLAN AREA OPEN SPACE QUALITY ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE IN BOX HILL STRUCTURE PLAN AREA	PRIMARY FUNCTION	CATCHMENT CLASSIFICATION	AREA (M ²)	QUALITY ASSESSMENT RATING	SITE POTENTIAL RATING
Ashted Reserve	Linear park	Pocket	793	2.6	3
Bolton Park	Community park	Community	11,423	3	3
Box Hill City Oval	Sports park	Community	37,400	4.8	1
Box Hill Gardens	Community park	District	67,073	5	3
Box Hill Town Hall Forecourt	Civic space	Pocket	1063	2.6	3
Brougham Street Playground	Community park	Pocket	1554	3.2	4
Glenmore Street Reserve	Linear park	Pocket	1345	3	3
Graham Bend Park	Community park	Pocket	1130	3.8	2
Kingsley Gardens	Community park	Community	24,782	5	3
Linear public open space / PAW between William and Rose Street	Linear park	Pocket	1662	3	3
Linsley Park	Community park	Pocket	1747	4.2	3
Pioneer Park	Civic space	Pocket	1214	4.6	3
Surrey Park	Sports park	District	160,910	5	3
Surrey Drive Reserve	Linear park	Neighbourhood	1,975	2.2	4
Victoria Rose Reserve	Community park	Neighbourhood	6841	4.8	3
Victoria / Glenmore Chain	Linear park	Pocket	49	3	3
Whitehorse Reserve	Sports park	Community	347	3.4	3
Whitehorse Reserve / Howard Wilson Oval	Sports park	Community	23,424	4.8	1
Whitehorse Road Linear Reserve	Linear park	Neighbourhood	7132	4.2	3

The quality assessment rating scale is from 1 'Very poor' to 5 'Very good'. Scores of 4 to 5 indicate higher-quality public open spaces, and scores of 1 to 2 indicate lower-quality public open spaces.

Of the 19 existing public open spaces in the Box Hill Structure Plan Area, half have a quality rating of 'Good' to 'Very good', and two have a quality rating of 'Poor'.

Box Hill Gardens is a prominent and important high quality public open space within the Structure Plan Area. The Gehl²⁴ report describes Box Hill Gardens as 'an essential open space in the precinct core' and 'a great open space with a wide range of options for play, exercise, and enjoying nature'.

The larger sports parks such as Box Hill City Oval are well developed and cared for throughout the sites and have higher quality ratings. Sports parks like these serve multiple functions and provide good access to peripheral open space around the sports fields and ovals.

Figure 11.3 to Figure 11.6 show images of existing public open spaces in Box Hill.

The lower-quality public open spaces are smaller pocket, neighbourhood and community parks, and currently have a low level of basic facility provision and maintenance.

²⁴ Gehl – SRL East Public Space and Public Life Study 2023, page 35 and 45



FIGURE 11.3 BOX HILL GARDENS



FIGURE 11.4 BOX HILL CITY OVAL



FIGURE 11.5 BROUGHAM STREET PLAYGROUND



FIGURE 11.6 SURREY DRIVE RESERVE

The site potential rating score is derived from a professional observation about the potential of the site for further development, use / activation, and improved performance.

The lower-quality sites generally have the highest potential for site improvement and activation to optimise their use.

Figure 11.7 shows the quality of public open space in the Box Hill Structure Plan Area. The coverage of walkable access to exiting public open spaces is also shown, highlighting the two primary metrics of *access* and *quality* in the Box Hill Structure Plan Area.

11.2.3 DIVERSITY OF OPEN SPACE

There should be a diverse range of public open spaces by *catchment* and *function* across the SRL East Structure Plan Areas and the wider 1.6-kilometre station radius. The function of a public open space may be changed over time depending on community needs and trends, whereas the hierarchy type is less flexible due to the areas required.

Local pocket, neighbourhood, community and district catchments are used to define the catchment hierarchy and geographic distribution of public open space. The function classifications of community park, landscape park, nature park, linear park, sports park and civic space have been applied to this assessment.

11.2.3.1 Structure Plan Area

Within the Structure Plan Area there is a good balance of public open spaces across the classification hierarchy, including a balance of larger and smaller public open spaces. The largest open spaces are Box Hill Gardens, which provides a wide range of unstructured recreational facilities and grassed areas, and Surrey Park which features structured sporting facilities. There is an even distribution of smaller public open spaces across the Structure Plan Area.

There is a predominance of community parks but there are also linear parks, sports parks and civic spaces. As the largest open spaces, Box Hill Gardens and Surrey Park provide destination public open spaces for informal recreation, serving a district catchment across suburbs. Open space for active recreation is provided by Surrey Park, Box Hill City Oval, and Howard Wilson Oval.

Table 11.6 summarises the 19 public open spaces in the Structure Plan Area by their primary function and catchment classification and total combined area (in square metres).

Figure 11.8 shows their location and distribution.

TABLE 11.6 PRIMARY FUNCTION AND CATCHMENT CLASSIFICATION OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACES IN BOX HILL STRUCTURE PLAN AREA

BOX HILL STRUCTURE PLAN AREA	COMMUNITY PARK	LANDSCAPE PARK	NATURE PARK	LINEAR PARK	SPORTS PARK	CIVIC SPACE
POCKET	3 (4,431 m ²)			4 (3,898 m ²)		2 (2,277 m ²)
NEIGHBOURHOOD	1 (6841 m ²)			2 (9,107 m ²)		
COMMUNITY	2 (36,205 m ²)				3 (61,171 m ²)	
DISTRICT	1 (67,073 m ²)				1 (160,910 m ²)	

Table 11.7 shows the diversity rating for public open space for the Structure Plan Area.

Overall, the Box Hill Structure Plan Area rates above average for diversity of public open spaces.

TABLE 11.7 DIVERSITY RATING FOR BOX HILL STRUCTURE PLAN AREA

DIVERSITY CRITERIA		DIVERSITY RATING
ABOVE AVERAGE	More than two thirds of the public open spaces in the Structure Plan Area are represented by catchment and primary function classifications.	✓
AVERAGE	One third to two thirds of the public open spaces in the Structure Plan Area are represented by catchment and primary function classifications.	
BELOW AVERAGE	Less than one third of the public open spaces in the Structure Plan Area are represented by catchment and primary function classifications.	

11.2.3.2 1.6-kilometre station radius

There are 39 public open spaces within a 1.6-kilometre radius (20-minute walk) of the SRL station at Box Hill.

There is a diversity of public open spaces by function, with a predominance of community parks that are well distributed across the 1.6-kilometre station radius. This wider catchment also provides a landscape park (Box Hill Crescent Reserve) and a nature park (Blacks Walk Reserve), which are functional gaps in the Structure Plan Area. Overall, this wider walkable catchment provides a good balance of diverse public open space settings and recreational experiences.

Table 11.8 lists the primary function and catchment classification of the 39 public open spaces in the 1.6-kilometre station radius.

Figure 11.1 shows their location and distribution.

TABLE 11.8 PRIMARY FUNCTION AND CATCHMENT CLASSIFICATION OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACES IN BOX HILL 1.6 KM STATION RADIUS

BOX HILL 1.6 KM STATION RADIUS	COMMUNITY PARK	LANDSCAPE PARK	NATURE PARK	LINEAR PARK	SPORTS PARK	CIVIC SPACE
POCKET	7			4		2
NEIGHBOURHOOD	7	1		2		
COMMUNITY	3			3	6	
DISTRICT	2		1		1	

11.2.3.3 Distribution of Open Space

The distribution of public open space by hierarchy can be assessed through a spatial analysis that applies the walkable catchments for each hierarchy classification identified in section 2.3.2. This analysis considers the different walkable catchments of each classification of public open space by hierarchy (pocket, neighbourhood, community, district) as a different performance indicator to the 'access' gap analysis in section 11.2.1 which identifies how much of the Structure Plan Area is within 400m walkable access to any type of public open space (400m walkable access being a primary metric of this technical assessment).

A high-performing public open space network should be well distributed geographically, so there is a suitable spread of public open spaces by hierarchy. Figure 11.8 incorporates the performance indicator of diversity with the walkable catchments of public open spaces by hierarchy across the Box Hill Structure Plan Area and 1.6-kilometre station radius. The darker purple layers in the map represent a crossover of walkable catchments of different spaces, demonstrating locations of good public open space diversity.

Most of the Box Hill Structure Plan Area is within the catchment of more than one classification of public open space, offering diversity to the local community. The locations with less diversity are the outskirts of the 1.6-kilometre station radius, however, most areas sit within the catchments of neighbourhood and community spaces. The core of Box Hill's Structure Plan Area has good distribution of hierarchy with a mixture of public open space catchments covering this area. Refer to Appendix H for detailed mapping analysis of each open space classification and its associated walkable catchment.

Appendix I includes spatial analysis of the function of each existing public open space in the Structure Plan Area and 1.6-kilometre station radius. Large sports parks are located to the south and east within the Box Hill Structure Plan Area with several sports park to the north and southeast of the 1.6-kilometre station radius. Although it has diverse offerings, Box Hill has more community parks than other functions, ranging from smaller sized pocket parks to the larger Box Hill Gardens and Kingsley Gardens, north of Whitehorse Road. No landscape or nature parks are located in the Structure Plan Area, with Blacks Walk Reserve (a nature park) to the east.

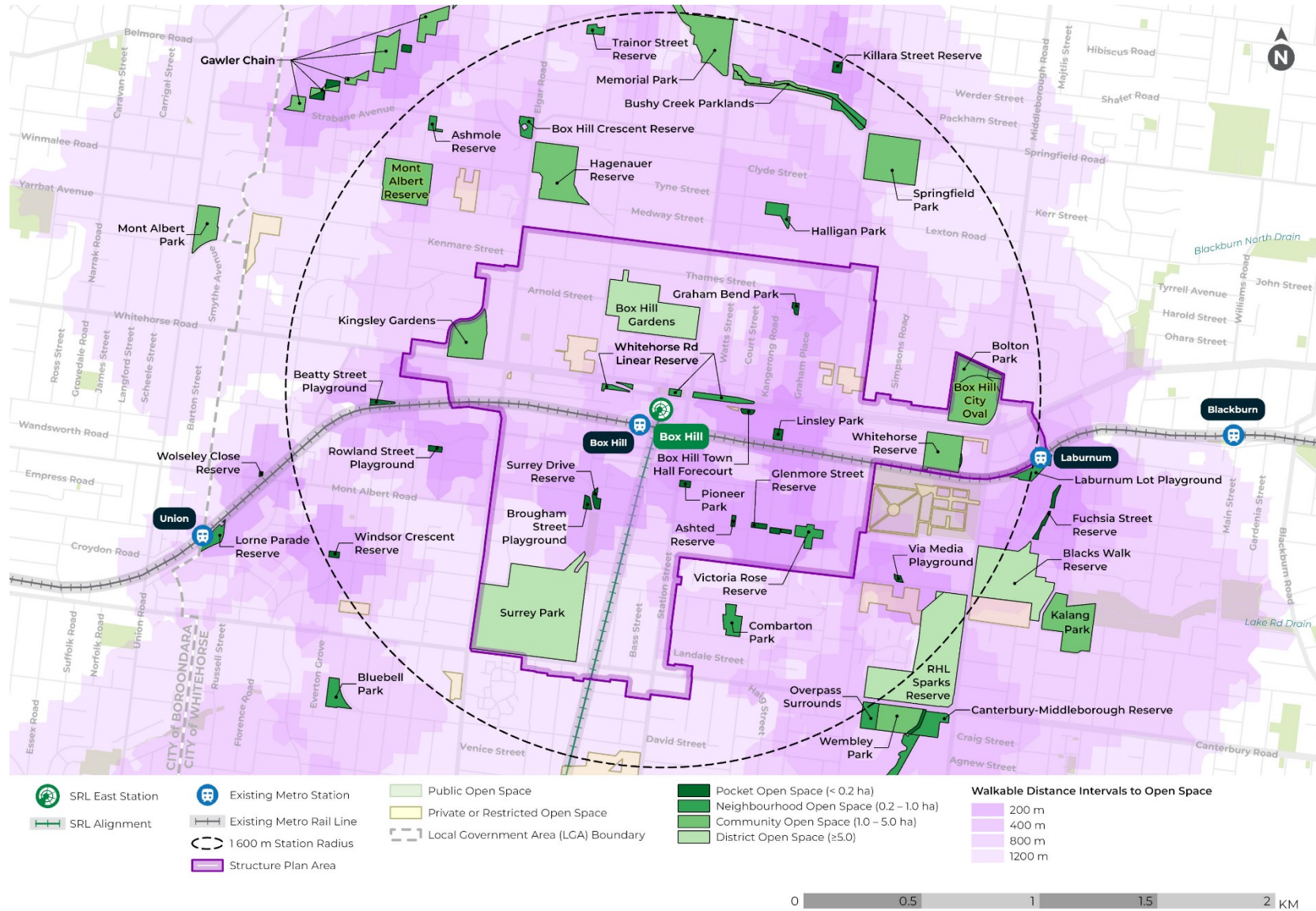


FIGURE 11.8 DIVERSITY OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE BY HIERARCHY

11.2.4 PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE

The secondary metric for assessing the performance of existing public open space networks measures the *provision* of public open space against the provision per capita ratio of 9 m²/person.

The current provision of public open space in the Box Hill 1.6-kilometre station radius is 25.2 m²/person.

TABLE 11.9 EXISTING PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PER PERSON – 1.6 KM STATION RADIUS

1.6 KM STATION RADIUS	CURRENT STATE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE (M ²)	2021 POPULATION (ABS ERP)	PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PER PERSON (M ²)
Box Hill	739,853	29,400	25.2

The current provision of public open space in the Box Hill Structure Plan Area is 26.5 m²/person, as shown in Table 11.10. Both are well above the 9 m²/person ratio.

TABLE 11.10 EXISTING PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PER PERSON – STRUCTURE PLAN AREA

STRUCTURE PLAN AREA	CURRENT STATE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE (M ²)	2021 POPULATION (ABS ERP)	PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PER PERSON (M ²)
Box Hill	351,863	13,300	26.5

11.2.5 CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The challenges and opportunities in transition to higher density areas in relation to the metrics and performance indicators are summarised in Table 11.11.

TABLE 11.11 BOX HILL OPEN SPACE NETWORK PERFORMANCE

OPEN SPACE METRIC	SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE NETWORK	CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES
METRICS		
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the Box Hill Structure Plan Area has access to public open space within a 400-m walk. • There are three significant gaps in access to public open space to be addressed: • Western section of Structure Plan Area, surrounding Lilydale Line (which hinders permeability in the Structure Plan Area) • North-east corner of Structure Plan Area, near Dorking Road. No public open space nearby. Two school grounds are included in the gap area (restricted open space) • Eastern side of the Box Hill Structure Plan Area south of Whitehorse Road. This gap area consists of long street block lengths and a lack of permeability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling a highly pedestrianised and activated core area around the SRL station, including a multi-functional civic square, and active mode transport (walking, cycling) connections to key open space areas including Box Hill Gardens and Surrey Park. • Leveraging the existing open space network by improving connectivity to and enhancing the quality and facilities within them. This will improve the capacity of the existing network as demand increases. • Overcoming the physical barrier created by the existing Lilydale Line, which runs through the centre of the Structure Plan Area. A gap in 400-m walkable access to public open space exists on the western side of the existing Box Hill Station. A strategic pedestrian link would improve connections and open up walkable access, helping to address this gap area. • Overcoming the barrier created by Whitehorse Road. The redevelopment and expansion of the Whitehorse Linear Reserve provides an opportunity to address this. • Addressing the primary gap areas in 400-m walkable access to open space. The primary opportunities lie with new strategic pedestrian linkages that cross barriers, create links between long street blocks and improve permeability and access to existing open space.
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger public open spaces of Kingsley Park, Box Hill Gardens and Surrey Park are high quality and meet the criteria effectively • The lower quality public open spaces are smaller pocket, neighbourhood and community parks. These sites currently have a low level of basic facility provision and maintenance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The challenge is that all public open spaces within the Box Hill Structure Plan Area will need to be high quality (rating 4 or 5) to cater to the increased demand and use anticipated. Currently five public open spaces are rated as 'fair' to 'poor' quality. • The opportunity is to prioritise quality improvements, starting with Brougham Street Playground and Surrey Drive Reserve.
Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current provision of public open space in the Box Hill 1.6 km station radius is 25.2 m²/person, and in the Structure Plan Area is 26.5 m²/person. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main challenge will be the declining level of public open space provision as the population increases, and that this may be perceived as being detrimental to future liveability within the SRL East Structure Plan Areas. • There are opportunities to explore innovative ways to deliver new public open spaces to balance the decrease in open space provision ratios. Improvements in access, quality and diversity of existing public open spaces will assist in maintaining liveability within the SRL East Structure Plan Areas.

OPEN SPACE METRIC	SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE NETWORK	CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS		
Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the Structure Plan Area there are no landscape parks or nature parks • Across the 1.6 km station radius there is good diversity of public open spaces across all functional classifications • For both the Structure Plan Area and the 1.6 km station radius there is good diversity of catchment classifications (pocket, neighbourhood, community, district) • There is an even distribution of smaller and larger public open spaces around the Structure Plan Area and the 1.6 km station radius. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The challenge is to provide a suitably diverse and well distributed mix of public open spaces within the Structure Plan Area, across both the primary function and classification hierarchies • For the Box Hill Structure Plan Area there are no landscape or nature parks • The opportunity is to draw on the wider public open space network across the 1.6 km station radius, which does provide a landscape park (Box Hill Crescent Reserve) and a nature park (Blacks Walk Reserve).

11.3 Future open space needs

Factors influencing future demand for open space in the Box Hill Structure Plan Area include:

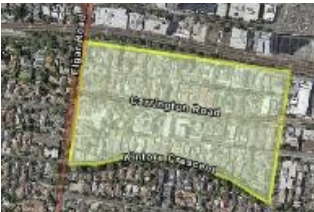
- Local government priorities, opportunities, and feedback
- Population growth forecasts and density projections
- Metrics and performance indicators for access, quality, diversity, and provision of public open space.

11.3.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOX HILL STRUCTURE PLAN AREA

Local government documents relating to public open space in the Box Hill Structure Plan Area are summarised in Table 11.12.

City of Whitehorse's priorities and opportunities are identified, as well as their relevance to the Box Hill Structure Plan Area.

