



# OPEN SPACE STRATEGY PART ONE

NOVEMBER 1996

HASELL  
GARRY HENSHALL & ASSOCIATES

BAYSIDE CITY COUNCIL  
OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

November 1996

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## 1. BACKGROUND

Bayside City Council was formed in December 1994 by the amalgamation of the former municipalities of Sandringham and Brighton together with parts of Moorabbin and Mordialloc.

Since its inception, Bayside City Council has undertaken a number of strategic studies to identify its resources and to guide its future decision making in the best interests of the Bayside community. Extensive community consultation has been undertaken, as it is an integral component of the Bayside corporate philosophy.

The studies include development of a Corporate Plan, a review and amalgamation of Bayside's planning schemes, an Urban Character Study, and an indigenous Flora and Fauna survey.

The former Councils (which now make up Bayside City Council) had also undertaken studies relating to the identification and management of Council resources. These studies included the Sandringham Coastal Management Plan, the Brighton Foreshore Study and the City of Sandringham Recreation Study.

However, no overall open space planning studies have been completed to guide Bayside City Council's decision making in relation to the management, planning and design of its open space resources, allocation of the recreation budget and priority setting for capital works in open space areas.

Bayside City Council recognised the need for a strategic approach to open space management. It required a strategy which provided goals, objectives and actions to guide future decisions in relation to the management of Council open space resources in the context of a vision for an open space system to meet the needs of the Community.

Council prepared a brief for the appointment of consultants to assist in the preparation of an Open Space Strategy, and called for tenders which closed in early December 1995. A consortium comprising HASSELL (Meredith Withers, Maureen Jackson, Belinda McCulloch and Natalie Fuller) and GARRY HENSHALL and ASSOCIATES (Garry Henshall and Alan Kemp) was appointed by Council to undertake the project in December 1995, and the project commenced in January 1996.

The final Open Space Strategy was produced in November 1996.

The project has been supervised by a project team comprising representatives of the consultant consortium, and the following Bayside City Council officers:

Mr Mike Hoy	- Parks and Recreation Manager (Project Team Leader)
Mr Stuart Holley	- Planning and Environment Group Manager
Mr Warwick Knight	- Citizen Services Group Manager
Mr Bob Utber	- Recreation and Culture Co-ordinator
Mr Michael Top	- Development Manager
Ms Catherine McNaughton	- Strategic Planner

The project team met on a regular basis during the course of the project, and their valuable input and willing involvement in the community consultation process in particular is appreciated by Council.

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This report contains analysis and recommendations in relation to the management and maintenance of the Bayside open space resources and the vision for the future of these areas.

Council acknowledges the valuable contribution from those members of the public, community groups, sporting groups, friends groups and others who wrote submissions, attended workshops and focus groups, completed (and returned) the reply paid form in the "Bayside News" and, participated in the casual park user surveys and group discussions. This contribution is appreciated and provided the project team with an understanding of the expectations of the Bayside community, and issues of concern and interest in relation to open space and its importance to the community.

The project team had the task of assessing open space issues of great interest and concern to the Bayside community. On many of these issues, community opinion is both divided and firmly entrenched.

The Open Space Strategy provides a strategic framework for Bayside City Council to make decisions in relation to priorities and the future management of the community's open space resources.

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## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Bayside City Council

The total area of Bayside is 37 square kilometres. It is located approximately 8 kilometres south-east of the Melbourne Central City area. The municipality has 17 kilometres of coastline and foreshore to Port Phillip Bay. This area extends from Elwood/Brighton in the northern part of Bayside to Beaumaris/Mentone in the southern part of the City.

The Bayside City Council area extends inland from the foreshore for a distance of approximately 4 kilometres. All main east-west and north-south roads lead to the foreshore, at clearly defined gateways to the foreshore and Port Phillip Bay.

The City is bounded in the north by Head Street and St Kilda Street, Glenhuntly Road and Nepean Highway. Its inland boundaries are North Road, Thomas Street, Nepean Highway and the Frankston railway line between Moorabbin Station and Cheltenham Station. From Cheltenham Station the boundary continues south along Charman Road to the foreshore at Beaumaris.

A map showing the City's boundaries is included at Appendix 1.

### 2.2 Major Land Uses

- Residential

Bayside is a well established residential area comprising the suburbs of Elsternwick, Brighton, Middle Brighton, Brighton East, Brighton Beach, Hampton, Moorabbin, Sandringham, Highett, Cheltenham, Black Rock and Beaumaris.

The City is predominantly residential in character, however, there are several traditional main street "strip" shopping centres in the City. There are also large areas of industrial activities south of Bay Road in the Cheltenham area of the City.

In addition, Bayside has many open space areas which contribute to its character and provide significant recreation and open space opportunities to the community.

