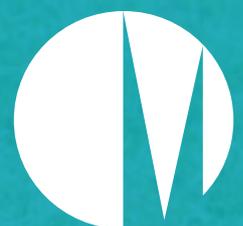


Moreland Play Strategy 2016-2020

(formerly Moreland Playground Strategy)



Moreland City Council



Acknowledgments

Project Manager: Open Space Design and Development Unit,
Moreland City Council

Contributions by Moreland City Councillor Rob Thompson, Council's Open Space Maintenance Unit, other Council officers and members of the Time Limited Advisory Committee are gratefully acknowledged.

Moreland City Council acknowledges the traditional owners of the land, the Kulin Nation, of which the local indigenous people are the Wurundjeri. Council is committed to building a trusting, collaborative and supportive relationship with indigenous groups, and to respecting identified Aboriginal sacred sites and special places.

MAYOR'S FOREWORD

Play is vitally important for children's healthy development.

Public play spaces provide children with valuable activities and experiences that are often not available in their home, and which contribute to their personal development through physical and mental stimulation and social interaction.

Through play, children's understanding of their world expands and their development is accelerated as the quantity and quality of play opportunities increase.

A local play space can provide a no cost, easily accessible and stimulating family entertainment opportunity. They contribute to the development of social connections in our community; groups of families and friends with children will often choose a play space with picnic facilities for weekend gatherings, and children, parents and carers often make new friendships at their local play space.

Providing spaces which encourage physical activity and social interaction is vital in addressing some of the physical and mental health challenges we face today.

Moreland City Council is committed to providing a diverse range of play spaces which are presentable, challenging and cater to children of all abilities and ages, and we are already making great strides when it comes to interactive and engaging design.

An example of this is Kirkdale Park in Brunswick East, which features a bird-hide, timber tee pee, water pump and rock ponds. The space was inspired by the nearby Merri Creek and invites the community into the natural bushland environment.

This strategy marks a shift in the way we design our play spaces by acknowledging the importance of encouraging a connection to nature and natural play.

Play spaces are an integral part of our commitment to good quality parks and other public open space in Moreland. This strategy will guide future urban planning and open space decisions, ensuring the needs of children and young people are considered when changes are made to our urban environment.

This strategy will see our parks improve in future, with more opportunities for our community – and especially our young people – to enjoy the outdoors, develop social connections and stay active.

Cr Samantha Ratnam

Mayor of Moreland (2015–2016)

GLOSSARY

Some definitions of key terms used in this document.

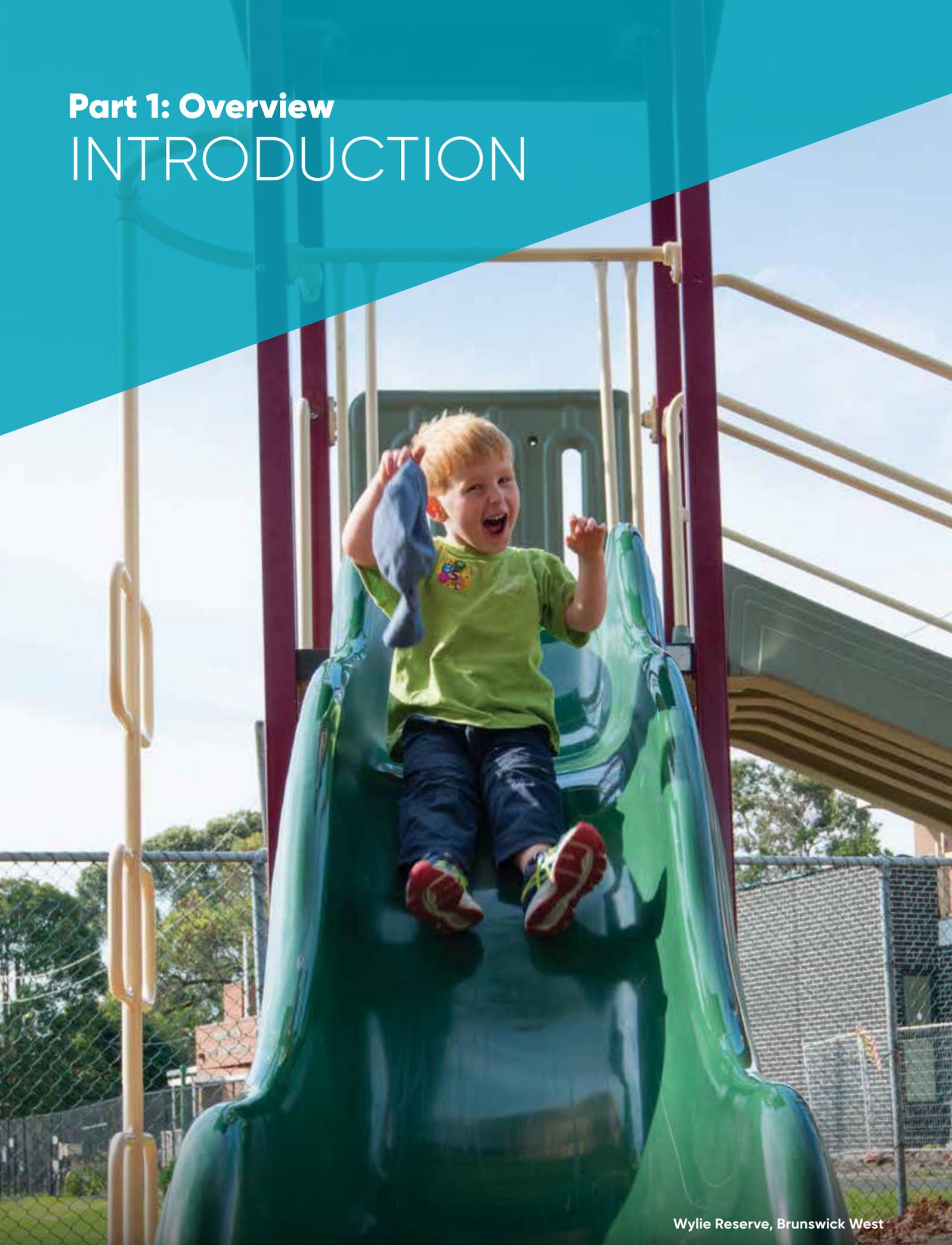
Amenities	Features that make a play space more pleasant place to be such as seats, tables, shade, water, barbecues and toilets.
Capital expenditure	Spending on capital works (see below)
Capital works	Works (usually building and engineering) that create a Council asset, as opposed to maintenance, repairs and other regular Council operations. This term is often used when discussing Council's budget.
Children	Children aged 0 – 11 (Refer Appendix B – Age Activities)
Hierarchy of play spaces	<p>Small local play spaces</p> <p>These are very small play spaces (pocket parks) that are generally within a 5-minute walk of the homes of the residents they aim to cater for. They generally focus on either natural play or play opportunities for younger children.</p> <p>Local play spaces</p> <p>These play spaces are generally within a 10-minute walk of the homes of the residents they aim to cater for. They will generally include play equipment and opportunities for younger and older children.</p> <p>District play spaces</p> <p>These play spaces attract visitors from other suburbs because of the extensive variety of amenities and play elements for younger and older children. They are generally within a 30-minute drive of most households.</p>
MCC	Moreland City Council
Natural play spaces	These are often found along our linear creeks and creek corridor and generally provide opportunities for play and activities in the natural environment. Also referred to as nature-based play.
Open spaces	All parks, gardens, reserves and other land accessible to the public and managed by Council or other public authorities.
Play	Play is a means by which we explore our environment, world, role and relationships.
Play equipment	Play structures such as swings, slides and climbing frames.
Play space	A space that includes a range of play opportunities for younger and older children e.g. areas to run around, natural play elements, play equipment.
Playground	An area that contains play equipment for children e.g. swings and slides.
Structured play	Any spontaneous activity that is undertaken for fun but which has some conditions or rules e.g. tiggy.
Unstructured play	Any spontaneous activity that is undertaken for fun and has no specific rules e.g. climbing, jumping.
Young people	Children aged 12-18.

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Part 1: Overview

INTRODUCTION



Wylie Reserve, Brunswick West

Purpose of the Play Strategy

Moreland City Council recognises the importance of play spaces in supporting children's healthy development.

This strategy is based on an analysis of the municipality's existing play spaces and will guide Council in the management and maintenance of existing spaces, as well as identifying priorities for design, development and funding allocation for new play space developments. The Moreland Play Strategy aims to find a balance between the maintenance and management of play spaces and childrens' needs for exciting and interesting places to play throughout the municipality.

The term 'play space' refers to not only traditional playgrounds, skate and BMX facilities and fitness equipment but also includes other informal sporting facilities such as multi-courts and passive open space areas and creek corridors. Many of the spaces that provide play opportunities across Moreland are managed for a range of purposes and not specifically play, such as the environmentally sustainable management of our river and creek corridors. The provision and management of these spaces is discussed in more detail in *Moreland's Open Space Strategy (2012)*.

The Moreland Play Strategy focuses on play spaces in Council-owned and managed public open space, such as parks, reserves, sports fields and public gathering spaces in shopping areas. It does not deal with play spaces in other Council facilities – such as maternal and child health centres, childcare centres, kindergartens or neighbourhood houses – nor within state/private school grounds or privately-run childcare and play facilities.

Play Space Vision

Moreland City Council is committed to providing a diverse range of accessible, presentable, challenging and maintained play spaces, combining sustainable natural and man-made elements, for all ages and abilities.

This strategy is closely aligned with the *Moreland 2025 Community Vision* which outlines the community's priorities for a healthy, connected, accessible and attractive place to work, live and play.

Council aims to offer accessible, quality and diverse play spaces:

- **Accessible:** Ensure all Moreland residents and visitors can safely walk no more than 500m from home to a local play space. Areas which do not meet this aim should be prioritised for the creation of new play spaces, with an emphasis on areas of disadvantage and low levels of outdoor exercise.
- **Quality:** Offer a range of connected play experiences involving structured and natural elements in an attractive and landscaped setting that is well designed, maintained and meets the relevant best practice and safety guidelines. Moreland's play spaces should aim to attract and encourage more frequent use to promote social interaction and increase the community's sense of ownership of the space.
- **Diverse:** Moreland's play spaces should cater for a range of ages, abilities and activities involving structured and natural play spaces that specifically encourage children to develop and explore a variety of challenges.

The Moreland Play Strategy will also act as a guide for future urban planning and design decisions to ensure the needs of children and young people are considered when changes are made to the urban environment.



The Role of Play Spaces

Research confirms that the early years, from conception to age six, are the most important time in a person's life in terms of brain development and influencing later learning, behaviour and health.

The main way children learn at this stage is through play. Research shows that limited time spent outdoors, which results in a combination of reduced opportunities for physically active play and diminished contact with nature, is having a detrimental impact on our children's development, health and wellbeing.

Public play spaces provide experiences that aren't available to children in their homes, particularly those whose homes do not have much outdoor space. These experiences contribute to their personal development through physical and mental stimulation and social interaction. Through play, children's understanding of their world expands. Their development is accelerated as the quantity and quality of play opportunities increases.

Parents of young children often have limited financial resources and limited ability to get around easily. A quality local play space can provide a no cost, easily accessible and stimulating family entertainment opportunity.

Play spaces can also foster social connections in a community as an informal setting for casual meetings between children, parents or other carers. Groups of families or friends with children will often choose a play space that has barbeque facilities for weekend gatherings. Older children may use the play space as a meeting point. Providing spaces which encourage physical activity and social interaction is vital in addressing some contemporary physical and mental health challenges.

Current Trends in Play Space Management

The future management of Moreland's play spaces will be influenced by a number of emerging trends. These include the following:

- Greater realisation of how children learn life skills through play and hence the vital importance of quality outdoor play spaces.
- A move for play spaces and play experience to provide opportunities for children to re-engage with the natural environment through nature play, with less traditional, equipment-based play space designs.
- A trend towards more natural and dynamic play environments and away from modular play equipment, which has resulted in the use of the term 'play space' rather than 'playground'.
- Heightened awareness of the need to provide equal access to play to children and carers with special needs.
- Recognition that play spaces should provide for cognitive, creative and cooperative development as well as physical development.
- Benefit-risk assessment rather than risk management driving play space equipment and design.
- Smaller homes which are closer together, with smaller gardens to play in, and more densely populated suburbs.
- Increased street traffic and greater child safety concerns, resulting in adults monitoring children's movements more.
- Recognition of the importance of the early years (0-6 years) in intellectual and social development, placing greater emphasis on services and facilities that enhance this development.
- A growing trend of grandparents caring for children while their parents or regular carers are at work or otherwise occupied. It has been found that grandparents make use of public play spaces due to less active play facilities or space at home. *We don't stop playing because we get old. We get old because we stop playing.* – George Bernard Shaw. The design of play spaces should provide opportunities for carers and grandparents to both observe and interact with children.
- Greater emphasis on whole-of-park design, which provides more accessible pathways to play spaces and a greater awareness and appreciation of environmental sustainability.
- Increased realisation that more use of public open space and the resulting passive surveillance of play spaces and parks can mitigate vandalism and improve safety and perceptions of safety.
- Rising play space maintenance and risk management costs in response to a propensity in Australian to litigate for damages resulting from injuries occurring in play areas.
- Public concern about the growing number of children with obesity in Australia, drawing attention to the positive role play spaces have in our community for providing active play opportunities for children.
- Growing awareness in the community of the hazards associated with sun exposure – often the worst skin damage occurs in childhood so there is an increased expectation that shade will be provided in play areas.