TABLE 11.12 BOX HILL PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

COUNCIL DOCUMENT	PRIORITIES / OPPORTUNITIES	RELEVANCE TO STRUCTURE PLAN AREA
<p>City of Whitehorse Capital Works for 2023/24</p>	<p>Significant capital works initiatives for 2023/24 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Box Hill City Oval major redevelopment in 2023/24, with a key focus being to improve public use of this site which currently offers restricted/modified access during sports games and training • Development of Open Space Master Plans to guide the planning, design, and development of open space sites across Whitehorse so they can be shared and enjoyed by everyone for diverse purposes • Implementation of the Urban Forest Strategy to deliver key actions to better protect, enhance and connect Whitehorse's natural assets • Implementation of the Integrated Water Management (IWM) Strategy actions to reduce dependence on drinking water to sustain parks and gardens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These initiatives will improve the diversity and quality of public open space in the Box Hill Structure Plan Area. • Box Hill City Oval is included in the Structure Plan Area.
<p>Whitehorse Open Space Strategy 2007</p>	<p>Recommendations of the Whitehorse Open Space Strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade facilities at Box Hill Gardens • Investigate provision of new small local open space that connects Victoria / Glenmore Chain to the east of Station Street • Continue to upgrade facilities at Kingsley Gardens • Upgrade the pedestrian connection between Victoria / Glenmore Chain and Surrey Park • Upgrade access connections over the railway line at Linsley Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Box Hill Gardens will be reinstated as part of SRL East, and the upgrading of existing public open spaces and better connecting public open spaces is supported. A new public open space is not proposed to the east of Station Street as this is not a gap area and is considered a lower priority.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former Brickworks site – includes a former landfill which has been capped which will limit development for at least 15 years. A development of about 79 dwellings is anticipated on the rezoned land (as per 2007). The balance of this site is unlikely to develop. The environmental issues make this site undesirable for the City of Whitehorse to assume as open space in the medium to longer-term. Therefore, the new population from this site will use the existing public open space and will contribute to the upgrade of facilities in these reserves. • Continue to upgrade facilities in Kingsley Gardens to accommodate the increased use by Box Hill TAFE students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Former Brickworks site was not developed in the timeframe anticipated in the 2007 Open Space Strategy and remains vacant. It is not located in a significant gap area for public open space access and is not a priority location for open space for this analysis. However, there is opportunity to investigate the potential development of the Box Hill Brickworks site for the broader Box Hill Structure Plan Area, including a portion of the land to potentially be used as public open space.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate provision of new small local open space in the area bounded by the rail line to the north, Elgar Road to the west, Thurston Street to the east and Kintore Crescent to the south. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This location is within an identified significant gap area in walkable (400 m) access to public open space. A new local open space and/or improved links to existing public open spaces in proximity to this area would be appropriate.

COUNCIL DOCUMENT	PRIORITIES / OPPORTUNITIES	RELEVANCE TO STRUCTURE PLAN AREA
Draft for consultation Whitehorse Open Space Strategy 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An draft updated Whitehorse Open Space Strategy was released open for consultation in July – August 2024. • Overall directions the draft strategy sets include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Improve quality of existing open space » Increase diversity of facilities in open space » Provide open space within a safe and easy walk of everyone » Protect and strengthen biodiversity values » Assist to mitigate urban heat island effect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recommendations of this Technical Report generally align with the recommendations of the draft Open Space Strategy, excluding proposed new open spaces in areas that are not considered to be lacking access to public open space. While not considered critical to achieving an acceptable open space network, the additional new public open spaces beyond those included in this Technical Report are generally supported as they would positively contribute to Box Hill's open space network.
Review of Strategic Direction, Box Hill Metropolitan Activity Centre, Analysis and Options (MGS Architects, 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Box Hill Mall (Market Street and Main Street) are noted as relatively undersized for a main urban public space • There is poor access to and useability of the green public space in the centre of Whitehorse Road – more of a median than key open space resource • There is a lack of linking open space in the neighbourhood, specifically between Box Hill Gardens and Kingsley Gardens • The provision and quality of all public spaces should be prioritised to help deliver the amenity benefits sought by the current community and required by future populations • There is potential for green infrastructure and improved pedestrian connections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Street and Main Street will be upgraded with public realm improvements and Whitehorse Road will be reconfigured as part of SRL East • Increased links, provision and improved quality of public open space is supported. Some of this will occur during development of the SRL East Structure Plan Areas.
Box Hill Transit City Structure Plan (City of Whitehorse, 2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Transit City Structure Plan guide the early stages of Box Hill's transformation into a higher-density transit oriented urban centre. Its aims include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Protect and improve access to existing public open spaces » Improve the design and management of public places » Create new public spaces and facilities. • Consider creating a small local park in the residential area south of Hopetoun Parade / east of Elgar Road • Private sector provision of recreational facilities is encouraged through developer contributions • Potential opportunity to enhance open space around the Town Hall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving and creating new public open space is encouraged. Public open space that is impacted by SRL East works will be offset with temporary public open space and reinstated where possible • A new pedestrian link over the Lilydale Line is proposed to reduce the gap in open space provision around Hopetoun Parade, although a future opportunity for new public open space in this area could be investigated.
The Box Hill Metropolitan Activity Centre to 2036 Draft Structure Plan (Box Hill Structure Plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Box Hill Metropolitan Activity Centre to 2036 Draft Structure Plan (Box Hill Structure Plan) is an update to Whitehorse City Council's 2007 Structure Plan. It provides guidance for the future character of streetscapes in the neighbourhoods surrounding the SRL station at Box Hill. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open space investigation areas were reviewed for the assessment provided in this report.
Advocacy for Box Hill Public Realm Outcomes (City of Whitehorse, March 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City of Whitehorse has prepared an advocacy document relating to the development of SRL East, and to seek to positively influence the urban realm at Box Hill. The document focuses on four key areas in Box Hill that are likely to be developed as part of SRL East, including the redesign of the Box Hill Mall (Market Street and Main Street), the Whitehorse Road Linear Reserve and the Pedestrian Promenade (connection from Whitehorse Road to the Box Hill Gardens). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The advocacy document supports Whitehorse Road Linear Reserve becoming a mix of open space and streetscape treatments to create an exciting and vibrant area with a central hub for active and social recreation use, as well as open lawns and landscape treatments. Main Street and Market Street should offer a range of uses with well thought-out streetscape designs. Main Street should include outdoor dining and civic spaces.

11.3.2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FEEDBACK ON THE BOX HILL STRUCTURE PLAN AREA

In the first half of 2024, the City of Whitehorse have provided feedback to SRLA on key directions for the Box Hill Structure Plan, including issues and opportunities related to open space. Feedback included the need to create links across Box Hill, seizing opportunities for enhancing existing open space and identifying oversupply of play spaces and increased demand on passive recreation spaces. Table 11.13 summarises the open space issues and opportunities discussed in relation to public open space for the Box Hill Structure Plan Area.

TABLE 11.13 CITY OF WHITEHORSE FEEDBACK ON OPEN SPACE IN THE BOX HILL STRUCTURE PLAN

ISSUES / OPPORTUNITIES RAISED BY CITY OF WHITEHORSE OFFICERS

- Supportive of temporary public open spaces becoming permanent
- Importance of investment in new public open spaces to ensure provision for future population is provided for
- Opportunity for green elements and creating links across Box Hill
- Opportunity for upgrading and activating existing open spaces. Demand is increasing on passive recreation spaces.
- Consider future role for the former Brickworks site
- Consider school grounds that offer opportunities for shared use of facilities
- Access can be improved with land purchases or links through developments. Open space with more than one road frontage is generally preferred for greater access
- Multiple existing open spaces are identified for upgrades or master plan development.

11.3.3 STRUCTURE PLAN AREA DENSITY PROJECTIONS

The locations of highest projected residential population density in 2041 in the Box Hill Structure Plan Area are centred around the SRL station core and the major arterial roads of Whitehorse Road and Station Street.

As described in Section 5 Principle 4, a high degree of access to public open space for residents and workers becomes a primary requirement in a higher density urban environment. In the highest density areas, greater than 400-metre walkable access to public open space is preferred, so 200 metre-walkable access becomes a desirable benchmark where possible. This is assessed more in the next section.

Figure 11.9 illustrates the 2041 projected population densities for the Box Hill Structure Plan Area at the Structure Plan neighbourhood level.

Figure 11.10 illustrates the 2041 projected employment densities for the Box Hill Structure Plan Area at the Structure Plan neighbourhood level.



FIGURE 11.9 2041 PROJECTED RESIDENTIAL DENSITY FOR BOX HILL STRUCTURE PLAN AREA

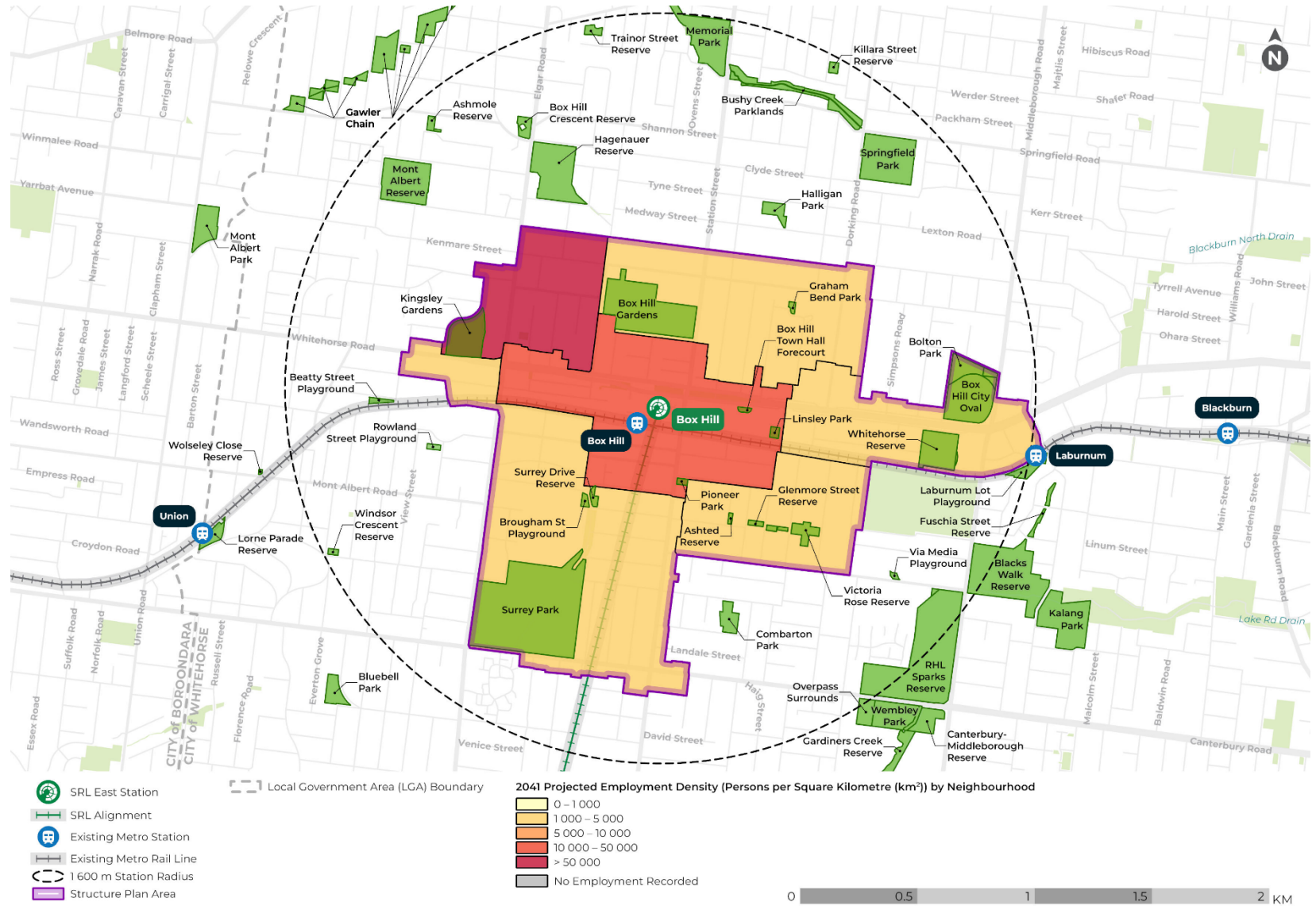


FIGURE 11.10 2041 PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT DENSITY FOR BOX HILL STRUCTURE PLAN

11.3.4 ACCESS

Changes to the open space network in the Box Hill Structure Plan Area are needed to support its transition to a higher density urban environment. These changes include improving walkable access to public open space across the Structure Plan Area, as well as the areas around the SRL station core where the highest population density is expected.

11.3.4.1 Changes needed to support transition to higher density environments

The following changes in the Box Hill Structure Plan Area are needed:

- Close gaps in 400-metre walkable access to public open space to increase the existing 91 per cent coverage to 95 per cent coverage for residents and workers
- Improve 200-metre walkable access to public open space in the highest projected density areas around the SRL station core, where possible.

11.3.4.2 Addressing the 400-metre walkable access gaps

These gaps could be resolved by applying an appropriate balance of the following options:

- Improving access to existing public open space by increasing the permeability of the street network or bridging a major barrier such as a railway line
- Providing new public open space
- Opening private or restricted open space to greater public access (such as a cemetery or school grounds). This option is considered more appropriate as a secondary or support approach to improving access to public open space, and is not relied on as a primary solution in this technical assessment, due to the lack of control and longer-term tenure of such arrangements.


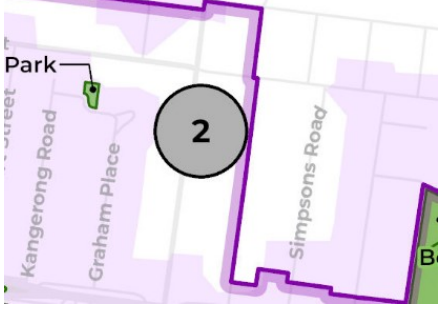
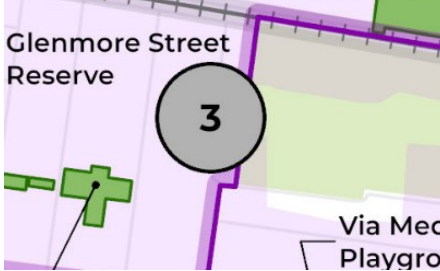
The primary focus for addressing the 400-metre walkable access gaps to public open space in the Box Hill Structure Plan Area is to provide new pedestrian access links to improve permeability and access to existing public open space.

SRL East will improve public open space in the centre of the Box Hill Structure Plan Area. This includes reconfiguring Whitehorse Road (between Nelson Road and Linsley Street) as a linear open space, and the widening of Market Street Plaza, as well as a new plaza as part of the Box Hill Central development (by Vicinity Centres).

Table 11.14 summarises the potential solutions to address the three significant gap areas where public open space cannot be accessed within a 400-metre walk.

Detailed descriptions and rationale for the solutions are provided in Section 11.4.

TABLE 11.14 ADDRESSING GAPS IN ACCESS TO PUBLIC OPEN SPACE IN THE BOX HILL STRUCTURE PLAN AREA

GAP AREA	LOCATION	POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS
Gap Area 1		<p>A new strategic pedestrian link from Nelson Street over the Lilydale Line would improve north-south permeability and partially improve access to public open space in this gap area.</p> <p>The planned Box Hill Central Vicinity private development will provide a new civic space and help address open space provision in this area.</p>
Gap Area 2		<p>A pedestrian link from Graham Bend Park to Thames Street would improve permeability to the north.</p> <p>A strategic pedestrian link between Graham Place and Dorking Road to Clota Avenue would improve permeability where there are long street block lengths and help address the eastern section of this gap area.</p>
Gap Area 3		<p>A new strategic pedestrian link between Victoria Street and Barcelona Street would improve permeability where there are long street blocks, improving access to existing open space at Victoria Rose Reserve.</p>

11.3.5 QUALITY

11.3.5.1 Changes needed to support transition to higher density environments

The following changes in the Box Hill Structure Plan Area are needed:

- Public open spaces will need to be high quality (rating 4 or 5) to cater to future increased demand and use
- Enhancing low-quality public open space sites is a priority, particularly those with the most potential for improvement and activation to optimise their use.

Priorities for quality improvement include Brougham Street Playground and Surrey Drive Reserve due to their lower quality ratings and higher site potential ratings.

Brougham Street Playground is a small community park with a basic playground and seats and has potential for further development and improved maintenance. Surrey Drive Reserve is a neighbourhood linear park that is undeveloped and poorly maintained and has potential for enhancements that would make it more attractive to visit and use.

11.3.6 DIVERSITY

11.3.6.1 Changes needed to support transition to higher density environments

The Box Hill Structure Plan Area has relatively good diversity of public open spaces by classification hierarchy with most areas sitting within the catchment of more than one public open space. There are no landscape park or nature park functions.

The wider walkable catchment of the 1.6-kilometre station radius provides a good balance of diverse public open space settings and recreational experiences, small and large spaces, and an even distribution. This includes the provision of one landscape park and one nature park.

Overall, the Box Hill Structure Plan Area rates above average for diversity of public open space.

11.3.7 PROVISION

11.3.7.1 Changes needed to support transition to higher density environments

Table 11.15 shows the existing public open space provision ratio (square metres per person) for the 1.6-kilometre station radius. Table 11.16 shows the provision ratio once the 2041 population projection is applied (assuming no change in quantum of open space). This shows a decrease from the existing 25.2 m²/person to 14.2 m²/person in 2041. This exceeds the indicator provision ratio of 9 m²/person.

TABLE 11.15 EXISTING PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PER PERSON – 1.6 KM STATION RADIUS

1.6 KM STATION RADIUS	CURRENT STATE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE (M ²)	2021 POPULATION (ABS ERP)	PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PER PERSON (M ²)
Box Hill	739,853	29,400	25.2

TABLE 11.16 PROJECTED PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PER PERSON FOR 2041 – 1.6 KM STATION RADIUS

1.6 KM STATION RADIUS	CURRENT STATE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE (M ²)	PROJECTED POPULATION 2041	PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PER PERSON (M ²)
Box Hill	739,853	52,000	14.2

Table 11.17 shows the existing public open space provision ratio (square metres per person) for the Structure Plan Area. Table 11.18 shows the provision ratio once the 2041 population projection is applied (assuming no change in quantum of open space).

The tables show a decrease in the existing 26.5 m²/person to 12.1 m²/person in 2041. The current provision and 2041 projections exceed the indicator provision ratio of 9 m²/person.

TABLE 11.17 EXISTING PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PER PERSON – STRUCTURE PLAN AREA

STRUCTURE PLAN AREA	CURRENT STATE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE (M ²)	2021 POPULATION (ABS ERP)	PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PER PERSON (M ²)
Box Hill	351,863	13,300	26.5

TABLE 11.18 PROJECTED PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PER PERSON FOR 2041 – STRUCTURE PLAN AREA

STRUCTURE PLAN AREA	CURRENT STATE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE (M ²)	PROJECTED POPULATION 2041	PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PER PERSON (M ²)
Box Hill	351,863	29,100	12.1

11.4 Changes to the open space network

This section describes the potential changes to the open space network in the Box Hill Structure Plan Area.

This includes the purpose and rationale of each potential change and whether it is already planned or is proposed as a recommendation of this assessment. The location of each potential change is mapped to show how it would change the gaps in walkable access to public open space in the Structure Plan Area.

The potential changes are grouped into four categories:

1. **New open spaces** – includes known new open spaces arising from planned private development and proposed new public open space to address a gap in 400-metre walkable access.
2. **Enhanced open spaces** – planned reconfigurations and priority quality improvements and enhancements to existing public open space.
3. **New or enhanced pedestrian links** – proposed strategic pedestrian linkages that will provide a new link to an existing open space, or a street-to-street link, both of which will improve permeability and help address existing 400-metre walkable access gaps to public open space.
4. **Temporary open spaces** – proposed temporary public open spaces that will act as offsets for the loss of any public open space during SRL East construction works where there may be an opportunity to make the temporary open space permanent.