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- Golf Courses

Bayside falls within the 'sandbelt' area of Melbourne and is a very attractive location for golf courses and golf clubs. Bayside golf courses are a major land use in the City and include the following:

- Elsternwick Public Golf Course (Glen Huntly Road) (public)
- Brighton Golf Course (Dendy Street) (public)
- Cheltenham Golf Club (Park Road) (private)
- Sandringham Golf Course (Cheltenham Road) (public)
- Victoria Golf Club (Park Road) (private)
- Royal Melbourne Golf Club (Cheltenham Road) (private)

A public golf driving range has also been developed on Council land in Wangara Road, Sandringham.

- Remnant Bushland and Heathland Areas

There are areas of indigenous coastal vegetation remaining on the Port Phillip Bay foreshore notably the "Dr Jim Willis Reserve", between Dendy Beach and the Esplanade, and between Picnic Point and Beaumaris. In addition to this extensive area of coastal vegetation, there are several inland areas of indigenous bushland and heathland which remain in the City. These 'inland' bushland/heathland areas have significance levels ranging from local to state and include:

- Balcombe Park, Balcombe Road, Beaumaris
- Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary, Sandringham
- George Street Reserve, Sandringham
- Donald MacDonald Reserve, Haydens Road, Beaumaris
- Gramatan Avenue Heathland Sanctuary, Beaumaris
- Beaumaris Heathland Reserve, Reserve Road, Beaumaris
- Cheltenham Park, Park Road, Cheltenham

These coastal and inland bushland and heathland areas are significant recreational, educational and environmental resources for Bayside.

- The Foreshore

The foreshore area is **the** major recreational, environmental and educational open space resource available for the Bayside community and has appeal to the wider metropolitan area.

Along the foreshore, which comprises the cliffs and beaches and narrow coastal strip adjacent to the Esplanade/Beach Road, there are yacht clubs, lifesaving clubs, bathing boxes, scouts and girl guides club rooms and facilities, pedestrian and bike paths (in part), playgrounds, sheltersheds, taps, barbecues, carparks, toilet blocks, lighting, access ramps, picnic tables, seats, signs, ovals and playing fields, croquet lawns, club rooms, boat ramps, piers, breakwaters and jetties, kiosks, a teahouse/cafe, anglers clubs, boat hire establishments, a rotunda, a war memorial, a gymnasium and sea baths, carparking areas and a windsurfing school.

All of these facilities and activities provide a huge range of recreation opportunities along the foreshore. The management of these activities and the management of the foreshore area itself present a challenge to the many authorities responsible for its care and maintenance. In response to this challenge, the

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review and amalgamation of the management plans for the Brighton and Sandringham foreshore areas is currently being undertaken by Bayside City Council.

- **Regional Sporting Facilities**

There are a number of regional sporting facilities and groups in Bayside which draw spectators and competitors from the wider metropolitan region.

These regional facilities and activities include the Sandringham Yacht Club, Royal Brighton Yacht Club, the Victorian Amateur Football Association which uses the Elsternwick Park Main Oval, the Sandringham Football Club located at Sandringham Beach Oval, Cheltenham Recreation Reserve, and Dendy Park.

- **Trails and Paths**

Natural water courses which provide the opportunity for pedestrian and bicycle trails linking areas of open space are limited to the Elster 'Creek' in the northern part of the City.

Identification of opportunities for other connections and trails between the foreshore and inland open space areas within Bayside is a focus for the strategy and part of the vision for the future.

- **Schools**

Schools are a major land holder in Bayside. While schools provide open space and recreation facilities for community use outside school hours they also generate demand for access and use of non-school open space and facilities. Their requirements may compete with other groups and lead to maintenance problems arising from over-use of playing surfaces.

### **2.3 Open Space Strategy Development Process**

The project proceeded through the following phases:

- Existing situation analysis which included setting the regional context for Bayside, the identification of open space areas in Bayside and preparation of an inventory recording major recreation and sport activities/facilities and features of these areas. The inventory is included at Appendix 2 and comprises a map and a table of key features and facilities in each open space area. The foreshore is addressed separately.

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A population profile of Bayside's was also prepared. The analysis included forecasts about numbers and age groups in the City to the year 2011. Current and future populations are Bayside's open space "customers". Based on this assessment, any mis-match between types of facilities and expected future needs can be identified and addressed as part of the open space strategy for Bayside.

- Community consultation was a key component in the development of the Open Space Strategy. The extensive consultation processes are described in Section 5 of this report. The purpose of the consultation was to identify the views of the users of Bayside open space areas; to establish how open space is used, why is it important to the community, how its quality and appeal could be improved and whether or not there is sufficient diversity of recreational experience and facilities available for the community. Opportunities for improved service by Bayside City Council were also identified together with reasons why people do not use open space and how these problems could be addressed as part of the open space strategy.
- All the information gathered was reviewed and assessed, and developed into a draft Open Space Strategy incorporating a vision for Bayside open space areas with goals, objectives, strategies and actions identified in relation to future management planning and design. The draft strategy was released for public comment in July 1996. Comments were invited until 30 August 1996, and a community workshop was held on 15 August 1996 to provide the opportunity for those present to comment on the strategy. Following consideration of the community response, the draft strategy was revised.
- The final Bayside Open Space Strategy was produced in November 1996.