Part 2: Context

BACKGROUND



Gilmour Park, Coburg

Play Space Program

While Council's *Play Strategy 2008-2018* is in place until 2018, the implementation program states a full review should occur every five years.

In 2014, Council developed a 5 Year Park and Play Program which identified all existing play spaces and developed a hierarchy for categorising them (see Glossary).

The program involved an audit of the condition of existing play equipment and recommendations for removal, relocation and upgrade, based on a five-year **capital works** program. A twice-yearly play space audit system has been established to monitor compliance with Australian playground safety standards and to inform decisions about repair and renewal.

At the same time, Moreland City Council requires the maintenance, design and construction of play spaces – as with all Council assets – to be planned, resourced and funded sustainably using established principles and procedures. Council endeavours to increase the recurrent **capital expenditure** program for play spaces, including upgrades and new facilities to enhance accessibility and provide diversity in play opportunities for the community. Moreland's Playground Program sits within the Capital Works Program with funding of \$1.31m over five years or \$262,000 per annum. In 2015-16 an additional one-off budget of \$500,000 was allocated for playground and landscape improvements to increase access and use.

While the 5 Year Park and Play Program provides a useful framework to guide the sustainable maintenance of existing play spaces, the Moreland Play Strategy aims to take a more strategic view of the existing play opportunities across Moreland and make recommendations to improve their accessibility and quality.

The full review commenced in 2015 with the appointment of the Time Limited Advisory Committee chaired by Cr Rob Thompson. Nominations were sought from each ward for up to two representatives who attend two meetings in early 2015 covering topics such as:

- Policy context
- Diversity of play experience, including intergenerational play and accessibility
- Sustainable playground design
- **Hierarchy** and locations
- Criteria for maintenance, renewals and new playgrounds, in accordance with Council budget planning.

POLICY CONTEXT

Moreland City Council has both a 5 Year Park and Play Program and a Playground Maintenance and Assessment Program. The Moreland Play Strategy provides the guiding document for these programs.

The strategy is informed by regular assessments of Moreland's play spaces together with a review of the relevant literature and community consultation. In addition, the Moreland Play Strategy is reviewed to track progress and ensure it remains informed by industry best practice, with the outcomes of this process adopted in an updated strategy. A recent comprehensive assessment was undertaken in Moreland of every play space and the availability of play spaces within each suburb. The Moreland Play Strategy aims to bring all this information together in a strategic format to provide a direction for future play space improvements and developments.

The Moreland Play Strategy sits within the broader policy context of the Moreland *Open Space Strategy (MOSS) 2012-2022*. Key priorities in the MOSS include providing quality, accessible open space within safe walking distance of all residents, and diversifying recreation and open space opportunities for children and youth.

The MOSS makes specific recommendations in relation to the development of the Moreland Play Strategy which include:

- Ensure every household has safe and convenient access to parkland for passive recreation, quiet contemplation, sport and access to nature.
- Provide and protect quality open space that provides a range of experiences and accessible recreation opportunities, natural and cultural heritage features, and high quality park facilities and landscape settings.
- Increase the recurrent capital expenditure program for play spaces, including upgrades and new facilities to meet current safety standards, enhance accessibility and provide diversity in play opportunities.
- Spaces should not for instance be provided solely for one age group (such as for a small play equipment area), but should accommodate facilities for a range of age groups, and encourage increased social and recreational interaction. For example through the provision of seating adjoining play spaces.
- Designate play spaces/parks throughout the municipality for the provision of additional natural shade and implement.

Charles Mutton Reserve, Fawkner



At the same time, the MOSS identified a range of unmet needs for children's play areas including:

- Variable quality, with little diversity available across the municipality.
- Small play areas close to home, and spaces where informal ball games are allowed were important.
- Play areas for older children are perceived to be lacking.
- Social / family recreation open space should cater for a range of ages.

The *Moreland Play Strategy 2008-2018* also identified the need for improved maintenance and amenity of parks and open space, such as more trees, shade, seating, lighting, drink fountains, public art and play equipment for older children and young people, as well as more youth events and festivals.



Coburg Lake Reserve, Coburg North

Other related Strategies

The Moreland Play Strategy has a direct relationship with other key Council policies and strategies, particularly those associated with public health and social wellbeing, access and equity, early childhood development and municipal asset management.

A summary of key recommendations from these strategies which relate to play space development are provided below.

The **Moreland 2025 Community Plan** includes broad themes the community identified as important for making the area a great place to live, work and visit. Key themes of relevance to the Moreland Play Strategy include a desire for a healthy, active, connected and safe community with accessible, well-maintained and sustainable spaces.



Kirkdale Park, Brunswick East

Children who were involved in the consultation process for the **Moreland Early Years Strategy 2016-2020** told us what was most important to them. This included: having places to play, swim and play sport; nature and having access to natural environments; and a clean environment with no rubbish or pollution. It was also suggested that Moreland's planners continue to consider the possibilities for internal and external spaces that are engaging for children and families in and around new residential developments. As part of strategic directions for early years infrastructure planning in the municipality Council will also invest in integrated early years facilities and new service models.

The Early Years Survey conducted as part of the strategy found that residents would like to see improvements in Moreland parks. The improvements sought would clearly boost enjoyment of these community assets for families and children. They include:

- Recreation facilities such as play equipment, skate parks, and walking tracks;
- General amenities such as seats, BBQs and water fountains;
- More green spaces including parks, gardens, trees, plants;
- More shelter and natural shade, and
- More toilets.

The **Moreland Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017** called for the design and maintenance of high-quality infrastructure (including play spaces) that meets the needs of all age groups and is safe, promotes physical activity and is sustainable for future requirements. It also recommends: enhancing opportunities for sport and active recreation; programs that promote physical activity for priority groups; and, continuing with projects that attract young people to public spaces.

The **Moreland Access and Inclusion Policy (2010-2014)** highlights the need for good planning and design to ensure that the physical and natural environment – including parks and play space – are accessible to all people. The policy is supported by annual action plans for projects to remove barriers, promote participation and increase opportunities for the whole community.

The **Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2014-2018** highlights the need to provide quality recreational and play spaces that cater to a wider range of age groups and activities in Moreland. While it focuses on organised and active sport rather than passive recreation, it called for the provision of adult exercise equipment near existing playgrounds.

The **Moreland Human Rights and Inclusion Policy** will strengthen and consolidate Council's current social policies under one overarching policy which is associated with various international, national and state-wide human rights policies and laws.

The **Moreland Pedestrian Strategy 2010-19** emphasises the importance of safe and easy access to parks and other public open spaces with facilities such as playgrounds, drinking fountains and benches. Ease of access strongly influences the extent to which people will be willing to walk, and whether a neighbourhood is considered safe.

The **Moreland Bicycle Strategy 2011-21** aims to encourage more people to take advantage of the health and sustainability benefits of cycling, mostly through the provision of bicycle infrastructure. New on-road and off-street paths that extend the bicycle network further north and into the City of Hume are a particular priority, as is improving existing bike paths so people have places to ride that feel safe, comfortable, attractive and easy to navigate. The bicycle strategy also guides community activities to make riding a bike more appealing.

In addition, the strategy guides Council's collaboration with other transport authorities to make it easier for people to combine cycling with taking public transport, and guides proposed changes to planning regulations so new housing developments will all have good cycling facilities.

The **Moreland Asset Management Strategy** aims to ensure Council's assets provide for the community, to an agreed quality, in a sustainable manner, for present and future generations. Councils are required by law to develop comprehensive management systems for the full range of assets they have responsibility for. Moreland is in the process of including its parks and playgrounds within the Council Asset Management System. The Moreland Play Strategy introduces a **hierarchy of play spaces** to guide the planning and prioritisation of their maintenance, renewal and construction. This remains a priority for Council, but is also a work in progress.

Other Influences

UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities Initiative identifies the steps for local government to implement the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* and promote the highest quality of life for all citizens.

The Child Friendly Cities Initiative arose in response to the challenges of rapid transformation and urbanisation, and the growing responsibilities of municipalities and local communities as a result of the decentralisation of government responsibility.

Key elements that relate to Moreland's Play Strategy include the right of every young citizen to:

- Influence decisions about their city;
- Express their opinion on the city they want;
- Participate in family, community and social life;
- Drink safe water and have access to proper sanitation;
- Be protected from exploitation, violence and abuse;
- Walk safely in the streets on their own;
- Meet friends and play;
- Have green spaces for plants and animals;
- Live in an unpolluted environment;
- Participate in cultural and social events; and
- Be an equal citizen of their city with access to every service, regardless of ethnic origin, religion, income, gender or disability.

The federal **Disability Discrimination Act** (1992) provides protection for everyone in Australia against discrimination based on disability. Under the act, Council is required to ensure access to play spaces and associated amenities such as toilets, seats, tables and pathways address the right of all people, regardless of age or ability. Of particular relevance to the Moreland Play Strategy is the act's determination to ensure, as far as practicable, that a person with disabilities has the same access to facilities, programs and environments as the rest of the community.

The **Urban Design Protocol** aims to create productive, sustainable and liveable places through leadership and the integration of design excellence. Urban design for play spaces should be:

- Enhancing, connected, diverse and enduring
- Comfortable, vibrant, safe and walkable



Balfe Park, Brunswick East



Coburg Lake Reserve, Coburg North

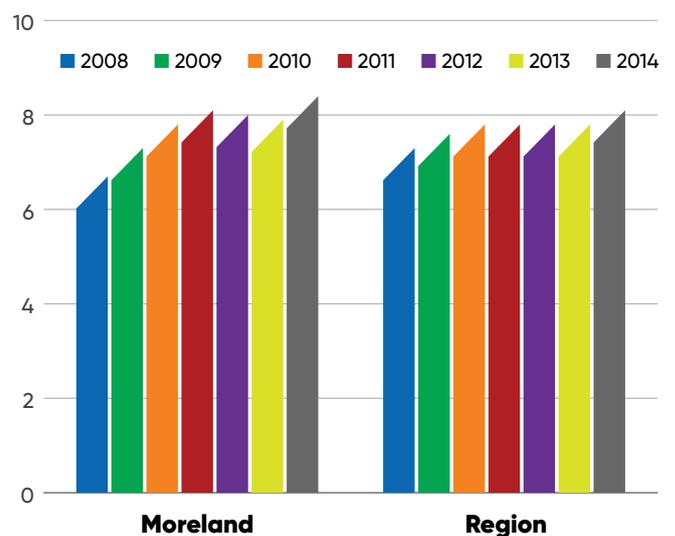
OPEN SPACE, PARK AND PLAY SPACE COMMUNITY SURVEYS

Moreland participates in the annual Integrated Open Space Services Survey (IOSS), which is conducted independently. The surveys gather residents' views of their local parks, including play spaces. The results rank Moreland against other participating Councils across Victoria.

Since 2012, Moreland has ranked in the top five of 17 councils in terms of community satisfaction. The surveys regularly find play spaces and playgrounds are the main attraction for the community to visit Moreland's open spaces, with the majority of visitors walking to a local park. Most respondents have called for the provision of additional playgrounds with toilets, BBQs, seats, tables and shelters in Moreland's parks.

Data indicates a marginal drop in satisfaction with play spaces and maintenance standards between 2012 to 2014 after a steady increase during the preceding three years. In 2015, 8.4 out of 10 was achieved – the highest to date. The results are still relatively high, which may reflect the play space upgrade and renewal program that has occurred over the past five years.

Graph 1: 1 IOSS Play Space Facilities & Maintenance Standards





The **Oxygen Project Phase 2 Report and Action Plan 2015–2018** included a 2014 survey of Moreland youth which identified a strong interest in new play spaces, including skate parks. 448 Moreland youth were surveyed, 87 per cent of whom were aged between 12 and 17.