The sites of these potential changes are shown on Figure 11.11, with their category identified by colour coding.

The 'current status' column of the tables in the following sections categorises the site of each potential change as one of the following:

- **Planned** – the open space is already planned, such as by a private developer, council, or by SRLA for SRL East (refer to dark green circles on Figure 11.11)
- **Proposed** – a new public open space, a new or enhanced pedestrian link, or an enhanced or upgraded existing public open space is proposed as a recommendation of this assessment. The locations of proposed new open spaces or links are not fixed, and an alternative location that addresses walkability gaps could be considered (refer to light green circles for new public open space, purple circles for new pedestrian links and yellow circles for enhanced public open spaces on Figure 11.11). The classifications and area of the proposed public open spaces are indicative only. The suggested catchment and functions are based on geographic context and diversity considerations of the broader open space network, however, each new public open space should consider community preferences, current trends, geographic context, sports and recreation participation rates and asset requirements. The indicative area for proposed public open spaces is provided within a range (e.g. 1000 – 3000 m²) for flexibility. The minimum size (e.g. 1000 m²) has been applied to access and provision calculations across this assessment but opportunities to deliver larger spaces (e.g. 3000 m²) may be more beneficial from maintenance/economic, environmental and community perspectives, to be evaluated in future planning processes
- **Future opportunity** – no immediate need is identified but the site should be considered for open space if the opportunity for delivery arises in future and it would contribute appropriately to the existing and future open space network in the Structure Plan Area (not shown on Figure 11.11; see the tables on the following pages for details).


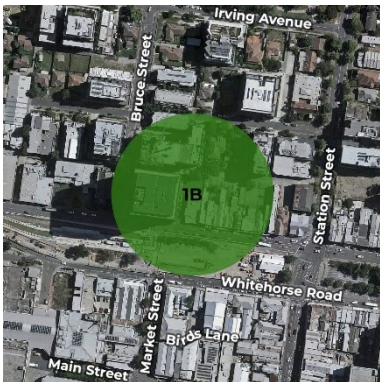
The mapping of the potential changes on Figure 11.11 demonstrates how the 400-metre walkable access gaps to public open space can be resolved.



FIGURE 11.11 WALKABILITY ACCESS FOR POTENTIAL FUTURE OPEN SPACE NETWORK IN BOX HILL STRUCTURE PLAN AREA

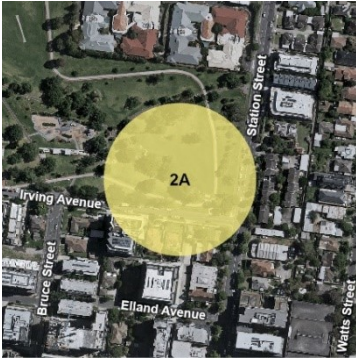

11.4.1 NEW OPEN SPACES


TABLE 11.19 BOX HILL - NEW OPEN SPACES



MAP REF.	LOCATION	PURPOSE	CURRENT STATUS	PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION AND APPROX SIZE	RATIONALE
1A	<p>Box Hill Central Vicinity development, Main St Box Hill.</p> 	<p>The purpose of the open space within Box Hill Central is to support one of Melbourne's largest private mixed-use developments. The public open space will function as a civic space, aiming to open up Box Hill's town centre with a Spanish Steps-inspired amphitheatre, town square and a new extension of Main Street – for hosting events, entertainment, art and music.</p>	<p>PLANNED (by developer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use: Commercial Ownership: Vicinity (owners of Box Hill Central shopping centre) Existing or proposed open space: proposed. Whitehorse City Council approved the first part of Vicinity's 10-year masterplan in mid-2022 Committed or potential: Potential (delivery date of open space unknown). 	<p>Catchment: Local neighbourhood park</p> <p>Function: Civic space</p> <p>Size: 3350 m² (proposed by developer)</p>	<p>Is it required to address a gap in open space provision? No.</p> <p>Not located within a gap in open space provision, but a gap is located approximately 200 m west. This will be located in a higher density area of Box Hill, contributing to improved liveability outcomes for the anticipated increase in population.</p> <p>This planned open space is part of a private development by Vicinity (owners of Box Hill Central Shopping Centre). The proposed public open space will serve a civic space function within the centre of Box Hill. It will be a short walk (less than 200 m) to bus and tram stops, arterial roads and the existing Box Hill Station.</p>
1B	<p>Whitehorse Road – open space around the SRL station (new station plaza).</p> 	<p>Land to be acquired for SRL East purposes (SRL station at Box Hill and surrounds).</p> <p>Will function as pedestrian promenade and associated public spaces around the SRL station entrance.</p>	<p>PLANNED (by SRL Rail and Infrastructure works)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use: commercial (acquired by SRLA) Ownership: SRLA Existing or proposed open space: proposed Committed or potential: committed. 	<p>Catchment: Local pocket park</p> <p>Function: Civic space</p> <p>Size: 1150 m²</p> <p>Fixed size (subject to SRL East approved rail scope).</p>	<p>Is it required to address a gap in open space provision? No</p> <p>Not located within a gap in open space provision, but this will be located in a higher density area of Box Hill, contributing to improved liveability outcomes for the anticipated increase in population.</p> <p>Will function as pedestrian promenade and associated public spaces around the SRL station entrance.</p>

11.4.2 ENHANCED OPEN SPACES

TABLE 11.20 BOX HILL - ENHANCED OPEN SPACES



MAP REF.	LOCATION	PURPOSE	CURRENT STATUS	PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION AND APPROX. SIZE	RATIONALE
2A	<p>Box Hill Gardens</p> 	<p>Box Hill Gardens is a large community district park with amenities including hardstand multi-activity area with courts, table tennis, and shade shelters, playground, two public bathroom facilities, 1 km walking / running track with distance markers, small lake, wide expanses of passive turf grass shaded by mature trees.</p> <p>Once the park is reinstated post-SRL construction, it will continue to serve a wide catchment across Box Hill and the broader area.</p>	<p>PLANNED (by SRL Rail and Infrastructure works)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use: currently open space. Will be partially used as construction area for SRL East Ownership: Whitehorse City Council Existing or proposed open space: Existing – will be temporarily impacted Committed or potential: committed. The balance of the Box Hill Gardens not affected by SRL East is planned to be enhanced, in collaboration with stakeholders to mitigate the temporary loss. 	<p>Catchment: District</p> <p>Function: Community park</p> <p>Size: Fixed size of existing public open space. 67,073 m² (current size and anticipated size of reinstated open space, post SRL East construction).</p>	<p>Is it required to address a gap in open space provision? No.</p> <p>Not located in an area lacking in open space as it is the existing location of Box Hill Gardens. However, the eastern section of Box Hill Gardens will be impacted during construction of SRL East (approximately 16,700 m² of 67,073 m² will be impacted).</p> <p>According to the SRL East Urban Design Strategy, reinstatement of Box Hill Gardens (within the Project Land boundary) will be undertaken post-construction of SRL East in collaboration with stakeholders and in accordance with the Box Hill Gardens Masterplan 2010.</p>
2B	<p>Reconfiguring Whitehorse Road Linear Reserve.</p> 	<p>Whitehorse Road will evolve into a major boulevard and a linear park, transforming the centre of Box Hill with a signature public space. This will create a centrally located, leafy green environment, place-making and recreation opportunities, and offering a place of respite from the activity of the surrounding commercial area.</p>	<p>PLANNED (by SRL Rail and Infrastructure works)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use: currently open space (linear reserve with grassed central median and paved plaza, trees, war memorial). Will be impacted by SRL East construction (100% of the 7130 m² site impacted during construction) Ownership: Whitehorse City Council 	<p>Catchment: District</p> <p>Function: Linear park</p> <p>Size: New size of the Whitehorse Road Linear Reserve will be approximately 18,710 m² which is an additional 11,580 m² of open space from the existing size. The exact size may change, subject to SRL East approved rail scope.</p>	<p>Is it required to address a gap in open space provision? No</p> <p>Not located in a gap area as it is the existing location of Whitehorse Road Linear Reserve.</p> <p>Once SRL East is constructed, public open space will be provided at Whitehorse Road, in accordance with the public open space requirements in the Urban Design Strategy and within the public realm areas as shown in the Surface and Tunnel Plans for SRL East.</p>

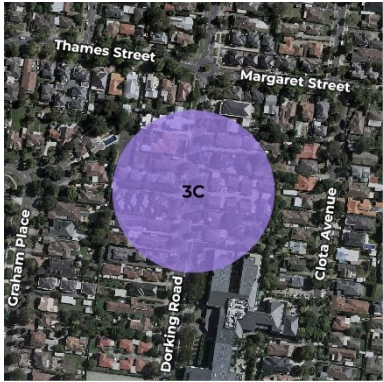

MAP REF.	LOCATION	PURPOSE	CURRENT STATUS	PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION AND APPROX. SIZE	RATIONALE
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing or proposed open space: Existing – will be temporarily impacted (approx. 7 – 10 years) Committed or potential: committed (part of SRL East approval requirements). Once construction is complete, Whitehorse Road linear reserve will be returned as public open space. 		<p>The design detail of the returned and expanded public open space will be subject to the SRL East approved rail scope.</p> <p>Whitehorse Road is not in an area identified as having gaps in open space provision, but the larger and enhanced open space will contribute to liveability outcomes for the anticipated increase in population and enhance urban greening and tree canopy in central Box Hill.</p>
2C	<p>Market Street plaza reconfiguration.</p> 	<p>Public realm improvements integrating Box Hill Central, Main Street and Market Street, will extend over Whitehorse Road, drawing street activity northwards and allowing traders to capitalise on high foot traffic between SRL and the existing Box Hill railway station, buses and trams.</p>	<p>PLANNED (for the SRL rail and infrastructure works)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use: currently pedestrian-focused public space. Will be impacted and reconfigured by SRL East construction Ownership: Whitehorse City Council Existing or proposed open space: Existing – will be impacted and reconfigured Committed or potential: committed (part of SRL East approval requirements and Urban Design Strategy). 	<p>Catchment: Pocket</p> <p>Function: Civic space</p> <p>Size is generally fixed, will be undertaken as part of SRL East construction.</p> <p>Reinstatement / upgrade of Main Street: 2000 m²</p> <p>Market Street: 1900 m²</p>	<p>Is it required to address a gap in open space provision? No.</p> <p>Not located in an area lacking in open space.</p> <p>Main Street and Market Street (Box Hill Mall) provide pedestrian-focused public spaces lined by retail shop frontages and eateries, linking into the Box Hill Central Shopping Centre.</p> <p>The reinstatement / upgrade of Main Street and Market Streets will provide high quality urban spaces and vibrant public realm that enhances amenity and provide opportunities for people to gather, linger and socialise in central Box Hill. While not within an area identified as having gaps in open space provision, the public realm improvements will contribute to liveability outcomes for central Box Hill.</p>

MAP REF.	LOCATION	PURPOSE	CURRENT STATUS	PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION AND APPROX. SIZE	RATIONALE
2D	Brougham Street Playground. 	Quality improvement upgrade	PROPOSED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade existing public open space. 	Catchment: Pocket Function: Community park Size: 1554 m ²	Is it required to address a gap in open space provision? No. Public open space exists at this location. However, Brougham Street Playground currently has very basic facilities with a small playground and seats. It has a lower quality rating and a higher site potential rating, indicating this is a priority site for quality improvement. Improved quality of public open space at this location would contribute to better liveability outcomes for the future population within an expected higher density area.
2E	Surrey Drive Reserve. 	Quality improvement upgrade	PROPOSED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade existing public open space. 	Catchment: Neighbourhood Function: Linear park Size: 1974 m ²	Is it required to address a gap in open space provision? No Public open space exists at this location, but Surrey Drive Reserve is an undeveloped linear reserve. It has a lower quality rating and a higher site potential rating, indicating this is a priority site for quality improvement. Improved quality of public open space at this location would contribute to better liveability outcomes for the future population within an expected higher density area.

11.4.3 NEW / ENHANCED PEDESTRIAN LINKS



TABLE 11.21 BOX HILL – NEW / ENHANCED PEDESTRIAN LINKS

MAP REF.	LOCATION	PURPOSE	CURRENT STATUS	PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION AND SIZE	RATIONALE
3A	<p>Strategic pedestrian link on Nelson St over Lilydale Line.</p> 	<p>New pedestrian connections that remove barriers to connectivity (such as the Lilydale Line that dissects north and south Box Hill) can improve permeability and better connect neighbourhoods with public open space.</p> <p>The proposed pedestrian link would improve permeability in central Box Hill.</p>	<p>PROPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use: railway Ownership: VicTrack (likely ownership) Committed or potential: potential. Existing or proposed open space: proposed pedestrian link / crossing. 	<p>Pedestrian link</p> <p>Size: approx. 30 m long recommended</p>	<p>Is it required to address a gap in open space provision? Yes.</p> <p>A small gap in 400 m walkable access to public open space is located around Hopetoun Parade, Box Hill. This area is dissected by the Lilydale Line. A pedestrian link / crossing would strategically improve pedestrian connectivity and permeability in central Box Hill while closing most of the gap around Hopetoun Parade.</p> <p>New connections through the Box Hill Structure Plan Area link neighbourhoods and destinations. The prioritisation of walking, public transport and placemaking is supported with a general reduction in traffic through the provision of alternative routes and mode share changes. New connections can improve permeability and better connect neighbourhoods with public open space.</p>
3B	<p>Potential open space – access link from Graham Bend Park to Thames St.</p> 	<p>New pedestrian connections can improve permeability and better connect neighbourhoods to public open space.</p> <p>The proposed north-south pedestrian access link would improve permeability in Box Hill and optimise the use of Graham Bend Park.</p>	<p>PROPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use: residential Ownership: private owner Existing or proposed open space: proposed pedestrian links Committed or potential: potential. 	<p>Pedestrian access link</p> <p>Size: approx. 50 m long recommended</p>	<p>Is it required to address a gap in open space provision? Yes.</p> <p>A large gap in 400 m walkable access to public open space is located to the north-east of Graham Bend Park at Thames Street and beyond. A north-south pedestrian access link between Thames Street and Graham Bend Park would strategically improve access and optimise use of existing public open space in this area.</p> <p>New connections through the Box Hill Structure Plan Area link neighbourhoods and destinations, including public open space. Through-block links would improve permeability and better connect Box Hill neighbourhoods with public open space.</p>

MAP REF.	LOCATION	PURPOSE	CURRENT STATUS	PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION AND SIZE	RATIONALE
3C	<p>Strategic pedestrian links between Graham Place, Dorking Road and Clota Avenue.</p> 	<p>New pedestrian connections can improve permeability and better connect neighbourhoods to public open space.</p> <p>The proposed east-west pedestrian access link would improve permeability in Box Hill and optimise the use of Graham Bend Park.</p>	<p>PROPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use: residential Ownership: private owner Existing or proposed open space: proposed pedestrian links Committed or potential: potential. 	<p>Pedestrian access link</p> <p>Size: approx. 250 m recommended</p>	<p>Is it required to address a gap in open space provision? Yes.</p> <p>A large gap in 400 m walkable access to public open space is located to the east of Graham Place and includes Dorking Road. An east-west pedestrian access link between Graham Place, Dorking Road and Clota Avenue would strategically improve connectivity to Graham Bend Park and assist in reducing this gap in access to public open space.</p> <p>New connections through the Box Hill Structure Plan Area link neighbourhoods and destinations, including public open space. Through-block links would improve permeability and better connect Box Hill neighbourhoods with public open space.</p>
3D	<p>Strategic pedestrian link between Victoria St and Barcelona St.</p> 	<p>New pedestrian connections can improve permeability and better connect neighbourhoods to public open space. The proposed east-west pedestrian access link would improve permeability and optimise the use of Victoria Rose Reserve.</p>	<p>PROPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use: residential Ownership: private owner Existing or proposed open space: proposed pedestrian links Committed or potential: potential. 	<p>Pedestrian access link</p> <p>Size: approx. 130 m recommended</p>	<p>Is it required to address a gap in open space provision? Yes.</p> <p>A large gap in 400 m walkable access to public open space is located around Barcelona Street, to the west of Box Hill Cemetery. East-west pedestrian access links between Victoria Street and Barcelona Street would strategically improve connectivity to Victoria Rose Reserve and assist in reducing this gap in access to public open space.</p> <p>New connections through the Box Hill Structure Plan Area link neighbourhoods and destinations, including public open space. Through-block links would improve permeability and better connect Box Hill neighbourhoods with public open space.</p>

11.4.4 TEMPORARY OPEN SPACES

TABLE 11.22 BOX HILL- TEMPORARY OPEN SPACES

MAP REF.	LOCATION	PURPOSE	CURRENT STATUS	PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION AND SIZE	RATIONALE
4A	<p>Proposed temporary public open space – Court St and Watt St, Box Hill (offset).</p> 	<p>Proposed local neighbourhood park. Concept design is not yet complete.</p> <p>Purpose of this public open space is to offset the impacts to Box Hill Gardens during construction of SRL East.</p>	<p>FUTURE OPPORTUNITY (temporary public open space delivered by SRL Rail and Infrastructure works)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use: Former childcare centre and car park Ownership: Whitehorse City Council Existing or proposed open space: Proposed. Will be open for use by the public prior to construction commencing at Box Hill Gardens Committed or potential: Committed as a temporary open space (part of SRL East approval requirements). Opportunity to keep as a permanent open space. 	<p>Catchment: Neighbourhood</p> <p>Function: Community park.</p> <p>Size: 2750 m² – size is fixed (defined land parcels).</p>	<p>Is it required to address a gap in open space provision? No.</p> <p>This is not located in an area with a gap in open space provision, but a gap is located approximately 300 m east. It will be constructed as a temporary public open space to offset the impacts to Box Hill Gardens due to SRL East construction. This centrally located site presents a future opportunity to become permanent and would contribute to improved liveability outcomes for the nearby higher density area and anticipated increase in population in Box Hill.</p> <p>The location of this public open space is appropriate for providing a well distributed public open space network in proximity of projected higher density areas of the Box Hill Structure Plan Area and is recommended to be retained.</p>
4B	<p>Proposed temporary public open space – Ellingworth Parade, Box Hill (offset).</p> 	<p>Proposed local community park. Concept design is not yet complete.</p> <p>Purpose of this public open space is to offset the impacts to Box Hill Gardens during construction of SRL East.</p>	<p>FUTURE OPPORTUNITY (temporary public open space delivered by SRL Rail and Infrastructure works)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use: Car park Ownership: Whitehorse City Council Existing or proposed open space: Proposed. Will be open for use prior to SRL East construction commencing at Box Hill Gardens Committed or potential: Committed as a temporary open space (part of SRL East approval requirements). Opportunity to keep as a permanent open space. 	<p>Catchment: Neighbourhood</p> <p>Function: Community park</p> <p>Size: 3500 m² – size is fixed (defined land parcels).</p>	<p>Is it required to address a gap in open space provision? No.</p> <p>This is not located in an area with a gap in open space provision, but a gap is located approximately 350 m to the east.</p> <p>It will be constructed as a temporary public open space to offset the impacts to Box Hill Gardens due to SRL East construction.</p> <p>This centrally located site presents a future opportunity to become permanent and would contribute to improved liveability outcomes for the anticipated higher density area and increase in population in Box Hill. The location of this public open space is appropriate for providing a well distributed public open space network in proximity of projected higher density areas of the Box Hill Structure Plan Area and is recommended to be retained.</p>

11.4.5 INNOVATIVE OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOX HILL

11.4.5.1 Improving existing public open space

The following are potential sites with opportunities for innovation in enhancing open spaces subject to detailed design, funding and maintenance considerations:

- Proposed enhancements to Box Hill Gardens (outside of the area affected by SRL East) and the reinstatement to be undertaken post-construction of SRL East
- Market Street Plaza civic space reconfiguration, to create a high quality and vibrant public realm space around the new station
- Opportunity for enhancements to existing public open spaces within the Structure Plan Area (beyond those identified in this technical assessment) to meet future community needs. The demand on public open spaces should be monitored over time as the populations grow and urban environments change in the Structure Plan Areas.