The results showed Moreland youth were specifically interested in the following:

- Outdoor trampolines, ropes courses and play equipment.
- Digital plug and play technology with speakers and projectors.
- The free provision of Wi-Fi in public spaces.
- Toilets and water fountains in public spaces.
- More trees, plants and beautification across the municipality.
- Legal graffiti walls in appropriate places (shopping strips).
- More seating and shelter in spaces where young people gather.
- Outdoor gym equipment and more sports grounds.
- New and improved lighting in spaces where young people gather.
- More artwork, colour and performance spaces / stages for events and activity.

In 2013 Moreland City Council conducted an **Early Years Survey** which asked over 1,000 families with young children in the municipality about their awareness and use of children's services in Moreland, and their satisfaction with those services. The results showed a strong interest in play spaces, with satisfaction results above the regional average. The 2014 satisfaction results were down on results for 2011–2013, but above the long term average. Specific feedback from respondents included calls for:

- Consultation with children through active networks.
- Natural play.
- Better promotion of Moreland play spaces.
- Consulting culturally and linguistically diverse communities.
- Access for all.

KEY FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN RELATION TO PLAY SPACE PROVISION

Population trends - young children in Moreland

Moreland's demographic trends indicate future growth in the young and middle age groups across the whole municipality, with Brunswick, Coburg and Glenroy having the largest number of young people.

These suburbs are expected to remain home to the largest numbers of 0-14 year olds through to 2036 with Brunswick and Brunswick East to have the greatest proportional growth in young people over the next few decades.

While demographic data alone cannot be used for planning play spaces and their locations, it can point towards population growth areas and offers useful information for comparing play space opportunities within those locations. For example, between 2015 and 2031 the number of under-15 year olds in Moreland is expected to grow by 28 per cent from 27,000 to 35,000. During this period, the highest growth is expected to occur in Brunswick East (by 78 per cent or 1,110), Brunswick (by 40 per cent or 1,119) and Coburg (by 28 per cent or 1,121). In contrast, by 2031 the smallest proportion of Moreland's young people is predicted to be in Gowanbrae (488 equivalent to 1.4 per cent), Hadfield (1,441 equivalent to 4.1 per cent) and Oak Park (1258 or 3.6 per cent).

It is important that the community remain mindful of changing population dynamics in planning, decision-making, Council resource allocation and dealing with customer requests for play space maintenance and upgrades.

Play space locations across Moreland

Council currently maintains 127 playgrounds, sets of outdoor exercise equipment and skate parks, 19 of which have been added since 2008.

The map of play space locations (and addresses), by hierarchy, can be found in Appendix A.

The following map (page 18) indicates that the location of parks and play spaces is fairly evenly distributed across the municipality with the exception of some gaps (refer to page 32 – Play Space Proximity).



Playspace locations across Moreland



Moreland play space hierarchy

District play spaces

These are large 'access for all' facilities designed to cater for a wide range of people from the area along with a capacity to draw a tourist element from the surrounding districts. Generally district play spaces are custom-designed for a site and have the capacity to provide a wide variety of play.

In 2008, an all-abilities district play space was developed at Harmony Park in Coburg. Bush Reserve, also in Coburg, was opened in mid-2015 and includes a Liberty Swing for children and adults in wheelchairs. Further sites should be investigated for two new district 'access for all' facilities to cater for the broader community.

Local play spaces (formally called local significant)

These sites are generally large and should cater for both junior and older users. Council generally buys the play equipment from commercial suppliers (as opposed to district play spaces which are generally custom-designed). Junior areas provide activities at lower heights and senior areas provide activities at a range of heights including agility and climbing structures.

Local play spaces are either located in a commercial or community hub or in a site of high amenity that draw users from a wider area than local play spaces and attract family and social groups on weekends. Significant local play spaces often contain more amenities (such as toilets and barbecues) to facilitate these gatherings.

Some small local play spaces (see next section for definition) should strategically be developed into local play spaces to provide an equitable distribution across the municipality in locations where they will be well used (refer to page 32 – Play Space Proximity for more information and a map of play spaces and playground walkability gaps.)

Small local play spaces (formerly called local)

These are smaller sites and primarily targeted at children aged 3-7 years. Council generally buys the play equipment from commercial suppliers (as opposed to district play spaces which are generally custom-designed). Local play spaces are generally located in small pocket parks. Council needs to explore opportunities for diversifying the variety of offerings these spaces provide including a better mix of structured and natural play options.

Small local play spaces are most important for creating neighbourhood networks amongst parents and children and are often positioned so that older children can access them on their own, fostering their independence.

The majority of play spaces in Moreland are defined as local play spaces.

Other Play Spaces in Moreland

There are other public primary school play spaces in Moreland, some of which allow community use outside of school hours.



Tree planting at a local play area

Part 3: Actions

DIVERSITY OF PLAY



Harmony Park, Coburg

Play theory identifies four broad categories of play behaviour. These apply across all ages, but the way they are interpreted by each age group varies.

Physically active play involves gross motor activities i.e. using the large muscle groups, and skills such as co-ordination and balance (swinging, climbing, sliding, hanging, agility activities).

Cognitive play involves the development of the intellect through games of strategy, exploration and observation. Play space features which prompt cognitive play include nature play areas for exploration and the observation of living things, structures such as tic tac toe and spaces suitable for games such as marbles.

Creative play involves manipulating the environment through playing with natural materials (sand, water, leaves, soil, and mulch), creating 'fairy gardens', making music or interacting with sculptures.

Social/dramatic play includes role-play, imaginative play and group activities. Play space features which prompt social/dramatic play include 'shops' and cubbies, steering wheels and boats. A double swing can provide opportunities for children to swing and talk. Hammocks and seesaws can provide for cooperative activity.

Historically, many play spaces have focused on the provision of equipment for physically active play and neglected to foster the other types of play, but there is now recognition of the importance of providing greater diversity. Play areas need to prompt different types of movement and manipulation, have differing degrees of openness of space and scale, and provide a diverse range of natural and sensory elements.

Children's play activities, their interests and their abilities change dramatically as they develop. Play areas need to cater for this range of interests and to facilitate the gradual development of skills.

More diverse play spaces tend to be purpose designed and constructed. New play space developments provide the greatest opportunity for diversifying play equipment and play spaces for children and young people within Moreland. However there is scope to greatly increase the diversity of play opportunities within existing parks through considered landscape design adjacent to play equipment.

Objectives

- **To increase the diversity of play experiences available from individual play spaces.**
- **To increase the diversity of play experience in each suburb.**
- **To increase the range of age groups that the play spaces cater for.**
- **To create new play spaces which encourage greater diversity of play behaviour through designs where landscape features and play equipment complement one another.**
- **Recognise the need for appropriate play space locations in relation to other recreational activities e.g. proximity of playgrounds to bike paths and half courts.**

Actions

1. Encourage diversity of play experience by creating informal play spaces through the landscaping around play spaces e.g. areas where children can play with rocks, leaves, twigs and other natural elements.
2. Provide greater play opportunities for older children and young people as well as adult involvement.
3. When equipment is upgraded in play spaces or new equipment provided, aim to achieve a balance between the four categories of play behaviour (see above).
4. Vary play equipment, materials, construction techniques and landscape elements from park to park.
5. Offer both structured and natural options to suit a variety of age groups and abilities within each play setting in accordance with relevant Australian Standards.

Clifton Park, Brunswick



ACCESSIBILITY

Ideally, play spaces, parks and other open space should be accessible to everyone in the community regardless of their abilities and age.

Many of Moreland's play spaces are difficult for people in wheelchairs to access and do not provide appropriate play equipment for children with disabilities. Few play spaces provide seating for carers or grandparents.

Some of Moreland's play spaces are located in sporting reserves where they are designed around the assumption that users will drive to the site, therefore making them more difficult to access for pedestrians. Some of these play spaces have had gym equipment installed in recent years to diversify activity options.

A lack of readily available information about Moreland's play space locations and facilities also reduces their accessibility to new residents.

Objectives

- To improve the accessibility of play spaces, where possible, for all users.
- To improve pedestrian access to play spaces.
- To provide more play opportunities for children with disabilities.
- To increase community awareness of the play spaces and facilities available in their district.
- To provide a range of accessible spaces of different functions and experiences across Moreland.

Actions

1. Improve path networks at existing parks to enable safe access to play equipment and toilet facilities or other amenities (where they exist).
2. Improve pedestrian access to play spaces by providing pedestrian pathways through reserves and entry points to link play spaces into the residential neighbourhood.
3. Include minimum disability access requirements compliant with Australian Standards in the redevelopment or creation of new play spaces in parks that have been classified as either district parks or local parks.
4. Consider accessibility and play opportunities for children of varying abilities in the design of new play spaces.
5. Develop new play spaces with regard to the principles contained in the draft Moreland Human Rights and Inclusion Policy.
6. Provide information about play spaces to residents through local child and maternal health centres, playgroups, schools, kindergartens and libraries, using a variety of means of communication and in a variety of languages.

MAINTENANCE

In 2014 and 2015 Council undertook a Playgrounds and Infrastructure Maintenance Service Review which assessed the current demands on play spaces against levels of service and resourcing constraints.

The review identified a number of significant issues, including an increasing gap between play space demands and resourcing; a growing number of non-compliant playgrounds and equipment; and a maintenance regime that is largely reactive.

Moreland's play spaces are currently inspected by a qualified independent play space safety auditor, two times per year, to ensure they comply with current standards as prescribed by Standards Australia. Council staff use the reports from these inspections to plan their maintenance work. The frequency of the audit is being reviewed.

Following each audit, all repairs and modifications are ranked according to the degree of risk they pose in line with Australian Standards. Any defect ranked as a high priority is attended to immediately. The remainder are put into the maintenance schedule or referred directly to the **capital works** program. Play spaces or individual pieces of equipment requiring replacement or renewal are listed on Council's five-year capital works upgrade program.

In addition to external audits, Council conducts monthly inspections of all playgrounds in Moreland parks.

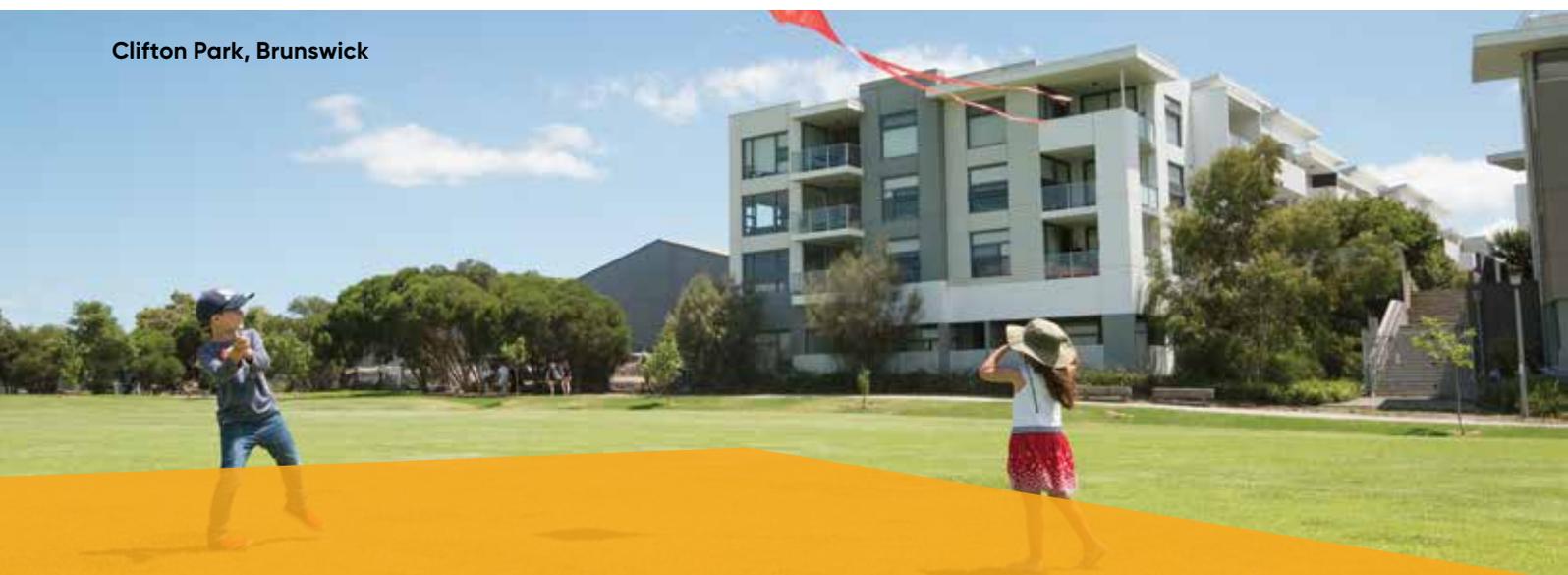
Objectives

- To maintain Moreland's play spaces so that they comply with safety standards and are clean and attractive.