11.4.5.2 Creating new public open space

The proposed reconfiguration of Whitehorse Road as part of SRL East will innovatively deliver more usable public open space along the linear reserve.

The following are potential sites and locations with opportunities for innovation in creating new open spaces subject to detailed design, funding and maintenance considerations:

- Former Box Hill Brickworks – subject to future land use planning and master planning decisions this site may offer potential for innovative open space(s) and improved through site connectivity to Surrey Park
- New higher density private developments could provide open space for public use at ground level (such as similar to the Vicinity Box Hill development).

11.4.5.3 Increasing public access to restricted open space

The following are potential sites with opportunities for innovation in the use of restricted open space:

- Box Hill Cemetery
- Our Lady of Sion College
- St Francis Xavier's Catholic Primary School.

Opening up greater public access to these sites would require collaborative shared use agreements.

11.5 Findings

This section summarises the open space assessment findings for the Box Hill Structure Plan Area. Recommendations to consider when developing the Structure Plan for Box Hill are provided.

There are 19 public open space areas in the Box Hill Structure Plan Area. They provide a range of well distributed and functionally diverse public open space and recreational experiences. The most significant public open spaces are Box Hill Gardens, which provides a wide range of unstructured recreational facilities and grassed areas, and Surrey Park which features structured sporting facilities. There is an even distribution of smaller public open spaces across the Structure Plan Area.

There is a diverse and distributed range of public open spaces across the 1.6-kilometre station radius.

The resident population is projected to increase 119 per cent in the Structure Plan Area by 2041. This will increase demand on the open space network.

The planned and recommended changes to the open space network within the Structure Plan Area are:

- Two planned new public open spaces – one by a private developer (Vicinity) and another on Whitehorse Road around the new SRL station at Box Hill (SRLA)
- Proposed enhancements and an increase in size of Whitehorse Road Reserve (SRLA)
- The planned reconfiguration of Market Street Plaza and reinstatement of Box Hill Gardens following construction of SRL East (SRLA)
- Proposed priority quality enhancements for Brougham Street Playground and Surrey Drive Reserve to enable greater use to meet demand
- Four new pedestrian links are proposed – to improve permeability and access to existing public open space
- Two temporary public open spaces within the Box Hill Structure Plan Area will be provided by SRLA as offsets for temporary construction impacts. These could be permanently retained due to their high degree of suitability. A third temporary public open space is likely to be located on Victoria Crescent, Mont Albert. Although this will be located outside the Box Hill Structure Plan Area, this temporary open space will be within walkable access to residents and workers within the north-western section of the Box Hill Structure Plan Area, contributing to the broader open space network.

The two planned new open spaces and proposed increase in size for Whitehorse Road Reserve would add a combined 16,080 m² of public open space to the Box Hill Structure Plan Area. If permanently retained, the two temporary offset sites within the Box Hill Structure Plan Area would add 6250 m².

Adding the planned and proposed open space to the Box Hill Structure Plan Area would achieve the following metrics and performance indicators:

- Access – achieving 96 per cent walkable access coverage within 400 metres to public open space for residents and workers and improved 200-metre walkable access to public open space in the highest projected density areas
- Quality – enhancing low-quality public open spaces to optimise their potential along with subsequent staged quality upgrades will help achieve the need for high-quality open space
- Diversity – offering a diverse range of public open spaces by catchment and primary function across the Structure Plan Area and wider 1.6-kilometre station radius
- Provision – achieving a 2041 projected open space provision ratio of 12.6 m²/person, which is above 9 m²/person.

11.5.1 OUTCOMES IN RELATION TO ACCESS

All the planned and proposed new open spaces and quality enhancements for the Box Hill Structure Plan Area are located in the projected highest density area, connecting quality public open space with the high density living locations.

The outcome of changes to the public open space network would increase the coverage of 200-metre walkable access to public open space in the highest projected density areas in the Central Box Hill neighbourhood (greater than 10,000 persons per square kilometre) from 60 per cent to 77 per cent.

Refer Appendix G which shows the 200-metre walkability coverage of the existing and proposed open space networks in relation to the future projected residential population density. It demonstrates that most (77 per

cent) of the highest projected density areas would have a 200-metre walk to public open space, a bonus improvement on the 400-metre walkable access metric.

In applying the planned new open spaces, and the recommendations for proposed new open spaces and enhanced pedestrian linkages, the projected proportion of the Box Hill Structure Plan Area with 400-metre walkable access to public open space is 96 per cent, as shown in Table 11.23.

The number of existing addresses in the Structure Plan Area with 400-metre walkable access to public open space would also increase from 11,497 to 12,130, which is a 5.5 per cent increase.

The remaining gap areas in the north-east of the Structure Plan Area primarily relate to Our Lady of Scion College and St Francis Xavier’s School, which are both areas with restricted public access to open space. Negotiating increased public access to these areas is identified as an opportunity in Recommendations.

In this context, 96 per cent coverage of 400-metre walkable access to public open space is considered an acceptable outcome for the Structure Plan Area.

TABLE 11.23 PROJECTED PROPORTION OF STRUCTURE PLAN AREA WITH 400 METRE WALKABLE ACCESS TO PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

STRUCTURE PLAN AREA	STRUCTURE PLAN AREA (M ²)	400-METRE WALKABLE COVERAGE AREA (M ²)	PROPORTION OF STRUCTURE PLAN AREA WITH 400-METRE WALKABLE ACCESS
Box Hill	2,915,375	2,793,602	96%

11.5.2 OUTCOMES IN RELATION TO QUALITY

Half the existing public open spaces in the Box Hill Structure Plan Area have a higher quality rating, including the larger public open spaces of Kingsley Park, Box Hill Gardens and Surrey Park. The lower-quality existing public open spaces are smaller pocket, neighbourhood and community parks. These sites currently have a low level of basic facility provision and maintenance.

Priorities for quality improvement include the Brougham Street Playground and Surrey Drive Reserve, due to their higher site potential ratings. Improving the quality of these public open spaces and progressively focusing on the other lower quality ratings will improve the overall capacity of the existing public open space network.

The locations with the highest projected residential population density in 2041 in the Structure Plan Area are centred around the SRL station core and the major arterial roads Whitehorse Road and Station Street.

All the planned and proposed new open spaces and the quality enhancements for the Box Hill Structure Plan Area are located in the highest density area, connecting quality public open space with the high density living locations.

11.5.3 OUTCOMES IN RELATION TO DIVERSITY

There is relatively good diversity of public open spaces with most of the Box Hill Structure Plan Area within the catchment of more than one classification of public open space. The core of Box Hill’s Structure Plan Area has good distribution of hierarchy with a mixture of public open space catchments covering this area.

The wider walkable catchment of the 1.6-kilometre station radius provides a good balance of diverse public open space settings and recreational experiences, small and large spaces, and an even distribution. This includes one landscape park and one nature park (the only two functions not within the Box Hill Structure Plan Area).

Delivering the planned new open spaces in the Structure Plan Area (shown in red text in Table 11.24) will further improve the diversity. Note this excludes the two temporary open space sites referenced in Section 11.4.4 but includes the planned reconfiguration of Market Street Plaza and planned reconfiguration of Whitehorse Road Linear Reserve (changing from a Neighbourhood catchment to District catchment).

Overall, the Box Hill Structure Plan Area rates above average for diversity of public open space.

TABLE 11.24 PRIMARY FUNCTION AND CATCHMENT CLASSIFICATION OF FUTURE PUBLIC OPEN SPACES IN BOX HILL STRUCTURE PLAN AREA

BOX HILL STRUCTURE PLAN AREA	COMMUNITY PARK	LANDSCAPE PARK	NATURE PARK	LINEAR PARK	SPORTS PARK	CIVIC SPACE
POCKET	3			4		2 +2
NEIGHBOURHOOD	1			1		1
COMMUNITY	2				3	
DISTRICT	1			1	1	

11.5.4 OUTCOMES IN RELATION TO PROVISION

The existing provision of public open space in the 1.6-kilometre station radius is 25.2 m²/person, and the projected 2041 provision ratio is 14.2 m²/person (assuming no change in quantum of open space).

As the changes to public open space in this Technical Report are focused within the Structure Plan Area (not the entire 1.6-kilometre station radius) only the current open space provision is included in Table 11.25.

It's likely that some changes to public open space will occur within the 1.6-kilometre station radius (in addition to those planned and proposed in the Structure Plan Area) between 2024 and 2041 but as these changes are unknown and excluded from the recommendations, they are excluded from Table 11.25.

TABLE 11.25 PROJECTED PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PER PERSON FOR 2041 – 1.6 KM STATION RADIUS

1.6 KM STATION RADIUS	CURRENT STATE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE (M ²)	PROJECTED POPULATION 2041	PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PER PERSON (M ²)
Box Hill	739,853	52,000	14.2

The current provision of public open space in the Box Hill Structure Plan Area is 26.5 m²/person. Once the planned new public open space is applied against the 2041 population projection, this results in a projected provision of 12.6m²/person, as shown in Table 11.26. This exceeds the indicator provision ratio of 9 m²/person. If the two temporary public open space sites become permanent, the projected provision would increase to 12.9m²/person.

TABLE 11.26 PROJECTED PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PER PERSON FOR 2041 INCLUDING PLANNED AND PROPOSED PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

STRUCTURE PLAN AREA	PROJECTED PUBLIC OPEN SPACE (M ²)	PROJECTED POPULATION 2041	PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PER PERSON (M ²)
Box Hill	367,943	29,100	12.6

11.6 Recommendations

11.6.1 STRUCTURE PLANNING

Recommendations to inform the development of the Box Hill Structure Plan are listed in Table 11.27. The map references in the table relate to Figure 11.11 (in Section 11.4 above).

Proposed new open spaces, enhanced open spaces and links are recommended to meet future open space demand in the Structure Plan Area.

Recommendations are classified as one of the following:

- **Proposed** – a new public open space, a new or enhanced pedestrian link, or an enhanced or upgraded existing public open space is proposed. The locations of proposed new open spaces or links are not fixed, and an alternative location that addresses walkability gaps could be considered
- **Future opportunity** – the site should be considered if the opportunity for delivery arises in future and would contribute appropriately to the existing and future open space network in the Structure Plan Area.

TABLE 11.27 SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BOX HILL STRUCTURE PLAN AREA

CATEGORY		LOCATION	STATUS	PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION AND APPROX SIZE	RATIONALE
1	Enhanced open space	Brougham Street Reserve (map ref 2D)	Proposed	Catchment: Pocket Function: Community park Size: 1554 m ²	Priority site for quality improvement with lower quality rating and higher site potential rating.
2	Enhanced open space	Surrey Drive Reserve (map ref 2E)	Proposed	Catchment: Neighbourhood Function: Linear Park Size: 1974 m ²	Priority site for quality improvement with lower quality rating and higher site potential rating.
3	New/enhanced pedestrian links	Strategic pedestrian link on Nelson St over Lilydale rail line (map ref 3A)	Proposed	Pedestrian link / crossing Size: approx. 30 m long recommended	To improve pedestrian connectivity and permeability where there is a gap in 400 m walkable access to public open space around Hopetoun Parade.
4	New/enhanced pedestrian links	Potential open space pedestrian access link from Graham Bend Park to Thames St (map ref 3B)	Proposed	Pedestrian access link Size: approx. 50 m long recommended	To improve pedestrian connectivity and permeability where there is a gap in 400 m walkable access to public open space near Graham Bend Park.
5	New/enhanced pedestrian links	Strategic pedestrian link between Graham Place and Clota Avenue via Dorking Road (map ref 3C)	Proposed	Pedestrian access link Size: approx. 250 m long (3C)	An east-west pedestrian access link between Graham Place and Clota Avenue via Dorking Road would strategically improve connectivity to Graham Bend Park and assist in reducing this gap in access to public open space.
6	New/enhanced pedestrian links	Strategic pedestrian link between Victoria St and Barcelona St (map ref 3D)	Proposed	Pedestrian access link Size: approx. 130 m long recommended	East-west pedestrian access links between Victoria St and Barcelona St would strategically improve connectivity to Victoria Rose Reserve and assist in reducing this gap in access to public open space.

11.6.2 FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Future opportunities for general consideration are detailed in Table 11.28.

TABLE 11.28 FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

CATEGORY		LOCATION	STATUS	PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION AND APPROX SIZE	RATIONALE
7	Temporary open space to be made permanent	Court St and Watt St, Box Hill (offset) (map ref 4A)	Future opportunity	Catchment: Neighbourhood Function: Community Park. Size: 2750 m ² – size is fixed (defined land parcels).	Although a temporary open space to offset the impacts to Box Hill Gardens due to SRL East construction, this is ideally located near a gap area approximately 300m east and would be a valuable addition to the open space network.
8	Temporary open space to be made permanent	Temporary open space – Ellingworth Parade, Box Hill (offset) (map ref 4B)	Future opportunity	Catchment: Neighbourhood Function: Community Park. Size: 3500 m ² – size is fixed (defined land parcels).	Although a temporary open space to offset the impacts to Box Hill Gardens due to SRL East construction, this is ideally located near a gap area approximately 350m east and would be a valuable addition to the open space network.
9	Facilitate development that will provide new public open space	Former Brickworks site, Federation Street Box Hill	Future opportunity	Further investigation required.	Due to its proximity to Surrey Park, the Brickworks site is not located within an area without walkable access to public open space. However, in considering the sites future land use and in any master planning there is an opportunity to consider a portion of the land being used as public open space.
10	Future opportunity for new public open space	Between Hopetoun Crescent and Kintore Crescent, Box Hill	Future opportunity	Further investigation required.	Future opportunity to investigate the delivery of public open space around the area between Hopetoun Crescent and Kintore Crescent, Box Hill, to increase provision and access to public open space in this area.
11	Increase public access to restricted open space	Box Hill Cemetery, Our Lady of Sion College, and St Francis Xavier's Catholic Primary School	Future opportunity	N/A	To complement access to public open space, and help to address a gap in 400 m walkable access to POS. This can be achieved through collaborative shared user agreements.
12	Enhancements to existing public open spaces (beyond those identified)	Existing public open spaces within the Structure Plan Area	Future opportunity	N/A	Opportunity for enhancements to existing public open spaces within the Structure Plan Area (beyond those identified in this technical assessment) to meet future community needs. The demand on public open spaces should be monitored over time as the populations grow and urban environments change in the Structure Plan Areas.

References

Documents reviewed for this Open Space assessment:

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- Victorian Planning Authority, 2017, Structure Plan Area Structure Planning Guidelines – Preparing the Structure Plan Area Structure Plan
- Western Australia Government, 2012, Public Open Space Classification Framework

Appendix A
**Summary of all
Recommendations**



TABLE A.1 SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL CHANGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CHANGES TO OPEN SPACE NETWORKS WITHIN THE STRUCTURE PLAN AREAS	CHELTENHAM	CLAYTON	MONASH	GLEN WAVERLEY	BURWOOD	BOX HILL
Anticipated total population in Structure Plan Area by 2041	20,800 (121% increase from 2021)	26,900 (89% increase from 2021)	17,900 (79% increase from 2021)	11,700 (65% increase from 2021)	11,100 (109% increase from 2021)	29,100 (119% increase from 2021)
Public open spaces already planned for future delivery (by SRLA, local councils, private developers)	4	3	2	3	3	2
This assessment's proposed new public open spaces (to address gaps in public open space provision)	4	6	9	3	3	0
Total area of existing public open space in SRL East Structure Plan Area	112,890 m ²	112,879 m ²	53,252 m ²	59,256 m ²	301,413 m ²	351,863 m ²
Total area of new public open space to be added to the SRL East Structure Plan Area*	135,650 m ²	20,930 m ²	29,180 m ²	8,660m ²	17,780 m ²	16,080 m ²
OPEN SPACE METRICS						
ACCESS						
Existing proportion of SRL East Structure Plan Area within 400m walkable access to public open space	60%	60%	47%	67%	86%	91%
Projected proportion of SRL East Structure Plan Area within 400m walkable access to public open space (once potential changes are implemented)	94%**	95%**	93%**	95%	96%	96%
Number of proposed pedestrian links to improve access to existing public open spaces	7	3	5	0	2	4
QUALITY						
Number of proposed quality enhancements of existing public open spaces	1	2	3	2	2	5
PROVISION						
Projected open space provision ratio (per person) for SRL East Structure Plan Areas	11.9 m ²	5 m ²	4.6 m ²	5.8 m ²	28.8 m ²	12.6 m ²
Projected open space provision ratio (per person) for 1.6-km station radius surrounding the SRL East Structure Plan Area***	12.3 m ²	15.5 m ²	9.2 m ²	13.1 m ²	31.9 m ²	14.2 m ²
DIVERSITY						
Diversity rating of public open spaces once proposed changes are implemented (above average / average / below average) ****	Above average	Above average	Above average	Above average	Above average	Above average
FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES						
Number of temporary public open spaces to make permanent	0	2	0	0	1	2
Number of private and restricted open spaces to potentially open for public access	1	0	2	3	2	3

*Excludes temporary public open spaces as they are identified as opportunities.

**Excludes large land parcels where public open space cannot be delivered. See report for further details on 400m walkable access coverage.

***Assumes no change in quantum of public open space within the 1.6km station radius. Public open space changes only applied to Structure Plan Area projections.

****Refer to Diversity of Open Space sections within each Structure Plan Area in the body of this technical report for diversity ratings and criteria information.

Appendix B
**Open Space
Definitions and
Classifications**



A range of strategies and policy documents were reviewed to identify appropriate definitions of open space, as demonstrated in the table below. The use of 'public open space,' 'restricted open space' and 'private open space' was common across most documents. The review guided the definitions described in Section 2.3 of this report.

TABLE B.1 REVIEW OF OPEN SPACE DEFINITIONS

OPEN SPACE DEFINITIONS	AJM ADAPTED DEFINITION	VPA METROPOLITAN OPEN SPACE NETWORK: PROVISION AND DISTRIBUTION 2017	PLANNING PRACTICE NOTE 70: OPEN SPACE STRATEGIES (DELWP 2015)	OPEN SPACE FOR EVERYONE, (DELWP 2021)	CITY OF MONASH OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2021	CITY OF KINGSTON 2023-2033 OPEN SPACE STRATEGY	CITY OF WHITEHORSE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2007	CITY OF BAYSIDE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2012	ARDEN PUBLIC REALM AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY (AECOM, 2020)	FISHERMANS BEND PUBLIC SPACE STRATEGY (PLANISPHERE 2017)
General Definition of Open Space	Open space is land that provides for a mixture of recreation, leisure, environmental and visual amenity benefits.	Land that provides outdoor recreation, leisure and/or environmental benefits and/or visual amenity	Open space is land that provides recreation and leisure benefits.	Public land and waters that provide for one or more of these purposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor recreation • Leisure • Environmental and cultural benefits • Visual amenity and off-road active transport. 	Publicly owned land that is set aside for public use and access. This can include parks, gardens, reserves, trails, waterways, civic forecourts and plazas.	Spaces which are publicly owned, accessible and available primarily for nature conservation, passive outdoor enjoyment, public gatherings, sport and recreation, and visual amenity.	Publicly owned land that currently or in the future has potential to be set aside primarily for recreation and/or nature conservation purposes.	Publicly owned land that is currently, or has the potential to be, set aside for formal and informal sport and recreation, preservation of natural environments, provision of green space and / or urban stormwater management.	Publicly owned land that is freely accessible to the community and primarily for outdoor recreation and leisure. Public Open Space includes public parks, public gardens, squares and reserves.	This Strategy identifies two categories of public space: publicly owned and privately owned space,
Public Open Space	Publicly owned land that is accessible to the community; is for the primary purpose of outdoor recreation and leisure, conservation, waterways, and/or heritage; and provides one	Public open space is publicly owned land that: 1. Is accessible to the community. 2. Is set aside for the primary purpose of outdoor recreation and leisure, conservation, waterways,	Public open space is land in public ownership and/or under public management that provides recreation and leisure benefits.	Accessible public land and waters, for which the primary purpose is open space for one or more of the purposes above.	Public open space is land that is publicly owned and accessible. This normally is Council owned land, but it can also be State owned land such as a Parks Victoria	Public Open Space is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicly owned • Publicly accessible • Primary purpose is active recreation, sport and play, conservation, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public land owned and managed by Council • Public land owned by other government agencies and managed by Council • Public land owned and 	Publicly owned land that is currently, or has the potential to be, set aside for formal and informal sport and recreation, preservation of natural environments, provision of green space and / or urban	Unencumbered public open space: Public open space that is generally free of physical and infrastructure features, or other functions that would limit its development, access or use for outdoor	'Publicly owned space' are areas owned by the government or other public authority for use and enjoyment by the community. They are generally accessible 24 hours with no

OPEN SPACE DEFINITIONS	AJM ADAPTED DEFINITION	VPA METROPOLITAN OPEN SPACE NETWORK: PROVISION AND DISTRIBUTION 2017	PLANNING PRACTICE NOTE 70: OPEN SPACE STRATEGIES (DELWP 2015)	OPEN SPACE FOR EVERYONE, (DELWP 2021)	CITY OF MONASH OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2021	CITY OF KINGSTON 2023-2033 OPEN SPACE STRATEGY	CITY OF WHITEHORSE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2007	CITY OF BAYSIDE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2012	ARDEN PUBLIC REALM AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY (AECOM, 2020)	FISHERMANS BEND PUBLIC SPACE STRATEGY (PLANISPHERE 2017)
	or more of outdoor recreation, leisure and environmental benefits and /or visual amenity.	and/or heritage; and 3. Provides one or more of outdoor recreation, leisure and environmental benefits and/or visual amenity.			reserve that is open to the public, or a Melbourne Water easement that has a shared pathway provided on it.	waterways and/or heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides one or more of outdoor recreation, leisure and environmental benefits and/ or visual amenity. 	managed by other State government agencies which is currently zoned open space; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public land owned and managed by Melbourne Water which is reserved for water supply, drainage and flood management purposes and is therefore unlikely to be sold for other purposes. 	stormwater management. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All land zoned Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) All land zoned Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ) All publicly owned land used as open space, but not zoned PPRZ or PCR. 	recreation and leisure activities. Encumbered public open space: Publicly owned land set aside for other primary purposes such as conservation, waterways, flood management, heritage and utility and transport infrastructure that can also be made available for community recreation and amenity purposes. Access to and use of these spaces may vary depending on the level of encumbrance that the primary purpose impose.	fee required to use the space. These areas include parks, public forecourts and plazas and sports fields. Publicly owned space also includes streetscapes, roads and footpaths, however these areas do not count towards public open space contributions.
Restricted Open Space	Publicly owned land that is open space but where public access	Restricted public land is publicly owned land:	N/A	Restricted public land and waters, for which the primary	Restricted public open space is land that is public owned open	Publicly owned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public access and/or use restricted 	Ancillary open space is publicly owned land that is not formally	'Public realm spaces' include:	Public open space that is freely accessible to the community	Encumbered publicly owned spaces are constrained. Encumbered

OPEN SPACE DEFINITIONS	AJM ADAPTED DEFINITION	VPA METROPOLITAN OPEN SPACE NETWORK: PROVISION AND DISTRIBUTION 2017	PLANNING PRACTICE NOTE 70: OPEN SPACE STRATEGIES (DELWP 2015)	OPEN SPACE FOR EVERYONE, (DELWP 2021)	CITY OF MONASH OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2021	CITY OF KINGSTON 2023-2033 OPEN SPACE STRATEGY	CITY OF WHITEHORSE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2007	CITY OF BAYSIDE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2012	ARDEN PUBLIC REALM AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY (AECOM, 2020)	FISHERMANS BEND PUBLIC SPACE STRATEGY (PLANISPHERE 2017)
	and/or use is restricted. It may comprise of land primarily used for public services including transport, education, water, health or utilities; but also provides outdoor recreation, leisure, environmental benefits and/or visual amenity.	1. Where public access and/or use is restricted; 2. That is set aside for the primary purpose of outdoor recreation, conservation, heritage and/or services including transport, education, water, health or utilities; but 3. That provides one or more of outdoor recreation, leisure and environmental benefits and/or visual amenity.		purpose is open space for one or more of the purposes above, but that has limited accessibility or uses due to leases, agreements, specialised sporting infrastructure or conservation protection overlays	space, but access or use is restricted. This includes Council owned golf courses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary purpose is outdoor recreation, conservation, heritage and/or services, including transport, education, water, health or utilities Provides one or more of outdoor recreation, leisure and environmental benefits and/or visual amenity. 	reserved as open space but is regularly used for recreational purposes by the community. This includes streets, urban plazas, public schools, public universities, colleges and railway reserves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rail and road corridors Pedestrian and bicycle routes and linkages Streetscapes Schools, kindergartens and childcare centres Cemeteries Outdoor civic spaces, gathering or meeting spaces. 	on a restricted or fee-paying basis, typically due to organised or club-managed sporting activity.	spaces include easements for high voltage power lines, easements for pipelines, areas under bridges, waterways, drainage areas, wetlands, and conservation areas.
Private Open Space	Land that is privately owned or leased on a long-term basis to private operators, and where public access is prohibited or significantly restricted, but that may still contribute environmental	Private open space is land that is privately owned or leased on a long term basis to private operators, and where public access is prohibited or significantly restricted, but that may still contribute	Private open space is land that is privately owned and provides recreation and leisure benefits.	Encumbered or restricted public land and waters, for which the primary purpose is not open space for one or more of the purposes defined above but which could potentially have use for	Private open space is land that is privately owned or leased and is not accessible to the public or access is significantly restricted. This would include a private golf course or school land that is not	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Privately owned or leased on a long-term basis to private operators Public access is prohibited or significantly restricted 	Privately owned open space contributes to the landscape significance and habitat values of Whitehorse. Like streets and civic spaces, they may provide important links between open	privately owned spaces and schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Privately owned golf courses; Privately owned recreation facilities where they have the potential to contribute 	Private open space is not part of the public realm (either on ground level or above) that can be either publicly accessible or restricted to private or communal use for occupants of a	Privately owned space is land that is available for public use or enjoyment, however is not owned by the public. These areas are owed by private organisations, companies or individuals and

OPEN SPACE DEFINITIONS	AJM ADAPTED DEFINITION	VPA METROPOLITAN OPEN SPACE NETWORK: PROVISION AND DISTRIBUTION 2017	PLANNING PRACTICE NOTE 70: OPEN SPACE STRATEGIES (DELWP 2015)	OPEN SPACE FOR EVERYONE, (DELWP 2021)	CITY OF MONASH OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2021	CITY OF KINGSTON 2023-2033 OPEN SPACE STRATEGY	CITY OF WHITEHORSE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2007	CITY OF BAYSIDE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2012	ARDEN PUBLIC REALM AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY (AECOM, 2020)	FISHERMANS BEND PUBLIC SPACE STRATEGY (PLANISPHERE 2017)
	benefits and visual amenity.	environmental benefits and visual amenity.		one or more of the purposes above as a secondary, complementary purpose(s). Primary purposes include transport, health, education and utilities.	accessible to the public; or a utilities easement that acts as a buffer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May still provide public benefits via environmental services and visual amenity. 	space but their longevity cannot be guaranteed unless they are acquired for open space purposes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to Council's open space network if there was to be a change of ownership or use; Schools where Council has a formal arrangement to use space for sporting activities. 	development and their visitors.	may be accessed with or without fee.

A range of strategies and policy documents were reviewed to identify appropriate terms for classifying the *catchment* classifications of open space. The table below demonstrates the broad range of catchments used in the listed documents, including the size and walkable catchment area. This review guided the catchment classifications adopted for this technical assessment which are generally aligned with the below (described in Section 2.3).

TABLE B.2 REVIEW OF OPEN SPACE CATCHMENT CLASSIFICATION

CATCHMENT CLASSIFICATION	VICTORIAN PLANNING AUTHORITY METROPOLITAN OPEN SPACE NETWORK: PROVISION AND DISTRIBUTION 2017	PLANNING PRACTICE NOTE 70, DEPT OF LAND, WATER AND PLANNING 2015	CITY OF MONASH OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2021	CITY OF KINGSTON 2023-2033 OPEN SPACE STRATEGY	CITY OF WHITEHORSE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2007	CITY OF BAYSIDE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2012	CITY OF MELBOURNE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2012	DRAFT GREENER PLACES DESIGN GUIDE, GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT NSW, 2020	PARKS AND LEISURE AUSTRALIA - WESTERN AUSTRALIA GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE 2020	CITY OF LONDON OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2015
POCKET (LESS THAN 2000 M ²)	<0.2 ha, 200-400 m walkable catchment			Local / pocket park: <0.2 ha, 400 m walkable catchment	Small Local: <0.25 ha, 150 m walkable catchment		Small Local: 0.03-0.25 ha, 300 m walkable catchment		Small Local: <0.4 ha, within 400 m catchment	Under 4 ha, <400 m walkable catchment
LOCAL			0.5-1 ha, 400 m walkable catchment of 95% of all dwellings		<1 ha, 300 m walkable catchment	0.12-2.5 ha	Min 0.26-0.9 ha, 300 m walkable catchment	0.3-2 ha, 400 m from most houses	0.4-1 ha, 400 m catchment	2 ha, 400 m walkable catchment
NEIGHBOURHOOD	0.2-1 ha, 400 m walkable catchment			0.2-1ha, 400 m walkable catchment	Min. 1 ha, 500 m walkable catchment		Min 1 ha, 500 m walkable catchment		1-5ha, 800m catchment	
COMMUNITY	1-5 ha, 800 m walkable catchment									
DISTRICT	5-15 ha, 1200 m walkable catchment		1ha+. Approx. 1 per suburb or 1 km distance of every residence	3-10 ha, 1000 m walkable catchment		0.5-5 ha		2-5ha, 2km from most houses	5-15ha, 2km catchment	20 ha, 1.2 km walkable catchment
MUNICIPAL	15-50 ha, >0-5 km travel distance				Min 3 ha, 2 km travel distance	Municipal / Regional 3-30 ha	Min 3 ha, 2km travel distance			Metropolitan parks: 60 ha, 3.2 km catchment
REGIONAL	>50ha, up to 15km travel distance		One or two per municipality.	>10 ha, 1000 m walkable catchment	Unlimited, no specific travel distance		Unlimited, no specific travel distance	>5 ha, 5-10-km from most houses	15 ha or greater, 10 km catchment	400 ha, 3.2 – 8 km catchment

A range of strategies and policy documents were reviewed to identify appropriate terms for classifying the *function* of open space. Table B.3 demonstrates the grouping of words that have same or similar themes to describe a function of public open space used within the listed documents. The grouping of words to describe open space function classifications guided the classifications adopted for this technical assessment and described in Section 2.3.

TABLE B.3 REVIEW OF OPEN SPACE FUNCTION CLASSIFICATIONS

AJM CLASSIFICATIONS	FUNCTION CLASSIFICATION THEMES	PLAN MELBOURNE 2017-2050, DEPT OF LAND, WATER AND PLANNING	VICTORIAN PLANNING AUTHORITY METROPOLITAN OPEN SPACE NETWORK: PROVISION AND DISTRIBUTION 2017	PLANNING PRACTICE NOTE 70: OPEN SPACE STRATEGIES, DEPT OF LAND, WATER AND PLANNING 2015	OPEN SPACE FOR EVERYONE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY FOR METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE, DEPT OF LAND, WATER AND PLANNING 2021	CITY OF MONASH OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2021	CITY OF KINGSTON 2023-2033 OPEN SPACE STRATEGY	CITY OF WHITEHORSE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2007	CITY OF BAYSIDE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2012
Linear park	Linear park / walking / cycling trails / accessway	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Landscape park	Landscape / Passive recreation / relaxation		✓			✓		✓	✓
Civic space	Civic space / civic square / plaza	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sports park	Sport / sporting ground, sports fields	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Community park	Recreation, social / family, parks, gardens, memorial / remembrance garden, cultural, community gardens, play / playgrounds			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nature park	Nature / conservation / botanical / bushland, water body/coast.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Private or restricted open space	Private and/or restricted open space, cemeteries, school and university grounds, drainage, reservoirs.	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓

Appendix C

Case studies



TABLE C.1 CASE STUDIES OF OPEN SPACE METRICS

CASE STUDY	WHAT IS IT?	WHICH METRICS ARE USED?	RELEVANCE TO SRL
<p>ARDEN URBAN RENEWAL STRUCTURE PLAN AREA MELBOURNE, VICTORIA</p>	<p>Arden is an urban renewal Structure Plan Area in Melbourne's inner north-west. Located around the Metro Tunnel's new Arden Station, Arden will become an employment and innovation Structure Plan Area and new neighbourhood that will accommodate 34,000 jobs and 15,000 residents by 2051. The Arden Structure Plan and amendment C407melb in the Melbourne Planning Scheme supports the delivery of 1.24 ha of unencumbered, unrestricted open space, with additional open space proposed to expand the existing network (including rejuvenation of Moonee Ponds Creek corridor). The Advisory Committee ensured planning controls included the protection of open spaces from natural impacts like wind and overshadowing from buildings and the application of appropriate public open space contribution requirements.</p>	<p>The vision for the Arden Structure Plan Area includes the following planned outcomes:</p> <p>Open space within 300 m walking distance of all residents and workers.</p> <p>Minimum of 7.06% of land available for development allocated for open space (aligning with City of Melbourne requirements).</p>	<p>Similar to the Structure Plan Areas for SRL East, Arden is located in Melbourne with plans to develop an employment and residential urban renewal Structure Plan Area centred around a new train station. The Structure Plan Area requires new open space to provide for densification and population growth. The metric of open space within 300 m of all residents and workers is appropriate given Arden's relatively compact size and the location of existing open spaces in and around the Structure Plan Area. The SRL East Structure Plan Areas are many magnitudes larger than Arden and their constrained urban contexts would make it difficult to achieve 300 m walkable access to open space across the entire area.</p>
<p>FISHERMANS BEND MELBOURNE, VICTORIA</p>	<p>Fishermans Bend is Australia's largest urban renewal project covering approximately 480 ha in the heart of Melbourne.</p> <p>Fishermans Bend consists of five Structure Plan Areas across two municipalities – the City of Melbourne and the City of Port Phillip – and connects Melbourne's CBD to the bay. By 2050, it will be home to approximately 80,000 residents and provide employment for up to 80,000 people. In the Employment Structure Plan Area 5% of new development land and in all other Structure Plan Areas 8% of new developable land that is to be subdivided is allocated to open space across Fishermans Bend.</p> <p>Land in Fishermans Bend is largely privately owned, therefore a flexible approach to the delivery of public open space is being adopted (outside of subdivision requirements). There is a combination of developer contributions, State Government and local council funding supplemented by opportunities for other forms of public space including streetscapes, encumbered and private open space to ensure enough public open space can be provided through the Structure Plan Area's growth.</p>	<p>Target of a maximum 200 m safe walking distance between residents and workers to accessible open space. The Fishermans Bend Planning Review Panel supported this metric in principle, however, it suggested it should not be applied too restrictively as this is the more stringent end of open space access requirements (generally between 200-400 m walkable distance).</p> <p>Target provision of 9 m² public open space per person, aligning with the World Health Organisation's informally recommended figure. This target includes public open space of linear parks, excludes streetscapes and privately owned open space. It refers to public open space zoned as PPRZ and applies a combined resident and worker population.</p>	<p>Similar to the SRL East Structure Plan Areas, Fishermans Bend will be home to a high-density community within a shifting urban landscape. It has comparable public open space needs in which the existing and planned public open space must be high quality, diverse and flexible to compensate for lack of private open space.</p> <p>Although the 9 m² per person metric falls short of other major cities (e.g., New York 15 m² per resident, Amsterdam 14 m² per resident, Barcelona 10m² per resident), the Fishermans Bend Planning Review Panel considered this metric appropriate in the broader context of Fishermans Bend's surrounds which include major open space areas and the Port Phillip foreshore. Accessibility of open space was another important factor, with highly permeable and accessible walking and cycling networks in the Structure Plan Areas.</p> <p>A metric of 200 m walking distance to open space would be difficult to achieve across all SRL East Structure Plan Areas due to their large size and constrained urban contexts. 200 m walkable access could be applied to the higher density areas to improve liveability outcomes where private open space may be lacking.</p>