Actions

1. Continue to conduct frequent inspections and prompt repairs of damaged equipment.
2. Ensure the discrepancy between maintenance capacity and requirements are addressed and maintenance staff are consulted in the design and development of new play spaces.
3. Develop new play spaces in accordance with industry best practice and relevant Australian Standards.

Clifton Park, Brunswick





Maintenance service timeframes

Description	Timeframe
Maintenance – urgent safety issue	Same day
Maintenance – high priority	Within two days
Non-compliant with Australia Standard 4685	Operational Projects Budget allocation – annually
Maintenance – general	Within budget limitations
Softfall ground covering	Annually
Graffiti	General – within two weeks of request received If offensive – removal same day as request received
Australian Standards – non compliance issue	Dependent on seriousness and public safety
Recommendation – Council staff solution to a potential hazard not covered by AS 4685	For consideration only

SUSTAINABLE PLAY SPACE DESIGN

In retrofitting play spaces or the development of new play spaces, it is important to consider their longevity and the flexibility in their design, and to adopt environmentally sustainable design principles.

Play spaces should encourage people to connect with and enjoy the natural environment, including surrounding vegetation, parklands and areas around creeks. Sustainable and recycled materials should be considered for use in play space equipment and the surrounding landscaping.

Objectives

- To connect play spaces with surrounding vegetation, parklands and waterways.
- To use sustainable or recycled materials in play spaces and associated landscaping where possible.

Actions

1. Design play spaces that connect with and provide opportunities to interact with the surrounding natural environment.
2. Explore possibilities for refurbishing equipment if it is still of play value and can be brought up to best standards at a reasonable cost.
3. Investigate recycling play space equipment between parks during upgrades if it is deemed still useful.
4. Design new play spaces and retrofits using sustainable or recycled materials where possible.
5. Research and review sustainable and recycled materials for use in play space design and associated landscaping.

Barkly Street Park, Brunswick



AMENITIES

Amenities contribute to the comfort and safety of children and carers while they use the play space.

Comfortable seating close to the play area encourages supervision by adults. All play spaces should have seating with back rests. Preferably, it will be located north of the play space with some shade and provide good visual surveillance of play areas.

Parks with significant **local play spaces** and **district play spaces** attract people from a wider area than local parks, so they need to provide adequate amenities. As a minimum, designers should consider seating close to the equipment for supervision, a drinking fountain, and natural shade.

Fencing should be considered in locations where a serious potential hazard exists, such as a main road or waterway. Partial barriers designed to redirect children away from the dangers are recommended, as fully-fenced play spaces tend to give parents a false sense of security and can encourage inadequate supervision. Placing fencing around play spaces can also impede the relationship of the play equipment with the broader park, creating a barrier between the play experiences offered in the play space and the play experiences offered in the broader park.

To enhance the play space environment, fencing around play spaces and sports fields that is no longer deemed necessary should be removed as part of the parks improvement program.

Parents or carers of young children need to be aware of their role in providing 'duty of care' for children at play spaces. This should include dressing children in appropriate footwear, sunsmart clothing in summer and providing adequate supervision of their children.

Unlike a school environment, parents have a greater choice of times and conditions children can play in public parks. Use of public play facilities in high UV periods, or extreme weather conditions should be avoided. Appropriate protective measures such as a hat, sunscreen and wraparound sunglasses should be used outdoors. The Moreland Play Strategy guides for appropriate species of shade tree around play spaces in general. Built shade structures will be considered for district parks and other frequently-used parks where appropriate.

Dogs are not permitted in playground areas and must be on a leash within 15 metres of play spaces. There are often issues created by dog owners not controlling their dogs when they're off the leash around play spaces, as well as dog owners not picking up after their dogs. This can lead to unpleasant and sometimes dangerous experiences for play space users. Council is creating separate dog off-leash areas to manage this problem.



Coburg Lake Reserve, Coburg North

Objectives

- To improve amenities at significant local and district play spaces.
- To improve natural shade at play spaces, particularly local or district play spaces where visitors may stay for a long period of time.
- To provide fencing where there needs to be a barrier between the equipment and a potential danger.
- To remove or relocate inappropriate fencing and amenities.
- To address the impact dogs have on play space safety and cleanliness.

Actions

6. Install picnic and BBQ facilities, shelters and toilets for large family and social gatherings in district parks and other suitable informal parkland with play spaces, in the context of approved landscape plans (in line with Moreland Open Space Strategy).
7. Consider locating new local play spaces where there are existing amenities.
8. Assess the existing natural shade at play spaces and allocate funding for tree planting and the construction of shade where natural shade is limited, prioritising junior play equipment.
9. Consider sun orientation when determining locations for new play equipment so natural shade is optimised.
10. Assess potential hazards (main roads, creeks, off-leash dogs, falling branches) at each play space and consider strategic design interventions to manage high safety risks where needed.
11. Assess existing play spaces and remove or relocate inappropriate fencing and amenities as part of the parks improvement program.
12. Promote parents' and carers' 'duty of care' at play spaces through the Council website and posters at schools, kindergartens, libraries and MCH centres, so parents and carers are aware of their responsibilities.
13. Publicise, and continue to enforce the local law requiring dogs to be on lead within 15 metres of play spaces, regardless of whether the surrounding area is an off-leash zone. Publicise and facilitate compliance with the local law that states that no person in charge of an animal may allow droppings to remain in a park or other public land.
14. Work in conjunction with the IT and Youth Services Units to explore the provision of free public WiFi when play spaces are upgraded.
15. Evaluate the benefit of a ropes course in a play space that is being upgraded.

SAFETY

Previously, risk management and minimisation were the focus of councils in the design, maintenance and renewal of play spaces.

Whilst risk management is still important, there is now a greater understanding of the development benefits of children learning to assess risks and make judgements. Play advocacy groups are now promoting the use of benefit/risk assessment. This change in focus has seen some interesting and challenging nature play elements and play equipment being included in new play spaces. These types of play spaces have been able to hold the interest of older children for longer than those with less challenge and unpredictability.

Despite these recent changes, Council needs to carefully consider and comply with a range of relevant Australian Standards in the design and maintenance of play spaces and equipment, including for example:

- AS 4685:2014 Playground equipment and surfacing
- AS/NZS 4422 Playground surfacing – Specifications, requirements and test method
- AS/NZS 4686:1997 Playgrounds and Play Equipment
- AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk management - Principles and guidelines
- AS 1428 Design for Access and Mobility
- AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk management – Principles and Guidelines
- Australian Human Rights Commission advisory note on streetscapes, public outdoor areas, fixtures, fittings and furniture (2013)
- Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia
- International Infrastructure Management Manual (2011)
- Parks management: Inventories, condition and performance grading Practice Note 10.1 (2014)

Other important risk considerations for play space safety have been discussed in Amenities – page 27, including natural shade, fencing and proximity to off-leash dog and sporting areas.

Objectives

- To maintain playgrounds in accordance with the current Australia Standards to ensure they are fit for purpose.
- To continue to improve the safety of play spaces while providing challenging play experiences.

Actions

1. Trial a Safety by Design process in one play space renewal, examining the costs and benefits.
2. Inspect upgraded play spaces prior to use by the public.
3. Arrange tri-annual inspection by a qualified, independent play space safety auditor to ensure compliance with current applicable standards as prescribed by Standards Australia.
4. Respond immediately to customer requests for play spaces to be made safe.
5. Open Space Infrastructure Maintenance Team to visually inspect play spaces monthly.
6. Implement the Annual Playgrounds Compliance Works Program.
7. Annually implement the 5 Year Capital Works Playground Renewal Program.

PLAY SPACE LOCATION

The location of a play space can dramatically affect its popularity. Play spaces in sites overlooked by surrounding homes with lots of people walking in the area will be safer and more popular with children.

The location and nature of a play space needs to be considered **within the context of all functions of the park.** Maintenance levels and associated amenities (seats, toilets etc.) should reflect the catchment served (i.e. the number of people estimated to use the space) and the Moreland Open Space Strategy's park service hierarchy.

Informal surveillance by residents around a park may also help to deter vandalism. Proximity to other community facilities or shops will be likely to increase the use of the play space and can provide a valuable complement to the facility. Young children, especially those under ten years, are generally dependent upon adults to take them to parks and play areas. Play spaces for young children therefore need to be designed to also attract adults.

Some of Moreland's play spaces are in poor locations. Some are located in remote sites next to sporting facilities, where they may be used a lot on the weekend but be quite isolated during the week. Play spaces which are bordered by homes' back or side fences on the majority of sides can have surveillance problems, undesirable behaviour and vandalism.

An assessment of proximity risks – such as roads, car parks, shared pathways (bike/walk), railways, water bodies, drains, flood prone areas and off-lead dog areas – and how these risks could be managed also needs to be undertaken. If the land is a former landfill site or may be contaminated, soil testing will be required.

In new housing developments, play spaces should be created, where appropriate. Access between new housing developments and existing play spaces should also be considered and created where appropriate. Developer contributions funds could be used to upgrade existing play spaces or develop new play spaces.

A number of small local play spaces are situated in road reserves or very small allotments. Given the strong attachment residents place on any play space and equipment, removal of such play spaces is not recommended unless there are suitable alternatives within 500m walking distance. Placing play spaces in a prominent, central location helps children and parents to feel connected to a community rather than marginalised away from the action.

Other considerations for the location of new play spaces include:

- Physical qualities of the site including proximity to natural features (trees, rocks, undulating landforms and views), which may enhance play opportunities.
- Environmental impact of the play space on the site including native vegetation, flora and fauna.
- Heritage or other planning overlays in the park.
- Accessibility to a reasonable number of residents.
- Character of the park.
- Proximity to homes, commercial centres and public transport.

Objectives

- To improve the safety and encourage increased use of existing play spaces.
- To locate new play spaces in the optimum location to ensure they are safe, well-used and well-connected with the community.

Actions

1. Explore opportunities to improve the safety and accessibility of existing play spaces with new pedestrian paths linking the play spaces to homes.
2. Design play spaces that enhance the overall park and make the best use of the geography and existing buildings and other structures to increase play value^{12.3} Consider the environmental impact of play spaces in any development/redevelopment, particularly if close to natural areas like creek corridors.
3. Review existing play spaces to improve connectedness to the surrounding area.



Gilmour Park, Coburg

PLAY SPACE PROXIMITY

The Moreland Open Space Strategy states all homes should have a local park within 500 metres' safe walking distance.

In developing this strategy, 'safe walking distance' was defined as not having to cross any roads that have a speed limit of more than 50km/hr (unless a pedestrian crossing is provided). The catchment area for each play space was established using this criterion (refer to map on following page).

Objectives

- To create new play spaces in areas that are deficient, where possible.
- To create safe crossing points across busy roads (speed limit greater than 50km/hr) so that children in areas deficient in play spaces can safely access existing play spaces.

Actions

1. Investigate the feasibility of providing new pedestrian crossings at the following locations to improve safe access across busy roads:
 - Boundary Road to Hallam Reserve, Pascoe Vale
 - Cumberland Road to Cole Reserve, Pascoe Vale
 - Glenroy Road to Sewell Reserve, Glenroy
2. Pursue opportunities to create new play spaces in existing parks and other public open space to service areas deficient in play spaces.