CASE STUDY	WHAT IS IT?	WHICH METRICS ARE USED?	RELEVANCE TO SRL
BOWDEN STRUCTURE PLAN AREA, ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA	<p>Bowden is a former industrial site, now mixed-use urban renewal Structure Plan Area located 2.5 km north-west of Adelaide's CBD. Bowden is a walkable development designed to feature shared streets and open spaces, located adjacent to tram and train stations, walking and cycling trails and Adelaide's Park Lands. The site area is 16 ha, with 2400 dwellings (150 dwellings per hectare) and 12.25% open space (1.96 ha). A network of open space has been developed with a hierarchy that reflects the three components of catchment size, type of activities and physical size.</p>	<p>Bowden has allocated 12.25% open space within the Structure Plan Area. Open space provision is measured by the relevant local council, City of Charles Sturt, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 400 m walking distance to regional and district open space » 300 m walking distance to local and neighbourhood reserves. 	<p>Bowden was the South Australian Government's first higher density urban infill project. Like the SRL East Structure Plan Areas, it shifted the landscape to a higher density, focusing on delivering walkable access to flexible, high quality public open spaces in lieu of residential private open space.</p> <p>The SRL East Structure Plan Areas are larger and more constrained within existing urban contexts than the Bowden infill site. The allocation for 12.25% open space and 300m walkable access would likely be difficult to apply, however the 400 m walkable access may be achievable in most contexts within the SRL East Structure Plan Areas.</p>
BELLA VISTA AND KELLYVILLE PRECINCTS, SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES	<p>Priority high growth areas have been identified near transport hubs in Greater Sydney for accelerated rezoning to create capacity for new housing. Open space needs assessments were undertaken to consider the current and future open space requirements for Bella Vista and Kellyville. The assessment included open space trends, appropriate hierarchies and size to accommodate future populations and recommended options to deliver potential enhancements and new open spaces.</p>	<p>A population benchmark of 1 ha per 1000 people estimate for the provision of public open space. The following proximity benchmarks are also recognised by the open space needs assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 400 m distance to local parks • 2 km to district parks • 5 km for regional parks and reserves. <p>A broader approach was applied to the assessment that identified any areas within the new precincts that lack parks and reserves within a 200 m and 400 m distance.</p>	<p>Similar to SRL, the precincts identified for rezoning in Greater Sydney are located in existing metropolitan areas that anticipate strong population growth around transportation hubs. The metrics are applied with a layered approach, recognising the typology and approximate location where new public open spaces are required, as well as identified enhancements to existing spaces and the need for innovation and creating thinking to ensure adequate public open space provision to meet the diverse needs of future populations.</p>
THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM	<p>The City of London's small green spaces are considered 'hidden gems' creating a network of green space across the Square Mile, providing respite for the City's residents, workers and visitors.</p> <p>There are 376 sites of open space within the City of London. Overall, there are approximately 32.09 ha of open space of which 25.66 ha is publicly accessible. Due to a large influx of workers and students to the City of London on weekdays, open space audits measure how much publicly accessible open space is available for the daytime weekday population. In 2015 there was 0.06 ha of open space per 1000 weekday daytime population.</p> <p>There is no consistent and current nationwide public open space provision metric in England. However, common open space standards such as 1.6 ha per 1000 people (the National Playing Fields Association standard) were deemed inappropriate for the urban landscape and circumstances within the City of London. Instead, the existing level of provision is used as a benchmark to maintain as growth in employment populations are anticipated in this location.</p>	<p>The existing level of provision is used as a benchmark (0.06 ha per 1000 weekday daytime population) with an aim to maintain this existing ratio of public open space to population.</p> <p>A second metric of increasing the amount of high quality public open space and creating additional public open space is used in the areas of the city that are lacking. Ongoing consultation and engagement with users of open space as well as surveys within the Open Spaces Department provide understanding of demand of open space and perceptions of quality. Opportunities to improve the quality of existing open space include imaginative design solutions, tree plantings, the use of high quality and robust materials, public art, play and other features of interest and careful management.</p>	<p>As a highly constrained urban landscape, the City of London has very limited opportunities to increase the provision of public open space as the population grows. Instead, it focusses on maintaining the area of public open space it currently holds, targeting new and better quality public open space to those areas that need it most, and working collaboratively with surrounding Boroughs to measure the performance of existing open spaces and strategically deliver better provision to the broader London population.</p> <p>As Greater Melbourne is expected to reach around 9 million people in the 2050s, it will become a similar size to London today.</p> <p>SRLA could apply performance assessments and benchmarking across the SRL East Structure Plan Areas, potentially working alongside local councils, to ensure new and</p>

CASE STUDY	WHAT IS IT?	WHICH METRICS ARE USED?	RELEVANCE TO SRL
	<p>A hierarchy of public open space is included in The Mayor's London Plan (overall strategic plan for London), providing a guide for the appropriate size and distance from home for each open space type. It suggests local parks, small open spaces and pocket parks should be located 400 m or less from homes. District, metropolitan and regional parks can be located further at 1.2 km or more.</p> <p>To ensure the protection of high-quality open spaces across Greater London, almost all Boroughs in London contribute to an annual report which benchmarks parks and green spaces. All sites within the Boroughs are tested against a set of criteria with the results publicly presented through maps and a benchmarking table, comparing each Borough's performance.</p>	<p>Partnerships with surrounding Boroughs ensure the 26 open spaces within 400 m of the City of London are maintained to a high standard, as well as undertaking annual benchmarking which tests the performance of all parks and green spaces within most Boroughs of Greater London.</p>	<p>existing public open spaces are performing as required.</p>
<p>VANCOUVER, CANADA</p>	<p>Vancouver's Park Board set out to create a new Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan which required a citywide review of existing parks and recreation services. In 2019 the findings and strategic directions were compiled, revealing inequality and gaps in public open space provision and a vision to maximise access to high quality parks.</p> <p>The need for robust metrics and indicators to track progress was acknowledged, as well as the use of 'initiative zones' to pursue more equitable distribution of resources across the city.</p>	<p>In 2010 a goal was introduced to provide green space within a 5-minute walk of all residents. Access was measured within a 400 m walk radius 'as the crow flies' which put 92% of the City of Vancouver within 5-minute walk range.</p> <p>Acknowledging this goal doesn't consider more densely developed areas of Vancouver where lack of private open space access exists, in 2019 a focus on equitable provision of public open space was prioritised. Access to parks was measured by balancing distance, quantity, and quality to determine how well the city's population is connected to the park system.</p>	<p>A park service gaps indicator considers distance to parks and density of populations within a ten-minute walk of each park.</p> <p>GIS mapping tools were used to identify areas with less than 0.55 ha of park per 1000 people and / or no park access within a ten-minute walk. Ten minutes was chosen as when it's combined with density it showed a more comprehensive picture of access to, and demand on, park space.</p> <p>SRL East Structure Plan Areas could similarly apply a combination of metrics to provide a more fulsome assessment of where public open space is most needed.</p>

Appendix D

Quality Assessment Framework



This section explains the open space quality assessment framework and methodology, and how it was developed.

Open space quality standards

Embedding high quality elements and overall design is a vital aspect in enabling the overall activation of open space, usability and longevity and supporting a positive user experience. The outcome is to attract users optimising visitation and activation and creating a long-term positive legacy that contributes to the overall character and sense of place in the area. Quality of open space is determined by how fit-for-purpose it is, measuring both appropriateness of design, response to the context and together with landscape elements and ongoing maintenance. There is not currently a formally adopted standard to measure quality of public open space, nationally or internationally.

The assessment of open space quality can be measured with Level of Service approach, incorporating performance-based criteria. This approach evaluates the functionality, appeal, and variety of amenities that could be anticipated in a public open space of a specific type and purpose, considering the open space services currently available.

Existing public open spaces in each Structure Plan Area are included in this quality assessment. Private and restricted open spaces are excluded as they are considered potential opportunities to supplement the public open space network, requiring further investigation and consultation.

This technical assessment provides:

- A rating against criteria for all public open spaces in each Structure Plan Area
- An overview of the current performance of the public open spaces in the context of current use, from a user experience perspective
- A consistent approach to quality assessment and prioritising quality improvements.

Open space quality criteria

For the purpose of this analysis, a set of performance-based criteria were developed to assess open space quality, focusing on a user experience. These assessments provide a baseline to understand which public open spaces require quality upgrades and improvements to optimise outcomes for each Structure Plan Area.

Capacity and utilisation data of all public open spaces

Reference and consideration were given to:

- The Public Life Diversity Toolkit, Gehl Institute
- Public space site-specific assessment, UN Habitat
- IPWEA Practice Note 10.3 2017. Parks Management: Levels of Service
- Australia Park Life Project, a collaboration between the Australian Urban Design Research Centre (AUDRC) at The University of Western Australia, and the Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network (AURIN).
- Other examples of open space quality assessment using a Level of Service approach.

Methodology

The assessments were conducted with visits to each site. The methodology adopted involved:

1. Assigning each public open space a function and catchment category, and then a Use Category. The

2. Visiting a site, observing thoroughly, working through considerations, assigning a performance score of 1 to 5 against each criteria, taking notes and photos to support findings
3. Calculating quality performance score for each site (1 to 5 rating scale)
4. Assigning a site / activation potential score.

Use category (quality standard)

The Use Category determines the required ‘appropriateness’ of the public open space’s amenities and assets. For example, a public open space in a dense urban area will require a high level of asset provision with robust, high-quality designs and assets, that will be fit-for-purpose to meet a high level of use.

TABLE D.11 QUALITY STANDARD

USE CATEGORY STANDARD	LEVEL OF USE	DESCRIPTION
1	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed for high level of use • Highest level of asset provision using high-quality materials and integrated, often more complex design.
2	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed for medium level of use • Moderate level of asset provision, using robust materials and integrated design.
3	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed for relatively low level of use • Lowest level of asset provision, using robust materials and simple high-quality design.

Quality performance assessment criteria

The performance assessment criteria reflect the Suburban Rail Loop East Urban Design Strategy, September 2022²⁵, project wide requirements and benchmarks to ensure a consistent approach. ‘Project-wide requirements and benchmarks - Public spaces’ in Section 5.3 of the Urban Design Strategy provides a list of performance-based requirements, which are aligned and extrapolated in this approach.

The performance criteria is unweighted, inferring equal importance for all assessment elements.

There are five key performance criteria, which are assessed individually and provided a score on a 1-5 rating scale. The average score across all five criteria is calculated to derive an overall Quality Rating score. A separate rating score is provided for the Site or Activation Potential measure, which provides guidance on prioritising quality enhancements.

²⁵ [SRL-Urban-Design-Strategy-September-2022.pdf \(bigbuild.vic.gov.au\)](#)

TABLE D.2 QUALITY PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	SCORE (5=HIGH, 1= LOW)	CONSIDERATIONS
<p>Asset Provision</p> <p>The site has assets which are appropriate to its expected level of use and function</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>NA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess under- or over-provision, particularly of important assets or facilities by comparing asset provision with the assigned level of service category. A detailed list of all assets provided at each public open space is recorded. Does the site provide assets appropriate to its level of service category, context and function?
<p>Accessible</p> <p>The site is located and designed for ease of access by all</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>NA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there multiple entry / exist points? Does the public open space have at least one wide open street frontage? Is access by foot and bicycle safe (particularly for children) and likely to be a good experience (relates to footpath/shared use path/bicycle lane network in areas around and to the public open space)? Are paths appropriately located? Does the public open space provide flat, accessible, good surface paths network that provides effective easy access into and through the public open space and to major facilities (such as playground, toilet, picnic facilities, other community facilities / activity or geographic feature)? Is appropriate level of car parking available? Is the site free of significant barriers to people with impaired mobility? Do facilities include specific design / capacity for people with impaired mobility (such as playground, toilet, picnic facilities)? Does the site provide places to rest, pause and hydrate at regular intervals along pedestrian movement corridors? Do the paths and trails surface quality and width meet expected usage requirements? Is provision of way-finding and other information signage appropriate and match design style?
<p>Safe and Comfortable</p> <p>The site is a safe and comfortable place to be</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>NA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are appropriate levels of shade provided? Does the site provide access to sunshine? Does the site provide protection from wind? Does the design of the site have an attractive look and feel that is consistent with nearby areas? Does the site feel safe to use (such as a high level of activity, visible to passing traffic, residential overview)? Does the site provide safe and appropriate spaces, facilities and amenities for women, gender diverse people and those with disabilities? Are there sufficient sight lines for passive surveillance and/or does the design discourage anti-social behaviour? Are any significant hazards effectively mitigated (such as busy / high speed roads, internal road networks/car parks, water bodies, steep falls, and in particular where hazards are in close proximity to playgrounds and other facilities)?
<p>Functional</p> <p>The site's geography and design are suitable for its purpose</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>NA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the site support a diverse range of community activities and needs? Is the size of the site appropriate for its function? Does it meet service level requirements such as appropriate size, level spaces for active recreation/ball play, wide enough linear connections? Are activities and facilities well laid out / organised on the site? Does the geography and spatial attributes of the site enable effective and desirable development and use? Is the site adequately lit to support the functions and activity of the space?

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	SCORE (5=HIGH, 1= LOW)	CONSIDERATIONS
Sense of Place The site is aesthetically pleasing, inviting and contains elements that add to 'sense of place'	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the site feel inviting and attractive? Is the site developed to encourage /invite social interaction? Does the site provide welcoming spaces and/or signage for culturally and linguistically diverse communities? Does the site have any special physical attributes e.g. views, significant canopy trees, water access? Does the site have any special physical or cultural attributes such as views, significant trees / bush, water access, significant history or cultural importance? Does the site integrate cultural heritage interpretation including both indigenous and non-indigenous? Does the site design have a 'sense of place' and cohesive look and feel?
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	NA	
Special measure: Site or Activation Potential	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the site at peak use levels? How easy would it be to increase the use / performance of the site? Note: This indicator is not used to calculate total performance score. It is used only as a priority score. This is because it is not scoring the site as it currently is, it is a professional observation of what 'could be'. The assessment of whether a site is at peak use levels is qualitative, based on observation through site visits and additional information from the Gehl²⁶ report. Detailed capacity and utilisation quantitative analysis could be applied in future stages of SRL East Structure Planning development. Overall, activation potential is not a direct performance score and needs interpretation.
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	NA	

Criteria rating scale

TABLE D.3 CRITERIA RATING SCALE

SCORE			RANK	DESCRIPTION
5	Very good		High	Meets criteria very effectively
4	Good			Meets criteria adequately with minor limitation
3	Fair		Medium	Criteria partially met
2	Poor			Criteria poorly or only partially met
1	Very poor		Low	Criteria not achieved

Example

Park A is a significant, highly used Community Park. It has a Use Category (Quality Standard) of 1, so it should be designed and fit-for-purpose for a high level of use. It scores highly for all quality performance criteria and has an average Overall Score of 5 (Very Good). It has low potential for additional activation, so scores a 1 for the Site potential. It will be mapped as a Very Good quality public open space with low potential for additional activation / enhancement.

Park	Size	Structure Plan Area	Function	Use Category	Asset provision	Accessible	Safe and comfortable	Functional	Sense of place	Site potential	Overall Score
A	5ha	Box Hill	Community Park	1	5	5	5	5	5	1	5

²⁶ Gehl – SRL East Public Space and Public Life Study, 2023

Appendix E
**Legislative and
policy context**



Plan Melbourne 2017–2050

Plan Melbourne is the Victorian Government’s long-term planning strategy for the future development of Melbourne, providing the strategic basis for the planned growth of the city in response to key challenges and opportunities facing Melbourne for the next 30 years. These challenges include a growing population, remaining competitive in a changing economy, providing affordable and accessible housing, keeping up with the growing transport needs, and the need for climate mitigation and adaptation.

A goal of the SRL East Structure Plan Areas is to provide a 20-minute neighbourhood. This refers to the ability to meet most everyday needs of people within a 20-minute journey from home by walking, cycling, riding or local public transport. ‘Principle 5 Living locally – 20-minute neighbourhoods,’ includes direction and context for the provision of local public open space.

Features of a 20-minute neighbourhood include local parks and playgrounds, as shown in Figure E.1.



FIGURE E.1 PLAN MELBOURNE 2017–2050 20-MINUTE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Source: former Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

The *Plan Melbourne 2017–2050: Addendum 2019* updated growth projections for Melbourne, identifying the need for:

- An additional 1.8 million jobs and 1.6 million dwellings to support Melbourne’s growth by 2051
- A transport network able to cope with an extra 11.8 million trips per day by 2050.

The Addendum recognises that Melbourne’s public transport network needs to develop to support the distribution of population and employment in line with growth estimates, stating that: ‘Melbourne needs a huge, well-planned investment that enables the city to grow while meeting these transport challenges.’ The Addendum sees SRL as providing an opportunity to create a direct rail connection between Melbourne’s major employment, health, and education precincts and activity centres outside the CBD; and recognises the role of 20-minute neighbourhoods in making Melbourne a city of inclusive, vibrant, and healthy neighbourhoods. The Addendum also embeds the 20-minute neighbourhood concept into major infrastructure projects to ensure a

coordinated outcomes framework to deliver more inclusive, vibrant, and healthy neighbourhoods. Accordingly, open space provision is vital to achieving 20-minute neighbourhoods: the SRL East Structure Plan Areas will need to provide suitable open space in easy walking distance from residential properties and workplaces. Walkable access to public open space, guided by Plan Melbourne concepts, have guided the rationale for access as an open space metric in this report.

A new 'Plan for Victoria' that will build on Victoria's Housing Statement and set out the next steps to address the state's 2050 housing and land use needs is currently in development. Community and stakeholder engagement is underway, and the plan intends to focus on house and land use, jobs growth, protecting the environment, and ensuring Victoria is more resilient to climate change. Self-determination and caring for Country will also be a strong focus and embedded throughout the plan.

Open Space for Everyone

Open Space for Everyone was developed as an outcome of the Plan Melbourne Policy 6.4.2: to create a new metropolitan-wide open space strategy, providing a strategic framework to guide the planning, acquisition, design, management, use and maintenance of the Melbourne metropolitan open space network. The goals of Open Space for Everyone are provided in Table E.

TABLE E.1 OPEN SPACE GOALS FROM OPEN SPACE FOR EVERYONE

GOALS	DESCRIPTION
Improved community health and wellbeing	People need equitable access to a diversity of high quality, safe and connected open spaces for their mental, cultural and physical health and wellbeing.
Healthier biodiversity	A healthy environment is fundamental to a healthy society. And our diverse ecosystems and plants and animals – especially those that are threatened and endangered – also need high quality, connected open space: landscapes, coastlines and waterway corridors.
Enhanced climate change resilience	Climate change resilience requires Melbourne to plan for the impacts of extreme weather and to be cooler, greener and more water sensitive.
Maximised economic and social benefits	Increased expenditure by visitors, increased property values and transport savings are among the direct economic benefits of open space.

Open Space for Everyone promotes the need for creative thinking in providing open space as urban density increases, including how best to share spaces and consider the increasingly important role that access to encumbered or restricted open space plays in open space networks. It sets three key directions for planning and investing in Melbourne's open space network:

- Protect our inherited open space legacy
- Optimise the open space network
- Grow the network.

These directions should be considered by all open space landowners and managers to make the most of the existing open space network and to plan for future open space needs in response to population growth. These provide key pillars for providing future open space in SRL East Structure Plan Areas.

Open Space for Everyone also forecasts the available open space per person in each local government area (in 2016). This forecast highlights significant differences in open space across local government areas. Open space metrics are further discussed in Section 2.3.

The following table highlights the benchmarks and metrics used in various open space strategies and policies. This review assisted in the development of metrics and performance indicators applied within this technical assessment.