3. The Moreland Open Space Strategy recommends purchase and development of land to alleviate open space deficiencies. If this objective is met, play spaces should be developed:

- In the vicinity of Eastgate Street between Hatter and York Streets, Pascoe Vale South
- In the vicinity of the corner of Brearley and Springhall Parades, Pascoe Vale South
- In the vicinity of Canberra Street, Brunswick

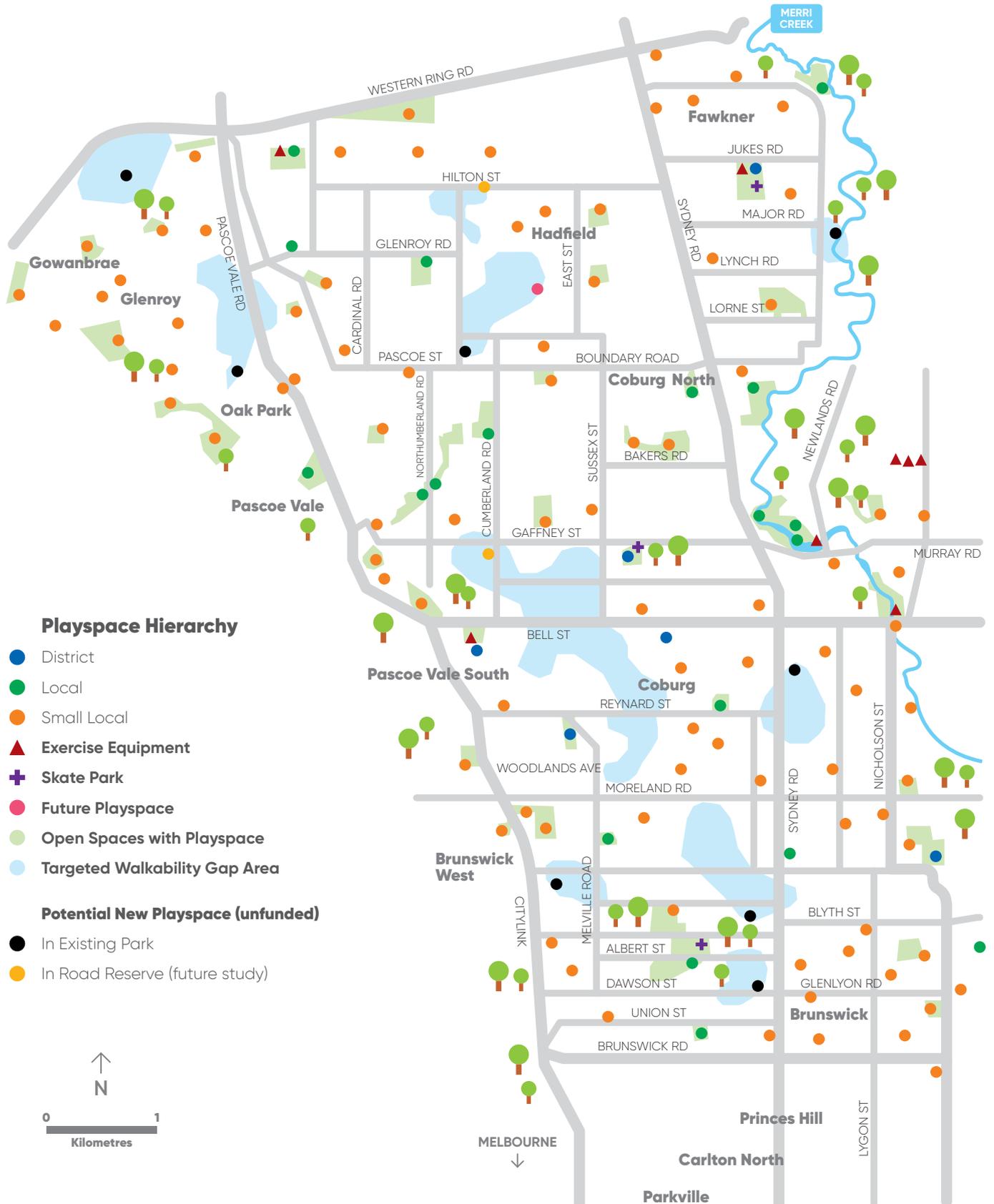
4. Investigate after-hours public access arrangements to school grounds in areas where there is a lack of play spaces, such as Brunswick North Primary, Glenroy Primary and Pascoe Vale North Primary.

The following map (page 33) identifies gaps in the provision of play spaces in Moreland based on a 500m walkability analysis (on Council owned land). Where appropriate, Council will assess the opportunity to create new play spaces in existing public open space by identifying:

- areas of greatest needs;
- capacity to maintain;
- population growth;
- opportunities to work with local schools to share facilities; and
- strategic acquisition of new open spaces for play spaces.

The play space gap analysis needs to be reviewed over time to take account of changing demographics, housing densities and land use zoning across Moreland.

Playspace gaps in provision



PLAY SPACES IN PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY CENTRES

Moreland's proposed Principle Activity Centres in Coburg, Brunswick and Glenroy will see major urban development as part of *Plan Melbourne*.

New play spaces need to be considered as part of the Structure Plan to serve the increased population proposed. All new play spaces should be considered as part of broader open space planning for activity centres.

Objectives

- To provide new play spaces in prominent, central locations with good pedestrian access and passive surveillance in new activity centres.

Actions

1. Develop a new local play space in Coburg as part of The Coburg Structure Plan, for example at City Oval.
2. Explore opportunity to incorporate play elements in an urban space in central Brunswick.
3. Investigate a new play space in central Glenroy as part of the Structure Plan update.



Coburg Lake Reserve, Coburg North

PLAY SPACES REMOVALS

Whilst it may not be the initial recommendation, it is sometimes a better decision to remove play space equipment rather than upgrading it, for example because:

- There is another play space very close by.
- The play space is in an extremely isolated or inappropriate site.
- The play space site is very small.
- The condition of the play space is so poor and it is so old that it would be uneconomical to upgrade it.

Where a play space is removed the land should be returned to passive open space.

Parallel works

When a play space is removed and the site is returned to passive open space, an upgrade of another play space or installation of a new play space nearby may be completed at the same time. Play spaces should only be removed following community consultation.

Objectives

- To improve the standard and location of play spaces across the municipality through removal of play spaces considered inappropriate for reasons listed above.
- To upgrade existing play spaces or install new play spaces 500m walkable distance from a removed play space, where appropriate.

Actions

1. Investigate smaller, degraded play spaces and alternative play space developments in close proximity.



Part 4: Next Steps

THE CURRENT SITUATION



Gilmour Park, Coburg

In Moreland, there are 127 Council-owned public play spaces that include playground equipment. There are an additional 40 parks and reserves that offer opportunities for play but which do not have play equipment.

Provision Overview

Reports and visual observation of the play spaces reveal that their primary features are off-the-shelf type modular play equipment designed for 3-10 year olds. The standard of play spaces varies greatly in terms of the age of equipment, the value of the play experience, the use of the wider site to enhance play opportunities and the amenity of the site. In many parks, additional components have been added over time to expand play opportunities.

A small number of play spaces include older style timber structures and a few parks have the junior and senior play spaces a small distance apart. Consolidation of the play equipment at these sites would make it easier for one carer to supervise multiple children.

More recent installations generally include a combination unit with climbers, slides and a bridge structure and are generally accompanied by swings and other equipment. One park includes a swing suitable for children with restricted mobility.

Basic amenities, such as seating for adults, are provided at most play spaces. Other play spaces have additional facilities that are consistent with the type and level of use of the wider park, including basketball rings for older children and adults.

Moreland has a number of significant physical barriers that impact people's ease of access to play spaces. A number of arterial and secondary roads intersect and abut the municipality, which together with the rail lines can make it difficult for residents to access some play spaces.

On the other hand, there are a number of linear parks (long, narrow parks, often situated along train lines) that provide safe walking or cycling access between play spaces. Council is facing an increasing number of demands for use of Moreland's open space for things like sports and events. These demands need to be managed to minimise impacts on play spaces.

Moreland does not have a Regional facility, but residents have access to a number of large regional parks within a 15-30 minute drive of the municipality. A number of these are 'destination' parks with unique features which attract people from across the northern region and beyond for extended visits. Most have a high standard of facilities including 'regional' level play spaces and associated infrastructure, which are accessible for children and adults with a disability.

A summary of nearby Regional Play Spaces is outlined below:

City of Melbourne - Children's Hospital; Birrarung Marr; Carlton Gardens; Royal Park

City of Yarra - Edinburgh; Quarries Park; Mayor's Park; Hall Reserve

City of Darebin - Bundoora Park

City of Moonee Valley - Maribyrnong River

Financial Overview

At today's costs, the 'like for like' replacement of Council's existing play equipment is estimated to be \$12.7 million.

This includes removal of old equipment and project management costs for the play space network. It does not include costs for associated park infrastructure.

The life of a play space varies considerably, depending on how often it's used, materials, environmental conditions, construction quality and maintenance levels. Generally, an average life of 20 years is applied to play spaces. Sites which are used more often, and used by people from all over the municipality and beyond, are depreciated over a maximum of 10 years.

Over 50 per cent of Council's play spaces were installed or renewed prior to 2000. Council is therefore entering a period when increased renewal expenditure will be required, and Council will need to substantially increase its existing budget provisions to meet these costs.

The \$12.7 million replacement value of existing play spaces equates to an average of \$605,667 per annum over 20 years. To bring the age of all play space assets to 20 years life a further \$2.155m is required. It is recommended that in the future there is more investment in **local play spaces**, and that these are easily accessible. Staged Funding requirements exceeding existing budgets may be provided in a staged manner from the Public Resort and Recreation fund, which will be further investigated over the next five years.

Some changes to the levels of maintenance at other play spaces, to better reflect the amount of people using them, are also recommended. This would be based on community consultation on a site-by-site or area basis. While it could include consolidation or decommissioning of some existing play equipment, it would also include some new sites and increased levels of service at others.

The resulting capital cost of the network is estimated to increase to \$15.37 million over 20 years, or an average of approximately \$768,500 per annum.

The proposal to include natural environment play elements in play spaces is likely to result in some decreases in capital costs but these would be partly offset by increased maintenance costs. Recurrent budgets would need to provide for this higher level of maintenance.

It is recommended that a play space asset management plan be developed based on the **play space hierarchy** contained in this strategy. It will be informed by more detailed assessment of the condition, usage and play quality of play spaces, as well as specific site or neighbourhood consultation.

The asset management plan will enable a comprehensive and more even renewal program to be established, to more fully inform Council's **capital works** programs and priorities.

How We Compare

Moreland City Council is in line with most adjoining municipalities in aiming to provide residents with access to a play space within a 500 metres.

Much of the data about play spaces is quantitative statistical information, that is, numbers of play spaces and numbers of people (Moreland City Council provides one play space per 1287 people). It does not provide any evaluation of the quality of the play spaces, the range of ages and abilities the play spaces cater for, the ease with which people can access play spaces, or amenities at the play space. Nor does it consider gaps or overlaps in the provision of play spaces across areas.

Other councils in the region (Darebin and Moonee Valley) have developed strategies to improve the quality of play opportunities in their municipalities. These strategies include broader community engagement and consultation, upgrading play equipment, upgrading surrounding parkland to incorporate additional play opportunities including nature-based play, removing play equipment from small parks, and amalgamating play spaces where there is an oversupply.



The Challenges

The Moreland Play Strategy has identified a number of challenges that need to be addressed in order to achieve Council's and the community's objectives for play spaces over the next 15 years:

- Promoting the play spaces that are available and their facilities along with those which are recently completed;
- Ensuring a fair and equitable distribution of play spaces across the city and addressing issues of over-supply in some areas and undersupply in others (including the provision of public open space);
- Balancing the need for expanded play spaces with the needs of other parkland users;
- The **impact in the proportion of children in the community** and new housing environments such as higher-density residential areas;
- Establishing a hierarchy of play spaces that provide a variety of destinations for short and extended visits;
- Changing community expectations about what play spaces should include and who they should provide for;
- The need to address sustainability considerations as they relate to play spaces. This might mean prioritising sustainable materials, encouraging 'active transport' such as walking and bike riding to access play spaces, and minimising the economic costs associated with the maintenance of play spaces where possible;
- Improving the quality of play experiences through design of creative play environments and applying universal design principles;
- Replacement of outdated play equipment;
- Working within available funding; and
- Increase in maintenance required.

THE FUTURE

Focus

Findings from research conducted as part of this strategy, the *Moreland Open Space Strategy 2012* and other relevant documents indicate the following priorities for play space planning and development:

- Increase awareness of the location of playground facilities – existing and recently completed.
- Increase opportunities for nature play experiences, make better use of the natural environment and landscaping to enhance play opportunities.
- Make play spaces suitable for children of a wider range of ages, from 0 to 11.
- Outline the community consultation process.
- Develop play spaces in line with an agreed planning framework that is applied consistently.
- Use the features of each site to the best advantage in the design of play spaces so they are as unique as possible.
- Use less off-the-shelf, modular equipment.
- Increase the variety of play equipment across similar types of play spaces.
- Incorporate play spaces that stimulate exploration, imagination and creative play and are accessible and inclusive.
- Add or upgrade accompanying amenities such as shade, seating, drink fountains, paths and toilets in line with the **play space hierarchy** and future design framework.
- Identify existing play space sites that should be reviewed due to their proximity to other play spaces, opportunities to provide a greater diversity of play spaces within neighbourhoods, and their appropriateness as a play space site.
- Address maintenance gaps.
- The need to upgrade some **district play spaces** in particular, and for them to be accessible.

Moreland Open Space Strategy summary with regard to play:

- Respondents were asked what they use green spaces in Moreland for (see Figure 3). The most common reasons were exercise and taking children along to play (page 57).
- Children's play areas were seen as varying in quality, with little diversity available across the municipality. Small play areas close to home, and spaces where informal ball games are allowed were important. Play areas for older children are perceived to be lacking (page 62).
- Increase the recurrent **capital expenditure** program for playgrounds (including upgrades and new play spaces) to meet current safety standards, enhance accessibility and provide diversity in play opportunities (page 69).
- Designate playgrounds/parks throughout the municipality for additional shade structures and implement (page 80).