TABLE E.2 OPEN SPACE STRATEGY REVIEWS


OPEN SPACE STRATEGY / POLICY	WHICH PUBLIC OPEN SPACE BENCHMARKS / METRICS ARE USED?
VICTORIAN POLICY	
<p>Planning Schemes (Whitehorse, Monash, Kingston, Bayside Planning Schemes)</p>	<p>The municipal planning schemes that cover the SRL East Structure Plan Areas include the mechanism to collect financial contributions for public open space through subdivision at Clause 53.01 or as a percentage of the developable area through individual overlays such as the Development Plan Overlay.</p> <p>The contributions required for public open space at Clause 53.01 are inconsistent across the municipalities of the SRL East Project.</p> <p>A minimum of 4% public open space contribution is required for the subdivision of land in the Whitehorse Planning Scheme. The Kingston Planning Scheme directs a contribution of 8% for Strategic Redevelopment Sites and Activity Centres, with 5% for all other land. Bayside Planning Scheme is 5% (or greater, subject to the negotiation of a development plan). Monash Planning Scheme specifies 7.61% contribution with exceptions including the PMP Printing Precinct Comprehensive Development Plan (CDZ2) requiring 10% open space contribution.</p> <p>The planning schemes also set objectives for public open space provision for subdivisions under Clause 56.05-2. These objectives provide reasonable benchmarks that could be applied across the local government area, including:</p> <p>Provide a network of well-distributed neighbourhood public open space that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local parks within 400 m safe walking distance of at least 95% of all dwellings – where not designed to include active open space, local parks should be generally 1 ha in area and suitably dimensioned and designed to provide for their intended use and to allow easy adaptation in response to changing community preferences • Additional small local parks or public squares in designated Activity Centres and higher density residential areas • Active open space of a least 8 ha in area within 1 km of 95% of all dwellings.
<p>VPA Metropolitan Open Space Network: Provision and Distribution, 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pocket parks within 200 to 400 m walkable distance • Neighbourhood parks within 400 m walkable distance • Community parks within 800 m walkable distance • District parks within 1200 m walkable distance.
<p>VPA Structure Plan Area Structure Planning Guidelines – Preparing the Structure Plan Area Structure Plan, VPA 2017</p>	<p>These guidelines for Structure Planning apply to new communities in growth areas of Victoria.</p> <p>Provide a network of quality, well-distributed, multi-functional and cost-effective open space, catering for a broad range of users that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local parks within 400 m safe walking distance of at least 95% of all dwellings • Active open space of at least 8 ha in area within 1 km of 95% of all dwellings • Linear parks and trails along waterways, vegetation corridors and road reserves within 1 km of 95% of all dwellings.
<p>Planning Practice Note 70 – Open Space Strategies (developed by the former Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2015)</p>	<p>Planning Practice Note 70 provides guidance to councils on preparing an Open Space Strategy, including ways to define open space, analyse supply and demand of public open space and guide community and stakeholder engagement requirements.</p> <p>It includes examples of open space classifications and guidance on analysing existing open space supply by walkable catchments around open space using actual walking measurements, not just circles around the open space.</p> <p>Work is currently underway to develop a new Guide for Open Space Strategies (anticipated release in 2024) which will operationalise the Open Space for Everyone strategy, and review and reform existing resources, including Planning Practice Note 70.</p>
<p>Fishermans Bend Public Space Strategy, 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target of 9 m² of open space per capita • 8% of new developable land in the Capital City Zone • 5% of new development land in the Employment Structure Plan Area

OPEN SPACE STRATEGY / POLICY	WHICH PUBLIC OPEN SPACE BENCHMARKS / METRICS ARE USED?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pocket Park: 200 to 400 m safe walking distance • Neighbourhood Park: 400 m safe walking distance • Linear Park :200 m safe walking distance.
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLICY	
Draft Greener Places Design Guide, Government Architect NSW (2020)	<p>Performance indicators: Accessibility and Distribution. Accessibility indicates barrier-free walking distance. Distribution looks at the range of scales and hierarchy of provision for open space.</p> <p>Distance of open space from schools – 400 m.</p> <p>Distance of open space from workplaces – 400 m.</p> <p>Local Park:</p> <p>High density areas (>60 dwellings/ha) access in 2 to 3 mins walk / 200 m walking distance (barrier free).</p> <p>Medium density areas (<60 dwellings/ha) access within 5 mins walk / 400 m walking distance (barrier free).</p> <p>Distribution: High density areas (0.15 to 0.5 ha public open space) 200 m from most houses. Local distribution (0.3 to 2 ha public open space) 400 m from most houses.</p> <p>District Park: Access in 25-minute walk / 2 km proximity. District parks also provide local access. Distribution: District distribution (2 to 5 ha public open space) located 2 km from most houses.</p> <p>Regional Park: Access up to 30 mins travel time on public transport or by vehicle to regional open space. Regional parks also provide local access and district access. Distribution: Regional / metropolitan distribution (>5 ha public open space) located 5 to 10 km from most houses.</p>
Principles and Guidelines – Best Practice Open Space in Higher Density Developments Project, City of Charles Sturt SA	<p>The South Australian legislative requirement of ‘12.5% of land for open space’ relates to around 4 ha per 1000 people in a lower density development area of 35 ha (based on 15 dwellings per hectare and 1.9 persons per household).</p> <p>It is recommended that people in higher density areas should be within a 3 to 5-minute walk or 250 to 300 m from a park.</p> <p>Equitable distribution – an equitable distribution of accessible open space should be strategically located across a higher density area.</p> <p>All residents in a higher density urban development should be within 250 m of a park or recreation space that is at least 0.25 ha in size.</p> <p>Residents in a higher density urban development should be within 500 m of higher quality neighbourhood, district, or regional open space.</p> <p>Residents should be within a 2 to 3-minute walk of a park, plaza or other activity area or destination that facilitates activities such as informal play opportunities.</p> <p>Diverse open space types should be provided in a higher density urban development although sport will generally be catered for at the district level outside of the development area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A hierarchy of open space should be planned for including district, neighbourhood and local open space, linked to public, communal and private open space. • Open space in higher density urban development should be good quality, diverse and functional to support intensive use and provide destinations for communities.
WA Government Public Open Space Classification Framework, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pocket Park – 400 m walkable distance • Neighbourhood Park – 800 m walkable distance • Community Park – 2 km walkable distance • District Park – 2 km plus walkable distance.
Auckland Council Open Space Provision Policy 2016	<p>Auckland Council does not have a target for the provision of open space in general (no ratio of open space to population). The provision metrics are based on a series of open space typologies, which relate to the function and/or scale of an open space.</p> <p>Examples of typologies and their provision targets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Park should be 400 m walk in high / medium density residential areas and 600 m walk in other residential areas • Suburb parks should be 1000 m walk in high / medium density residential areas and 1500 m other residential areas.

A review of the purpose and benefits of open space discussed in state and local government open space strategies is summarised below. This review guided the way open space is considered within this report, including the definitions, guiding principles and metrics.

TABLE E.3 PURPOSE AND BENEFITS OF OPEN SPACE – STRATEGY REVIEW

OPEN SPACE THEMES	OPEN SPACE FOR EVERYONE	CITY OF MONASH OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2021	CITY OF KINGSTON 2023-2033 OPEN SPACE STRATEGY	CITY OF WHITEHORSE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2007	CITY OF BAYSIDE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2012
ENVIRONMENTAL	<p>Healthier biodiversity – A healthy environment is fundamental to a healthy society. And our diverse ecosystems and plants and animals – especially those that are threatened and endangered – also need high-quality, connected open space: landscapes, coastlines and waterway corridors.</p> <p>Enhanced climate change resilience - Climate change resilience requires Melbourne to plan for the impacts of extreme weather and to be cooler, greener and more water-sensitive.</p>	<p>Environmental protection, enhancement and appreciation including the protection of canopy trees, habitat, flora and fauna and waterways.</p> <p>Sustainability – in design, development and management of open space.</p>	<p>Environmental benefits of open space:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve air quality • Improve biodiversity • Sustainable water management • Reduce impacts of heat islands • Habitat corridors • Tree canopy covers. 	<p>Sustainable: Open space is well managed and maintained to meet community expectation, available funding, enhances biodiversity and achieves an ecological balance in its design</p> <p>Adaptable: Open space and its facilities are flexible and adapt to meet changing community needs</p>	<p>Environmental:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage and restore our natural assets to maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecological processes • Incorporate environmentally sustainable design and management techniques to reduce water and energy use, and generation of waste • Implement actions to minimise the impacts of climate change and population growth on the open space network.
SOCIAL & HEALTH	<p>Improved community health and wellbeing - people need equitable access to a diversity of high quality, safe and connected open spaces for their mental, cultural and physical health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>Diversity of opportunities and experiences to ensure all residents can use and benefit from open space.</p> <p>Quantity – the provision of open space across Monash will continue to be increased to ensure an appropriate level is available for all residents.</p> <p>Dependency – some people, activities and assets are dependent on the inherent natural qualities of open space reserves. And as a priority, open space should support activities and users who are more dependent upon it.</p>	<p>Social and health benefits of open space:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social cohesion • Sport, play and active recreation • Community pride • Cultural connections • Mental wellbeing • Physical wellbeing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social - Open space provides the Whitehorse community with a meeting place that is accessible and safe for all • Recreational - Open space encourages the community to keep fit and improve their health and wellbeing • Cultural - Open space design reflects and celebrates the contemporary and historical indigenous and non-indigenous cultural values • Diverse - A wide variety of reserve types, sizes and character make up the open space network providing the community with a diversity of spaces to visit • Equitable - The Whitehorse community has safe and easy walking access to open space. 	<p>Connections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better connect open spaces and key community destinations to encourage walking and cycling • Enhance the connectivity of the open space network to provide habitat corridors • Improve landscaping along streets to create an attractive, green and connected suburban environment. <p>Communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have respectful discussion with the community in relation to changes to open space • Work with other stakeholders to find innovative ways to enhance the open space network and individual sites • Develop efficient and appropriate systems to manage and maintain the open space network • Encourage the use of the open space network through promoting the range of spaces, connections and attractions offered.

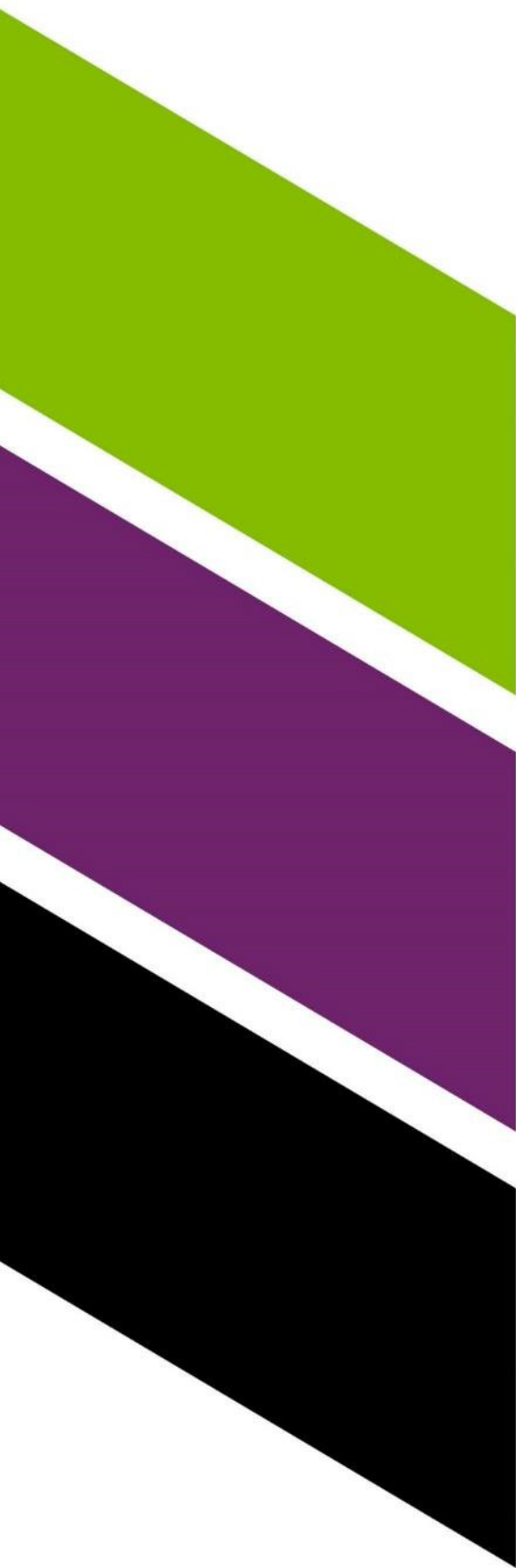


Appendix F
**Principles and
criteria for new open
space selection**

The following principles and criteria were developed to guide and assist with identifying sites suitable for new open spaces:

- Land ownership – suitability for conversion to public open space, for example is already public land that could be rezoned or repurposed
- Condition – the physical condition of the site has the potential to be suitable for use as public open space
- Alignment with intended open space classification/typology - primary function and catchment
- Access to public open space – improves 400-metre walkable access, addresses gap areas
- Accessibility onto the site – more than one entry point, good road frontages, topography, accessible for people of all abilities, available car parking off and on street
- Adjoining land use – complementary, considers opportunities to enlarge existing public open spaces, opportunities for co-location with community facilities
- Connectivity – consideration of linkages and connections to existing open space, open space corridors, cycle routes
- Size – suitable for intended purpose, minimum dimensions
- Opportunities to enlarge existing public open spaces
- Amenity – will provide visual amenity, space for trees to mature, access to sunlight, shade and shelter
- Environmental – ability and potential of the site to contribute to biodiversity, mitigating urban heat, climate change mitigation, integrated water management
- Available within the Structure Plan period (that is, to 2041).