Capital Planning

Criteria for capital planning of play space renewal:

- Age/useful life.
- Condition.
- Proximity to walkable transport and Neighbourhood Activity Centre (as defined by Moreland Planning Scheme).
- Respond to population changes that may impact on the level or type of use of play spaces in a neighbourhood e.g. an increase in homes in the area.
- Play space is on a site with demonstrated high use.
- Renewal will result in more use.
- Provide play spaces in areas where there currently aren't many.
- Enhance the quality and variety of play spaces in line with the play space design framework.
- Achieve the greatest benefit for the cost.
- Address risk management and risk mitigation issues.
- Improve the attractiveness of play spaces.
- Condition and offering of surrounding playground/s.
- Other Council capital projects.
- Equity.
- Diversity of play experience.
- Sustainability.

The life of a play space varies, depending on design, use, materials, environmental conditions, quality of construction and maintenance levels. Benchmarking indicates that most local governments depreciate their play spaces over 15-20 years.

Busier sites are depreciated over a maximum of 10 years and also have much higher annual operational costs. Rubberised soft-fall needs to be depreciated over 6-7 years so needs to be considered separately. It is preferable for councils to have an even pattern of play space asset renewal over a 20-25 year cycle. This can be a challenge for municipalities which have had extensive development and population growth over a relatively short period.

To continue providing the community with quality play spaces, Council's annual capital renewal budgets need to reflect this figure (adjusted annually to reflect procurement cost changes). These figures will also need updating to reflect future changes to the numbers of sites and/or levels of maintenance at sites.

These budget figures unfortunately do not include the costs of addressing any gaps in distribution and provision of play spaces for existing and future populations Moreland. It is therefore important that Council continues to identify gaps and explore opportunities for either the creation of new play spaces or the recycling of any facilities. Any changes in levels of service would be dependent on the outcomes of demographic changes combined with local community consultation.

A consideration for Council is ensuring that capital and recurrent budgets for play spaces include allocations each year to sustain improvements to, and ongoing maintenance of play spaces, and to ensure asset depreciation is met. Where appropriate, Council should seek external or partnership funding to supplement existing budget allocations. These may include state government funding programs and partnerships with schools and the private sector.

Community satisfaction with Council's play spaces will be monitored as part of Moreland's customer satisfaction surveys. The implementation of this strategy should continue to be reviewed bi-annually.

5 year capital program – play renewal

Reserve Name	Suburb	Year Built	Hierarchy	Estimated time frame
John Pascoe Fawkner Reserve	Oak Park	1993	Small local	16 – 17
Gilmour Dairy Reserve	Coburg	1991	Local	16 – 17
Park Street Reserve	Brunswick	1999	Small local	16 – 17
Joe Laherty Reserve	Glenroy	1990	Small local	16 – 17
G.E. Clarke Reserve	Glenroy	1990	Small local	16 – 17
Fraser Reserve	Brunswick West	1989	Local	17 – 18
Kelvin Thomson Park	Pascoe Vale South	1989	Small local	17 – 18
Moomba Park Reserve	Fawkner	1996	Local	17 – 18
Bryant Family Reserve	Oak Park	1995	Local	17 – 18
Campbell Reserve	Coburg	1987	Small local	17 – 18
Stevenson Reserve	Oak Park	2001?	Small local	17 – 18
Jacobs Reserve	Brunswick West	1991	Local	18 – 19
Hosken Reserve	Coburg North	1994	Small local	18 – 19
Allard Park	Brunswick East	1991	Local	18 – 19
Austin Crescent/ Gavin Reserve	Pascoe Vale	1989/1994	Small local/Local	18 – 19
Denzil Don Reserve	Brunswick West	1993	Local	18 – 19
Anderson Reserve	Coburg	1993	Local	19 – 20
Oak Park Reserve	Oak Park	1995		19 – 20
Willow/Mailer Reserve	Coburg	2001/1987	Small Local	19 – 20
LD Johns Reserve	Brunswick West	1989	Small Local	19 – 20
Hudson Reserve	Brunswick West	1990	Small Local	19 – 20
Raeburn Reserve	Pascoe Vale	1994	Local	19 – 20
James Martin Reserve	Hadfield	1995	Local	20 – 21
Anderson Park	Brunswick East	1990	Small Local	20 – 21
Dunstan Reserve	Brunswick West	1991	Small Local	20 – 21
Douglas Reserve	Brunswick East	1992	Small Local	20 – 21
Balfe Park	Brunswick East	1997	Small Local	20 – 21

Note: projects are confirmed the year prior for the financial year ahead which will be published on the Moreland City Council website.

Council has committed to a specific 5 year capital program:

1. Playground Strategy – Implementation – Various	\$262,000 Additional \$90,000 in 2016/17. Additional \$175,000 in 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20.
2. Parks Major Work – Various	\$100,000
3. Parks Minor Works – Various	\$50,000

Capital program – Play renewal – delivered projects

Reserve Name	Suburb	Hierarchy	Year Built	Features & Facilities	Age Range	Diversity of Play
Bartlett Family Reserve	Hadfield	Small Local	2008	Swing, spring rider and combination unit.	Multi-age	Social / Physically Active
Brearley Reserve	Pascoe Vale South	Local	2013	Spring rider, carousel, swing, Seat x 5, combination unit, swing, flying fox, seat x 2, climber, spring see-saw climber x 5, sandpit, climber, cross trainer, air walker, cycle seat, hip swing and sit up	Multi-age	Social /Dramatic Physically Active
Bush Reserve	Coburg	District	2015	Tree house fort, double swing, musical sculptures, play sculptures, boat, , synthetic lawn area	Multi-age	Physically Active
C.B. Smith Reserve Skate Park	Fawkner	District	2012	Curved banks of varying heights, 800mm round volcano, 1.0m square volcano, 400mm nipple, euro gap, quarter pipe with key hole. Skateable entry with pole jam, manual pad and fun box	Multi-age	Social / Physically Active
C.B. Smith Reserve	Fawkner	District	2012 2016	Large combination unit, double swings, 2 x spring rockers, small combination unit, pyramid climbing net Large net climbing unit with slide, quad swing set, basket swing, some nature play	Multi-age	Creative Social /Dramatic Physically Active

Capital program – Play renewal – delivered projects continued

Reserve Name	Suburb	Hierarchy	Year Built	Features & Facilities	Age Range	Diversity of Play
Clifton Skate Park	Brunswick	District	2015	Advanced tri level bowl with roll in, small street section with 750mm & 1.0m quarter pipes, 600mm ledge, 900mm flat bank, manual pad, fun box, rainbow ledge and various grind rails.	Multi-age	Social / Physically Active
De Chene Reserve	Coburg	Small Local	2013	Sandpit, excavator, swing, spring rider, balance beam x 9, carousel x 2 and swing and combination unit, Hip sway x2, cycle, air walker, chin up, cross trainer	Multi-age	Creative Social /Dramatic Physically Active
Edward St Reserve	Fawkner	Small Local	2015	Small timber combination unit with double slide, double swing, group carousel and nature play		Creative / Social /Dramatic Physically Active
Frank D. Mott Reserve	Glenroy	Small Local	2013	Spring rider x 2, swing, combination unit, sculpture, climber, basketball half court	Multi-age	Creative Social /Dramatic Physically Active
Gilpin Park	Brunswick	Small Local	2010	Swing, spring rider x 2, combination unit x 2, carousel and table tennis x 2	Multi-age	Creative Social /Dramatic Physically Active
Gowanbrae Community Park	Gowanbrae	Small Local	2011	Combination unit, spring rider, swing, and resurfacing	Multi-age	Creative Social /Dramatic Physically Active
Jones Park	Brunswick East	District	2009	Swing, combination unit, spring rider, carousel, climber, sandpit, excavator x 2, chimes x 3 and basketball half court	Multi-age	Creative Social /Dramatic Physically Active

Reserve Name	Suburb	Hierarchy	Year Built	Features & Facilities	Age Range	Diversity of Play
Kingsford Smith/Ulm Reserve	Glenroy	Small Local	TBC	Large combination unit, flying saucer carousel, 2 way spring rocker, bug spring rocker, community swing with basket, accessible under surfacing nature play with indigenous fauna wood carvings		Cognitive Creative Social /Dramatic Physically Active
Kirkdale Reserve	Brunswick East	Local	2016	Nature play space with timber fort, tee pee, embankment slide, double swing, basket swing, group carousel, hand water pump with rock creek bed and playful landscape	Multi-age	Cognitive Creative Social /Dramatic Physically Active
Lake Reserve	Coburg	District		Swing, 2 combination units, 2 spring rockers, carousel	Multi-age	Creative Social /Dramatic Physically Active
Lake Reserve (De Chene Parade)	Coburg North	District	2010	Swing, carousel, spring see-saw, flying fox, maze, sculpture x 9 and platform game Easy rider, rowing machine, stepper, cycle seat, shoulder press, butterfly press, ab hip swinger and cross trainer	Multi-age	Social /Dramatic Physically Active
Loreto John York Reserve	Brunswick	Small Local	2016	Small combination unit, community swing with basket, flying saucer carousel, accessible under surfacing	Multi-age	Creative Social /Dramatic Physically Active
McClellan Park (Anselm Grove Reserve)	Glenroy	Small Local	2008	Swing, Spring Rider x 2 and combination unit	Multi-age	Cognitive Creative Social /Dramatic Physically Active
Methven Park	Brunswick East	Heritage	2014	Swing, carousel, climber, combination unit and spring rider	Multi-age	Creative Social /Dramatic Physically Active

Capital program – Play renewal – delivered projects continued

Reserve Name	Suburb	Hierarchy	Year Built	Features & Facilities	Age Range	Diversity of Play
Naree Naree Park	Oak Park	Small Local	2010	Swing, carousel, spring, see-saw, combination unit	Multi-age	Social / Physically Active
Parker Reserve	Coburg North	Local	2013	Swing x 2, cableway, climber, spring rider, balance circuit and carousel	Multi-age	Social /Dramatic Physically Active
Sanger Reserve	Coburg North	local	2013	Parkour training circuit – climber x 4, balance beam, ball x 3	Multi-age	Social /Dramatic Physically Active
Sanger Reserve Stage 1	Coburg	Local	2015	Nature playspace with embankment slide, double swing, spring rocker, basket swing, sand pit and playful landscape	Multi-age	Creative Social /Dramatic Physically Active
Shore Reserve North and South	Pascoe Vale South	Heritage	2013	Swing, spring rider x 2, climber, balance beam, spring rider, carousel, combination unit, carousel, climber, excavator, sand pit, sculpture x2 and seat x 5, carousel, climber, excavator, sculpture x 2 and seat x 5, swing, spring/ bounce, combination unit and basketball half court	Multi-age	Cognitive Creative Social /Dramatic Physically Active
Warr Park	Brunswick	Local	2015	Senior combination unit, junior combination unit x 2, double swing, tractor spring rockers, nature play	Multi-age	Creative Social /Dramatic Physically Active
William Turner Reserve	Glenroy	Small Local	2013	Spring see-saw, Spring rider, combination unit and swing	Multi-age	Cognitive Creative Social /Dramatic Physically Active

This includes the capital replacement of existing play space costs; note that the price includes consultation, design, site preparation, removal of old equipment, and project management. Maintenance and inspections of play spaces are additional costs included in Council's annual operational budgets.

ACTION PLAN

Number	Description	Cost	Timing
Overall			
1	<p>Community Consultation.</p> <p>Depending on scale of play space letter survey resident up to 400m of reserve to participate and provide comment on concept and neighbourhood meeting/onsite workshop.</p> <p>Generate a project page.</p> <p>Opportunity to comment to Council officer.</p> <p>Sign within park with council contact number.</p> <p>Undertake broader stakeholder consultation where appropriate including kindergartens, schools, Oxygen, special interest groups etc. Including advertisement where practical.</p> <p>District play space to have advertisement.</p>	Existing base budget	For each project
2	Playground service review - Investigate opportunity to increase maintenance funding of play spaces.	Pending outcome	2016/17
3	Update rolling 5 year play renewal and upgrade program.	Existing base budget	Annually
4	<p>Communications.</p> <p>launch play and park web search.</p> <p>Investigate need to have non project based means of feedback on play spaces.</p>	Existing base budget	2015/16
5	Officer education – attend appropriate industry courses to maintain or improve skill base.	Existing base budget	As required
6	Asset management plan.	\$70,000 Business case	
7	Update Play Strategy from 2020.	\$5,000	2020 - 2021
8	Crossing points – Discuss requirements with Transport to realise appropriate projects.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
9	Tree Shade - Designate play spaces/parks throughout the municipality for the provision of additional natural shade and implement.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
10	Sustainable procurement – investigate and analyse options to deliver projects sustainably.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate

ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

Number	Description	Cost	Timing
11	New Play Space – assess opportunities to create new play spaces plan.	Open Space Contribution	2017/18 and ongoing as appropriate
12	Play Space removal – develop plan.	Open Space Contribution	2017/18 and ongoing as appropriate
Diversity of Play (6)			
13	Encourage diversity of play experience by creating informal play spaces through the landscaping around play spaces. The play value of rocks, leaves, twigs and other natural elements may be encouraged through landscape developments surrounding play equipment.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
14	Provide greater play opportunities for older children and young people as well as adult involvement.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
15	When equipment is upgraded in play spaces or new equipment provided, aim to achieve a balance between the four categories of play behaviour (see above).		
16	Vary play equipment, materials, the nature of the site works and landscape elements from park to park.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
17	Vary play equipment, materials, the nature of the site works and landscape elements from park to park.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
18	Offer both structured and natural options to suit a variety of age groups and abilities within each play setting in accordance with relevant Australian Standards.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
19	Investigate the use of the Public Resort Recreation and Land Fund to provide a capital budget to install playgrounds and associated park infrastructure in high priority areas identified as Playground Walkability Gaps on the Playspace Locations and Hierarchies map as well as additional capital funding to increase.	Existing base budget	16/17
20	Investigate the use of the Public Resort Recreation and Land Fund to increase existing capital budgets for play spaces renewal to an average rolling life of 20 years and in line with the objectives and actions of this strategy.	Existing base budget	16/17

Number	Description	Cost	Timing
Accessibility (7)			
21	Improve path networks at existing parks to enable safe access to play equipment and toilet facilities or other amenities (where they exist).	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
22	Improve pedestrian access to play spaces by providing pedestrian pathways through reserves and entry points to link play spaces into the residential neighbourhood.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
23	Include minimum disability access requirements compliant with Australian Standards in the redevelopment or creation of new play spaces in parks that have been classified as either district parks or local play spaces.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
24	Consider accessibility and provision of play opportunities for children of varying abilities in the design of new play spaces.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
25	Develop new play spaces with regard to the principles contained in the <i>Moreland Human Rights and Inclusion Policy</i> .	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
26	Provide information about play spaces to residents through local child and maternal health centres, playgroups, schools, kindergartens and libraries, using a variety of means of communication and in community languages.	Existing base budget	Ongoing as appropriate
Maintenance (8)			
27	Continue to conduct frequent inspections and prompt repair of damaged equipment.	Existing base budget	Ongoing as appropriate
28	Ensure that maintenance capacity and requirements are addressed and maintenance staff are consulted in the design and development of new play spaces.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
29	Develop new play spaces in accordance with industry best practice and relevant Australian Standards.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
Sustainable Play Space Design (9)			
30	Design play spaces that connect with and provide opportunities to interact with the surrounding natural environment.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
31	If a play piece is considered to be of play value and there is an opportunity to refurbish the equipment to bring it up to best standards at a reasonable cost then this should be explored.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate

ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

Number	Description	Cost	Timing
32	Investigate recycling play space equipment between parks during upgrades if it is deemed still useful.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
33	Design play spaces using sustainable or recycled materials where possible in retrofitting or new play space projects.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
Amenities (10)			
34	Install picnic and BBQ facilities, shelters and toilets for large family and social gatherings in district parks and other suitable informal parkland with play spaces in the context of approved landscape plans (in line with Moreland Open Space Strategy).	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
35	Consider locating new local play spaces in park developments where there are existing amenities.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
36	Assess the existing natural shade at play spaces and allocate funding for tree planting and the construction of shade where natural shade is constrained, prioritising junior play equipment.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
37	Consider sun orientation when locating new play equipment so that the potential for natural shade is optimised.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
38	Assess potential hazards (main roads, creek corridor, dog off leash, limb drop) at each play space and consider strategic design interventions to manage high safety risks where needed.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
39	Assess the existing play spaces and remove or relocate inappropriate fencing and amenities as part of the parks improvement program.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
40	Promote role of parents/carers in providing 'duty of care' at play spaces so they are aware of their responsibilities through the council website, and posters at local schools, kindergartens, libraries and MCH centres.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
41	Publicise, and continue to enforce local laws requiring dogs to be on lead within 15 metres of all play spaces regardless of on lead/off lead status. Publicise and facilitate compliance with the local law that states that no person in charge of an animal may allow droppings to remain in a park, on a reserve, or other public land.	Existing capital budget – On lead signage project	Ongoing as appropriate

Number	Description	Cost	Timing
42	Work in conjunction with IT and Youth Services Unit to explore the provision of free public WiFi in play space renewals.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
43	Consider the provision of a ropes course in a play space renewal and evaluate benefit.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
Safety (11)			
44	Examine the cost and benefits through a trial of a Safety by Design process in one play space renewal.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
45	Following a play space renewal undertake play space inspection prior to use by the public.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
46	Undertake tri-annual inspection by a qualified independent play space safety auditor to ensure compliance with current applicable standards as prescribed by Standards Australia.	Existing base budget	Ongoing as appropriate
47	Immediate inspection and response to make safe customer request.	Existing base budget	Ongoing as appropriate
48	Undertake visual monthly inspections by Open Space Infrastructure Maintenance Team.	Existing base budget	Ongoing as appropriate
49	Implementation of the Annual Playgrounds Compliance works Program.	Existing base budget	Ongoing as appropriate
50	Annual implementation of the 5 Year Capital Works Playground Renewal Program.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
Play Space Location (12)			
51	Explore opportunities to improve the safety and accessibility of existing play spaces through the creation of new pedestrian pathways linking the play spaces into the residential network.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
52	Design play spaces that enhance the overall park and that make the best use of the geography and existing structural landscape to increase play value.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
53	Consider the environmental impact of play spaces, particularly if close to natural areas/creek corridor, in any development/redevelopment of play spaces.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
54	Review existing play spaces to improve play opportunities/connectedness to the surrounding area.	Existing capital budget	15/16

ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

Number	Description	Cost	Timing
Play Space Proximity(13)			
55	Investigate the feasibility of providing new pedestrian crossings at the following locations to improve safe access across busy roads: Boundary Road to Hallam Reserve, Pascoe Vale. Cumberland Road to Cole Reserve, Pascoe Vale. Glenroy Road to Sewell Reserve, Glenroy.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
56	Pursue opportunities to create new play spaces in existing open space to service areas deficient in play spaces.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
57	The Moreland Open Space Strategy (MOSS) recommends purchase of land and consequent development to alleviate open space deficiencies. If this objective is met, play spaces should be developed: In the vicinity of Eastgate Street between Hatter and York Streets, Pascoe Vale South. In the vicinity of the corner of Brearley and Springhall Parades, Pascoe Vale South. In the vicinity of Canberra Street, Brunswick.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
58	Investigate after hours public access arrangements to school grounds in areas where there is a lack of play spaces in local areas such as Brunswick North Primary, Glenroy Primary and Pascoe Vale North Primary.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
Play Space in Principal Activity Centres (14)			
59	Develop a new Local Play space in Coburg as part of The Coburg Structure Plan for example at City Oval.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
60	Explore opportunity to incorporate play elements in an urban space in Central Brunswick.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
61	Investigate a new play space in Central Glenroy as part of the Structure Plan update.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate
Play Space Removal (15)			
62	Investigate smaller degraded play spaces and alternative play space developments in close proximity.	Existing capital budget	Ongoing as appropriate

Appendix A

PLAYGROUND ADDRESSES



PLAYGROUND ADDRESSES CONTINUED

Map ID	Asset Name	Suburb	Playground Hierarchy	Playground Address	Melway Reference
● 1	A G Gillon Oval	Brunswick	Small Local	133A Hope Street Brunswick 3056	29 E6
● 2	Barkly Street Park	Brunswick	Small Local	233-241 Barkly Street Brunswick 3056	29 H10
✚ 3	Clifton Park (Skate Park)	Brunswick	N/A	377 Albert Street Brunswick 3056	29 F7
● 4	Foletta Park	Brunswick	Small Local	68-74 Glenlyon Road Brunswick 3056	29 H9
● 5	Gilpin Park	Brunswick	Local	344-346 Albert Street Brunswick 3056	29 E7
● 6	Pooley Reserve	Brunswick	Small Local	75 Donald Street Brunswick 3056	29 J5
● 7	Randazzo Park	Brunswick	Small Local	230A Albert Street Brunswick 3056	29 H8
● 8	Symons Park	Brunswick	Small Local	3 Trafford Street Brunswick 3056	29 J8
● 9	Temple Park	Brunswick	Local	24 Gray Street Brunswick 3056	29 E9
● 10	Warr Park	Brunswick	Local	43A De Carle Street Brunswick 3056	29 H5
● 11	Wilson Avenue	Brunswick	Small Local	(Adjacent) 105 Sydney Road Brunswick 3056	29 G9
● 12	York Park	Brunswick	Small Local	73 Holmes Street Brunswick 3056	29 K5
● 13	Allard Park	Brunswick East	Small Local	174A Donald Street Brunswick East 3057	30 A5
● 14	Anderson Park	Brunswick East	Small Local	363C Lygon Street Brunswick East 3057	29 K7
● 15	Balfe Park	Brunswick East	Small Local	54-64 John Street Brunswick East 3057	30 A9
● 16	Douglas Reserve	Brunswick East	Small Local	168-170 Weston Street Brunswick East 3057	29 K10
● 17	Fisher Reserve	Brunswick East	Small Local	8 Noel Street Brunswick East 3057	30 B9
● 18	Fleming Park	Brunswick East	Small Local	47-51 Albert Street Brunswick East 3057	30 A8
● 19	Jones Park	Brunswick East	District	9-23 Albion Street Brunswick East 3057	30 A6

Map ID	Asset Name	Suburb	Playground Hierarchy	Playground Address	Melway Reference
● 20	Kirkdale Park	Brunswick East	Local	31 Kirkdale Street Brunswick East 3057	30 B8
● 21	Methven Park	Brunswick East	Small Local	7 Methven Street Brunswick East 3057	29 K8
● 22	Park Street Reserve	Brunswick East	Small Local	819 Nicholson Street Brunswick East 3057	30 A11
● 23	Coral Street Playground	Brunswick West	Small Local	304-308 Moreland Road Brunswick West 3055	29 E4
● 24	Denzil Don Reserve	Brunswick West	Small Local	546 Victoria Street Brunswick West 3055	29 B7
● 25	Dunstan Reserve	Brunswick West	Small Local	22 Peacock Street Brunswick West 3055	29 B4
● 26	Fraser Reserve	Brunswick West	Small Local	16-24 Hopetoun Avenue Brunswick West 3055	29 A4
● 27	Hudson Reserve	Brunswick West	Small Local	208A Dawson Street Brunswick West 3055	29 C7
● 28	Jacobs Reserve	Brunswick West	Local	180E Melville Road Brunswick West 3055	29 D4
● 29	Johns Reserve	Brunswick West	Small Local	35-37 Mclean Street Brunswick West 3055	29 B4
● 30	Wylie Reserve	Brunswick West	Small Local	256-264 Union Street Brunswick West 3055	29 C9
● 31	Anderson Reserve	Coburg	Small Local	44-46 Linda Street Coburg 3058	29 G3
● 32	Brosnan Park	Coburg	Small Local	7A Tanderum Drive Coburg 3058	17 K11
● 33	Budds Street Playground (Median)	Coburg	Small Local	(Opposite) 23 Budds Street Coburg 3058	29 J1
● 34	Bush Reserve	Coburg	District	219 Bell Street Coburg 3058	17 F12
● 35	Calder Reserve	Coburg	Small Local	15-23 Patterson Street Coburg 3058	29 K2
● 36	Campbell Reserve	Coburg	Small Local	11-49 Moreland Road Coburg 3058	30 A4
● 37	Coburg Station Reserve	Coburg	Small Local	135A Bell Street Coburg 3058	29 H1
● 38	De Chene Reserve	Coburg	Small Local	193 Urquhart Street Coburg 3058	18 A12