Appendix G
**Density and 200m
Access Maps**



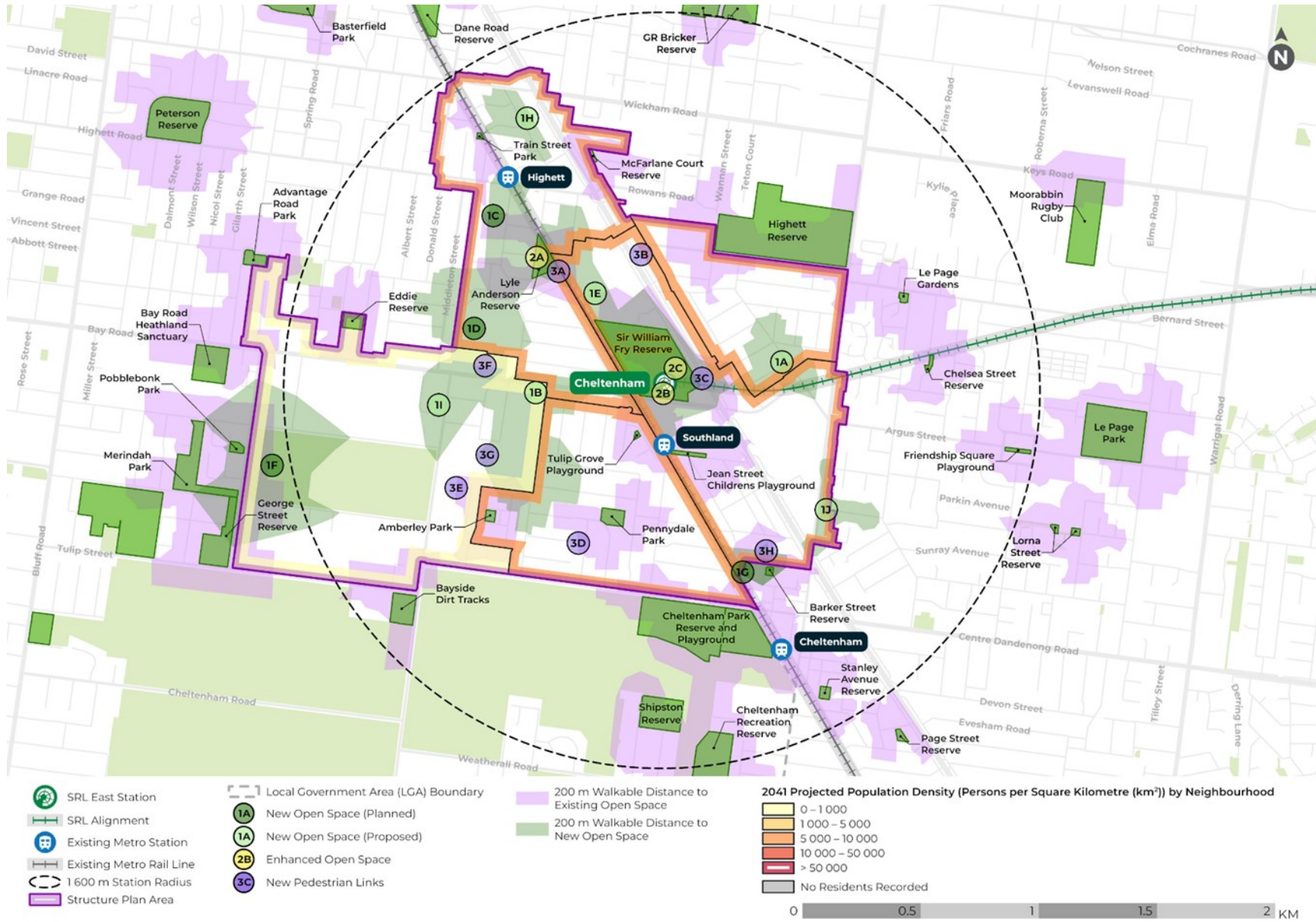


FIGURE G.1 CHELTENHAM DENSITY PROJECTIONS AND 200-METRE WALKABLE COVERAGE OF POTENTIAL FUTURE OPEN SPACE NETWORK

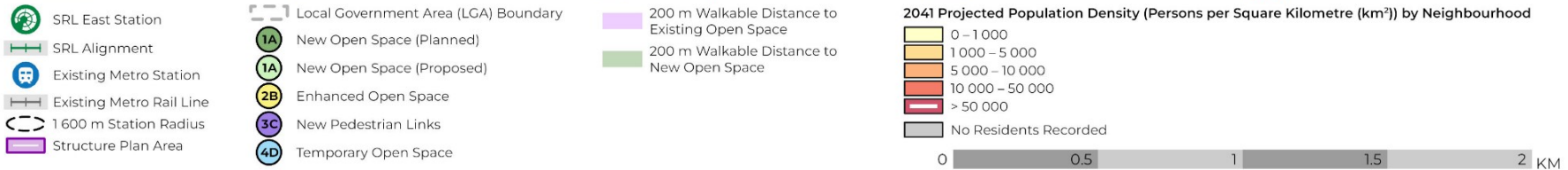
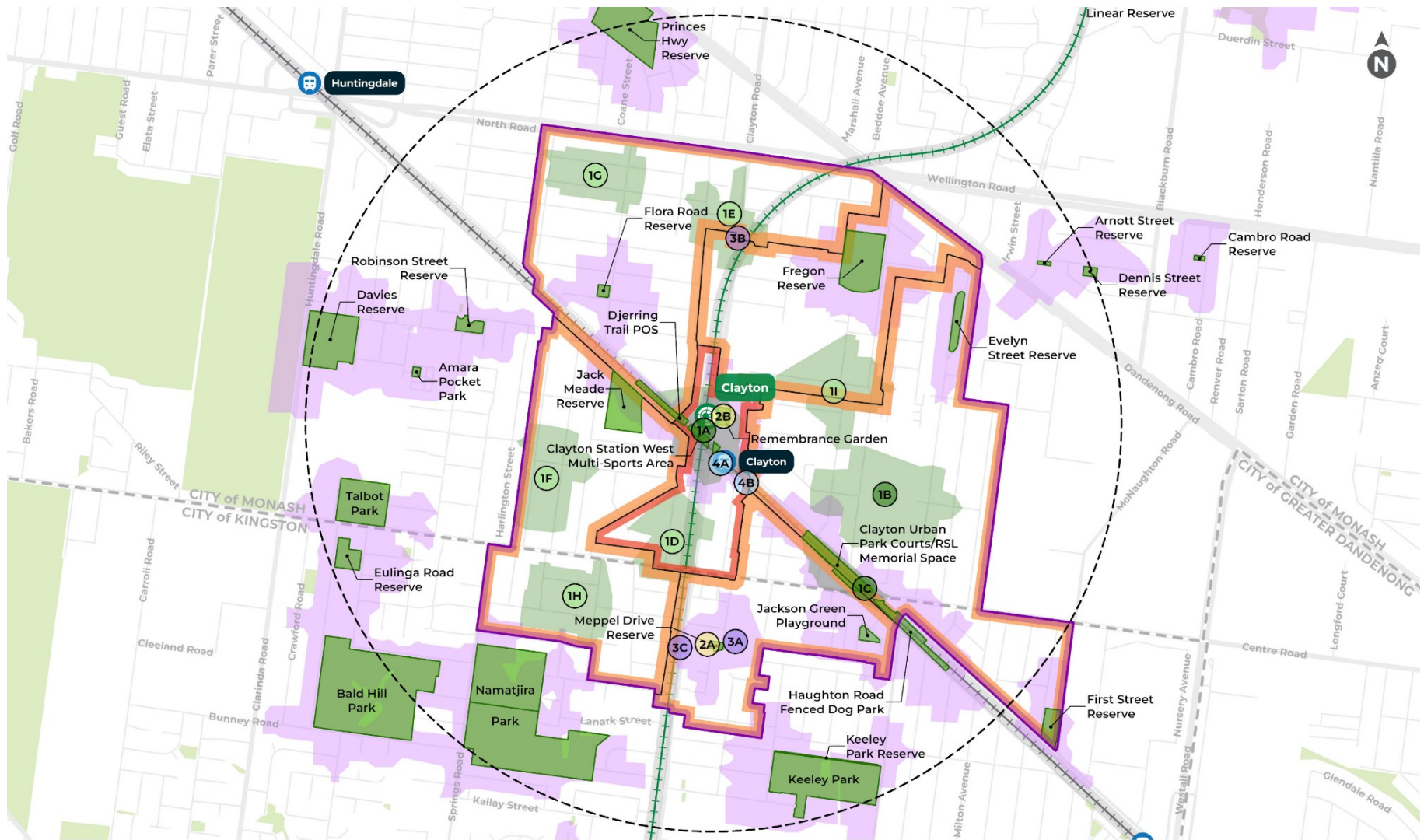


FIGURE G.2 CLAYTON DENSITY PROJECTIONS AND 200-METRE WALKABLE COVERAGE OF POTENTIAL FUTURE OPEN SPACE NETWORK

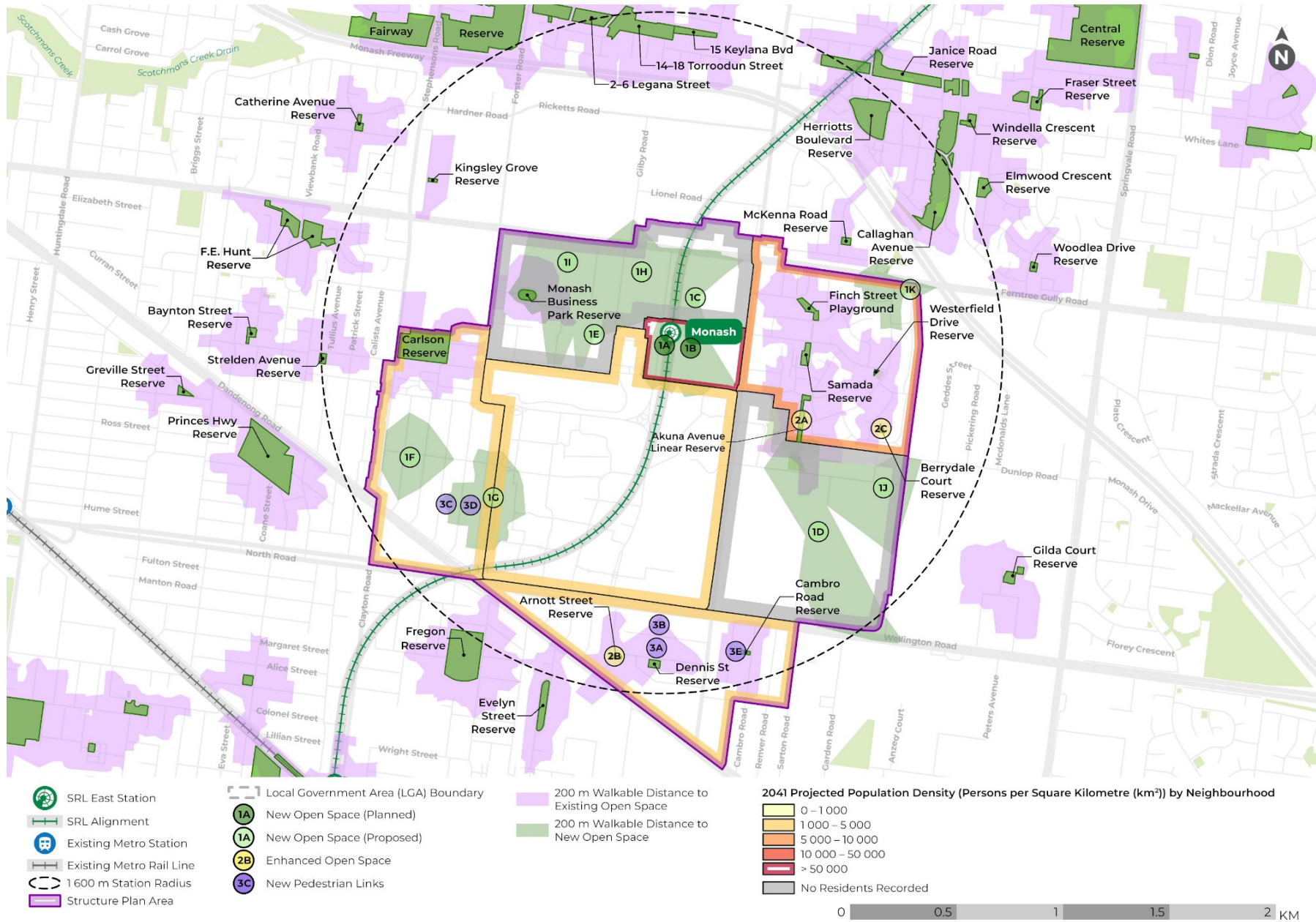


FIGURE G.3 MONASH DENSITY PROJECTIONS AND 200-METRE WALKABLE COVERAGE OF POTENTIAL FUTURE OPEN SPACE NETWORK

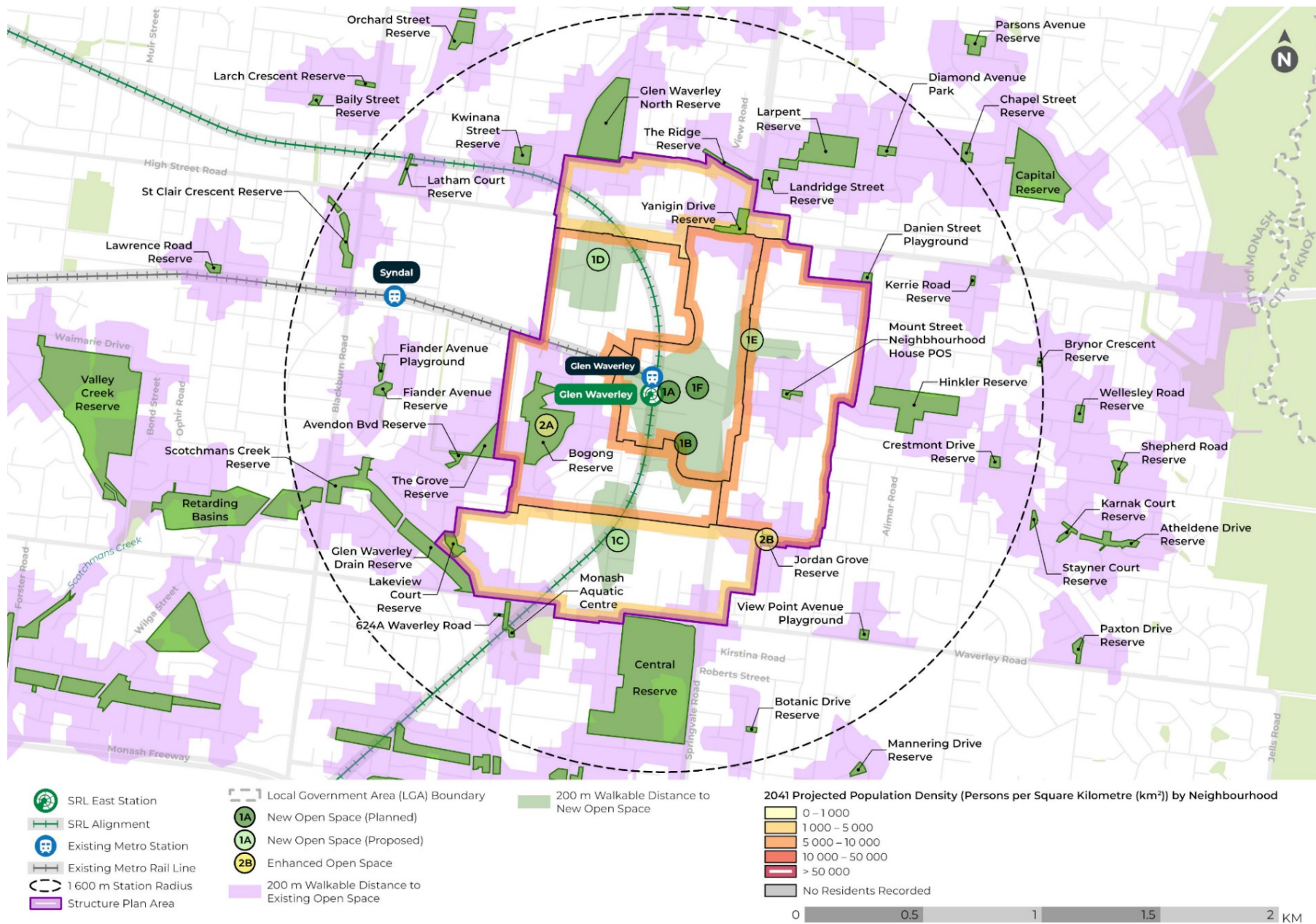


FIGURE G.4 GLEN WAVERLEY DENSITY PROJECTIONS AND 200-METRE WALKABLE COVERAGE OF POTENTIAL FUTURE OPEN SPACE NETWORK

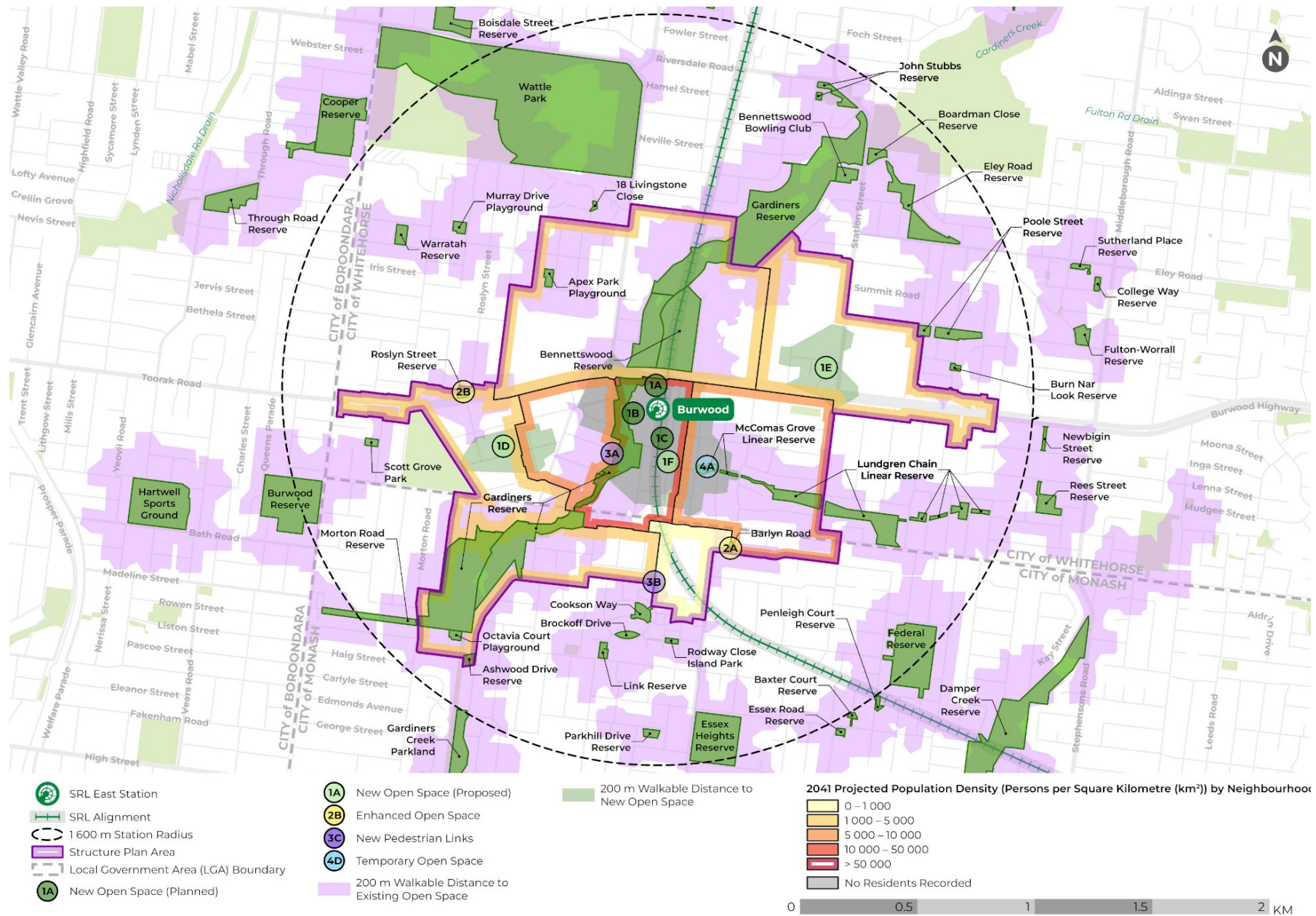


FIGURE G.5 BURWOOD DENSITY PROJECTIONS AND 200-METRE WALKABLE COVERAGE OF POTENTIAL FUTURE OPEN SPACE NETWORK

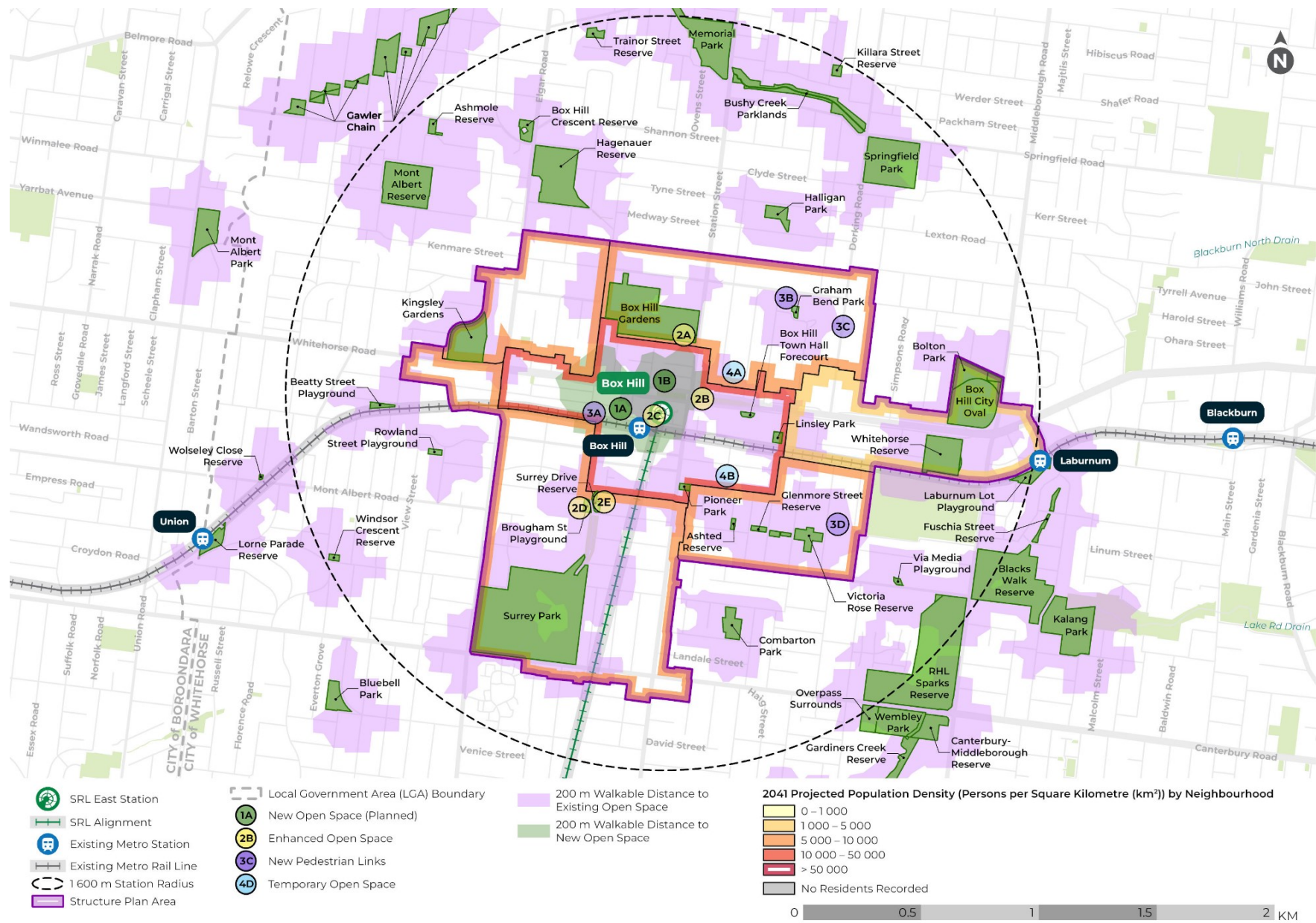


FIGURE G.6 BOX HILL DENSITY PROJECTIONS AND 200-METRE WALKABLE COVERAGE OF POTENTIAL FUTURE OPEN SPACE NETWORK