PLAYGROUND ADDRESSES CONTINUED

Map ID	Asset Name	Suburb	Playground Hierarchy	Playground Address	Melway Reference
▲ 39	De Chene Reserve (Exersite)	Coburg	N/A	193 Urquhart Street Coburg 3058	18 A12
● 40	Duggan Reserve	Coburg	Small Local	8A Beckley Street Coburg 3058	30 A2
● 41	Gandolfo Gardens	Coburg	Small Local	1A Cameron Street Coburg 3058	29 G4
● 42	Gilmour Park	Coburg	Small Local	79-81 Campbell Street Coburg 3058	29 J3
● 43	Harmony Park	Coburg	District	187-191 Gaffney Street Coburg 3058	17 E10
+	Harmony Park (Skate Park)	Coburg	N/A	187-191 Gaffney Street Coburg 3058	17 E10
● 45	Hutchison Place Reserve (Median)	Coburg	Small Local	Hutchison Place Coburg 3058	18 A11
● 46	Mailer Reserve	Coburg	Small Local	325A Moreland Road Coburg 3058	29 F3
● 47	McCleery Reserve	Coburg	Small Local	112 Munro Street Coburg 3058	29 F1
● 48	McKay Street Reserve	Coburg	Small Local	16-20 Mckay Street Coburg 3058	17 H12
● 49	Palazzolo Park (Median)	Coburg	Small Local	Willow Grove Coburg 3058	29 F2
● 50	Robinson Reserve	Coburg	Local	104B Reynard Street Coburg 3058	29 G2
● 51	Soudan Street (Median)	Coburg	Small Local	(Opposite) 42 Soudan Street Coburg 3058	17 E11
● 52	Bain Reserve	Coburg North	Local	2 Merlyn Street Coburg North 3058	17 G6
▲ 53	Camera Walk (Adjacent Focus Drive) (Exersite)	Coburg North	N/A	167A Elizabeth Street Coburg North 3058	18 B9
▲ 54	Camera Walk (Adjacent Aperture Street) (Exersite)	Coburg North	N/A	167A Elizabeth Street Coburg North 3058	18 B9
▲ 55	Camera Walk (Adjacent Snapshot Drive) (Exersite)	Coburg North	N/A	167A Elizabeth Street Coburg North 3058	18 B9
● 56	Cox Reserve	Coburg North	Small Local	22-40 Murray Road Coburg North 3058	18 B10

Map ID	Asset Name	Suburb	Playground Hierarchy	Playground Address	Melway Reference
● 57	Hosken Reserve	Coburg North	Small Local	39A Shorts Road Coburg North 3058	17 F8
● 58	Jackson Reserve	Coburg North	Small Local	1A Outlook Road Coburg North 3058	18 A10
● 59	Lake Reserve (Carr Street)	Coburg North	Local	2A Gaffney Street Coburg North 3058	17 H10
● 60	Lake Reserve (Lake Grove)	Coburg North	Local	2A Gaffney Street Coburg North 3058	17 J10
● 61	Lake Reserve (De Chene Parade)	Coburg North	Local	2A Gaffney Street Coburg North 3058	17 J10
▲ 62	Lake Reserve (Exersite - Newlands Road)	Coburg North	N/A	2A Gaffney Street Coburg North 3058	17 K10
● 63	Parker Reserve	Coburg North	Local	2 Keady Street Coburg North 3058	17 H7
● 64	Sanger Reserve	Coburg North	Small Local	14 Warner Street Coburg North 3058	17 E8
+ 65	C B Smith Reserve (Skate Park)	Fawkner	N/A	77 Jukes Road Fawkner 3060	17 J2
● 66	C B Smith Reserve	Fawkner	District	77 Jukes Road Fawkner 3060	17 J2
▲ 67	C B Smith Reserve (Exersite)	Fawkner	N/A	77 Jukes Road Fawkner 3060	17 J1
● 68	Charles Mutton Reserve	Fawkner	Small Local	86 Lorne Street Fawkner 3060	17 J5
● 69	Edward Street Reserve	Fawkner	Small Local	6 Edward Street Fawkner 3060	17 H4
● 70	Eva Court Reserve	Fawkner	Small Local	5 Eva Court Fawkner 3060	7 G11
● 71	Evans Reserve	Fawkner	Small Local	20 Victory Street Fawkner 3060	17 K2
● 72	Hogan Street Park	Fawkner	Small Local	63 Alec Crescent Fawkner 3060	7 J11
● 73	Jack Mutton Reserve	Fawkner	Small Local	71 Queens Parade Fawkner 3060	17 H6
● 74	Jeanine Crescent Reserve	Fawkner	Small Local	21 Jeanine Crescent Fawkner 3060	7 G12
● 75	Moomba Park	Fawkner	Local	26A Somerlayton Crescent Fawkner 3060	8 A12

PLAYGROUND ADDRESSES CONTINUED

Map ID	Asset Name	Suburb	Playground Hierarchy	Playground Address	Melway Reference
76	Oulton Street Park	Fawkner	Small Local	15-17 Beccles Street Fawkner 3060	7 K12
77	Summer Bank Reserve	Fawkner	Small Local	23-25 Stanford Close Fawkner 3060	7 H12
78	ATC Cook Reserve	Glenroy	Local	133-165 Daley Street Glenroy 3046	6 H12
79	ATC Cook Reserve (Exersite)	Glenroy	N/A	133-165 Daley Street Glenroy 3046	6 H12
80	Bill Allen Reserve	Glenroy	Small Local	100 Evell Street Glenroy 3046	17 C1
81	Bridget Shortell Reserve	Glenroy	Small Local	1/50 Wheatsheaf Road Glenroy 3046	16 J3
82	Captain Chris Slattery (MBE) Reserve	Glenroy	Small Local	13 Reserve Court Glenroy 3046	16 E1
83	Fran Street Reserve	Glenroy	Small Local	7 Fran Street Glenroy 3046	16 D2
84	G E Clark Reserve	Glenroy	Small Local	14 Kalang Road Glenroy 3046	16 H4
85	Gervase Avenue Reserve	Glenroy	Small Local	63 Becket Street N Glenroy 3046	6 F12
86	Ivan Page Reserve	Glenroy	Small Local	15 Menana Road Glenroy 3046	16 E4
87	Kingsford-Smith-Ulm Reserve	Glenroy	Small Local	81A Loongana Avenue Glenroy 3046	16 D4
88	Latherty Reserve	Glenroy	Small Local	97 Daley Street Glenroy 3046	6 K12
89	McClellan Park	Glenroy	Small Local	23 Anselm Grove Glenroy 3046	16 F1
90	Mott Reserve	Glenroy	Local	1 Murrell Street Glenroy 3046	16 H2
91	Sewell Reserve	Glenroy	Local	33 Glenroy Road Glenroy 3046	17 A3
92	W J Turner Reserve	Glenroy	Small Local	15 Daley Street Glenroy 3046	7 A12
93	Wallace Reserve	Glenroy	Small Local	123 Justin Avenue Glenroy 3046	7 A11
94	Balerno Circle Playground	Gowanbrae	Small Local	30A Balerno Circle Gowanbrae 3043	16 B3

Map ID	Asset Name	Suburb	Playground Hierarchy	Playground Address	Melway Reference
● 95	Elms Court Reserve	Gowanbrae	Small Local	5A Elms Court Gowanbrae 3043	16 B2
● 96	Gowanbrae Community Reserve	Gowanbrae	Small Local	12 Marigold Crescent Gowanbrae 3043	16 C2
● 97	Gowanbrae Riverwalk	Gowanbrae	Small Local	40 Adelaide Boulevard Gowanbrae 3043	16 D3
● 98	Glenroy Lions Park	Hadfield	Small Local	9 South Box Court Hadfield 3046	17 D2
● 99	Martin Reserve	Hadfield	Small Local	80-82 Domain Street Hadfield 3046	17 E2
● 100	Reddish Reserve	Hadfield	Small Local	2-42 Domain Street Hadfield 3046	17 E4
● 101	Tony Mommson Reserve	Hadfield	Small Local	71 North Street Hadfield 3046	17 C2
● 102	Bryant Family Reserve	Oak Park	Small Local	1A Francis Street Oak Park 3046	16 E5
● 103	Father Gavan Fitzpatrick Reserve	Oak Park	Small Local	63 New Road Oak Park 3046	16 E5
● 104	John Pascoe Fawkner	Oak Park	Small Local	1A Francis Street Oak Park 3046	16 F6
● 105	John Vandelloo Reserve	Oak Park	Small Local	3 Strachan Street Oak Park 3046	16 H5
● 106	Narre Narre Park	Oak Park	Small Local	9 Hillcrest Road Oak Park 3046	16 J5
● 107	Oak Park Reserve	Oak Park	Local	563A Pascoe Vale Road Oak Park 3046	16 H7
● 108	Rayner Reserve	Oak Park	Small Local	11 Forbes Grove Oak Park 3046	16 K6
● 109	Stevenson Reserve	Oak Park	Small Local	637A Pascoe Vale Road Oak Park 3046	16 H5
● 110	Austin Crescent Reserve	Pascoe Vale	Local	22 Austin Crescent Pascoe Vale 3044	16 K8
● 111	Cole Reserve	Pascoe Vale	Local	177B Cumberland Road Pascoe Vale 3044	17 B7
● 112	Esslemont Reserve	Pascoe Vale	Small Local	1 Somerset Street Pascoe Vale 3044	16 J9
● 113	Gavin Park	Pascoe Vale	Local	42-46 Northumberland Road Pascoe Vale 3044	17 A8

PLAYGROUND ADDRESSES CONTINUED

Map ID	Asset Name	Suburb	Playground Hierarchy	Playground Address	Melway Reference
● 114	H M Dowd Reserve	Pascoe Vale	Small Local	18 Crowley Court Pascoe Vale 3044	17 A5
● 115	Hallam Reserve	Pascoe Vale	Small Local	146 Landells Road Pascoe Vale 3044	17 D6
● 116	Jacinta Bartlett Reserve	Pascoe Vale	Small Local	61 South Street Pascoe Vale 3044	17 D5
● 117	James Reserve	Pascoe Vale	Small Local	33A Prospect Street Pascoe Vale 3044	17 A9
● 118	Martyn Reserve	Pascoe Vale	Small Local	8 Lyking Street Pascoe Vale 3044	17 D9
● 119	Payne Reserve	Pascoe Vale	Small Local	12 Park Street Pascoe Vale 3044	16 J9
● 120	Raeburn Reserve	Pascoe Vale	Small Local	8-42 Landells Road Pascoe Vale 3044	17 C9
● 121	Brearley Reserve	Pascoe Vale South	District	1-25 Heliopolis Street Pascoe Vale South 3044	17 A12
▲ 122	Brearley Reserve (Exersite)	Pascoe Vale South	N/A	1-25 Heliopolis Street Pascoe Vale South 3044	17 A12
● 123	Kelvin Thomson Park	Pascoe Vale South	Small Local	21 Cleve Road Pascoe Vale South 3044	16 K11
● 124	Mitchell Reserve	Pascoe Vale South	Small Local	Lemnos Avenue Pascoe Vale South 3044	29 B1
● 125	Morris Reserve	Pascoe Vale South	Small Local	11 Brentwood Avenue Pascoe Vale South 3044	29 A2
● 126	Shore Reserve	Pascoe Vale South	District	20 Woodlands Avenue Pascoe Vale South 3044	29 C2
● 127	Tate Park	Pascoe Vale South	Small Local	(Adjacent) 21 Tate Street Pascoe Vale South 3044	16 J10

Appendix B

AGE ACTIVITIES

Junior (1-4 years)

Activities include rolling, crawling, walking (toddling), stepping, low-level climbing, wheeling toys around, repetitive activities, sensory manipulation (ie. sand play), solitary or parallel play. Interaction with adults essential to activities.

Intermediate (4-8 years)

Activities include walking, running, balancing, agility, swinging sliding, spinning, climbing, hiding and seeking, digging, social play with friends, construction, imaginative and dramatic play. Interaction with adults is usually welcomed.

Senior (8-11 years)

Activities include most of the above, plus fine motor activities such as manipulation of computers and hand-held games, writing, drawing and reading, more complex physical challenges, more complex games and activities involving groups, formal sports activities and more complex construction ability. Interaction with adults not so imperative.

Young people, children aged 12-18 years

Activities include some of the above with a much greater degree of challenge in physical activities (high, longer and faster), more strategic games, more formal sports, and membership of clubs, opportunities to socialise and hangout with peers. Usually autonomous in play and often mobile in local neighbourhood. Activities include most of the above, with less of a focus on clubs and more of a focus on working part-time, being at events or volunteering time or skills. Usually completely mobile beyond local neighbourhood.



Moreland City Council

For further information, contact Moreland City Council by:

Phone: 9240 1111

Moreland Language Link

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Per informazioni sul Comune di Moreland telefonare a	9280 1911	मोरलैंड सिटी कौमल घाते ह्येरी सारुवारी लछी त्रिपा वरखे देन बरे	9280 0751
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Nếu muốn biết thêm chi tiết về Hội đồng Thành phố Moreland, xin quý vị gọi số	9280 1915	Tagalog, Indonesia, Polski,	
मोरलैंड सिटी काउंसिल के बारे में जानकारी प्राप्त करने के लिए फोन करें	9280 1918	සිංහල, Español,	
		ትግርኛ, اردو	9280 1919

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