The strategy does not present detailed improvements or management plans for individual parks. Rather, it presents a broad framework (with goals and objectives) for Council decision making in relation to the protection, management and enhancement of Bayside open space areas. This strategic approach to the management of open space will help to develop further the character and environment which is "Bayside", and achieve the vision for the Bayside open space system in the longer term.

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### **3. OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION CONTEXT**

#### **3.1 General Recreation Trends**

Appendix 2 contains a description of the current recreation trends observed in the general population in Australia.

In summary,

- leisure accounts for about 25% of the day's activities with more time being devoted to leisure on weekends;
- passive leisure occupies a far greater proportion of time than active leisure;
- an increase in home based leisure is anticipated;
- a major growth in leisure demand is anticipated to be with older age groups;
- increased demand is anticipated for non-competitive leisure opportunities (rather than team sports). Demand for informal active (e.g. walking), passive and cultural activities is likely to increase; and
- greater use of natural open space areas for leisure is anticipated with the improved management requirements demanded by the community for preserving and increasing access to natural areas.

#### **3.2 Population Characteristics of Bayside**

An analysis of the current and projected future characteristics of the Bayside population is included in Appendix 3.

Some significant changes are occurring in the Bayside population. These changes have an influence on the level and types of demand being made on parklands and outdoor recreation facilities provided by Bayside City Council.

In summary,

- the current Bayside population (based on the 1991 Census) is 83,303
- over the next 15 years the population level is expected to stabilise
- Bayside has 23% of its population aged over 60 compared to the metropolitan average of 14.6%
- the number of children in the 0 - 14 age group will remain relatively stable and will be 17.3% of Bayside's population in the year 2011.

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The implications for open space in Bayside are:

- The provision of recreation facilities and open space for older age groups will remain a focus for the open space strategy. Opportunities for passive recreation (walking, picnicking with family and friends etc); quality of paths and their surfaces, ramps and slopes and steps; shade and seats; physical access; proximity of car parking; clean, safe public toilets and separation of pedestrians and bike riders are relevant to the elderly. These factors have a strong influence on the use of open space by older age groups and their enjoyment of it.
- For parents with toddlers, playgrounds with taps, toilets, shade and seats are popular. Tables and seats should be placed in positions which enable the continuous observation of children. Playgrounds should be fenced or separated from main roads by picnic areas or planting to discourage young children wandering onto roads. Playground safety is a key concern to parents. Play equipment should be safe, and the park in which it is located should be capable of casual observation from all boundaries, and have other facilities to encourage other activities and users.
- For young teenagers, opportunities to play structured sport such as cricket, football and soccer will continue to be required. Opportunities for adventure and unstructured recreational activities should also be provided, with an emphasis on opportunities for informal socialising with peers.

### 3.3 The Regional Open Space and Recreation Facilities Context for Bayside

Bayside City Council is located approximately 8 kilometres south-east of the Melbourne Central City area. It is connected to the Melbourne City Centre via the Sandringham and Frankston Railway lines and contains major east-west and north-south roads which form part of the metropolitan arterial network.

Bayside has very good access by car and public transport to regional open space and regional recreation facilities beyond the City's borders. These regional recreation and open space resources include:

- The foreshore and the bicycle and pedestrian trails which extend beyond the City borders to Elwood, St Kilda and Port Melbourne to the north, and Mentone, Edithvale, Carrum, Frankston to the south. These trails provide a major regional resource for Bayside and are part of the regional network available for metropolitan Melbourne. Completion of the bike path along Beach Road in Bayside will form an important link in this system. The State Government has recently announced its intention to provide a path around Port Phillip Bay. Bayside, with its 17 kilometres of Port Phillip Bay coastline, provides the opportunity for a vital link.
- Albert Park is located approximately 4 kilometres north of Elsternwick Park. Albert Park is a major regional active sporting and passive open space area. A new synthetic surfaced hockey field, an aquatic and water sports centre and soccer facilities are currently being developed in Albert Park.
- Braeside Metropolitan Park is located approximately 8 kilometres east of Charman Road on Lower Dandenong Road. This park is part of the Melbourne Parks and Waterways Metropolitan Parks system, and contains extensive areas of heathland, bushland and wetlands; extensive trails, barbeques and an education centre.
- Kingston Heath Reserve has been developed by Kingston City Council and is located approximately 4 kilometres east of the Cheltenham Railway station on Centre Dandenong Road. This park has an

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emphasis on sporting activities and includes facilities for baseball, tennis and hockey (including a synthetic surfaced hockey field).

- A regional athletics track is provided at Dolomore Reserve, First Street, Mentone. A new synthetic surfaced athletics track has recently been constructed at the Duncan McKinnon Reserve, North Road, Murrumbeena.
- The Sir William Fry Reserve is located on the north side of Bay Road between the Frankston Railway line and the Nepean Highway. This park contains walking trails, a play area for children, a lake and facilities for rollerskating and tennis.
- Caulfield Racecourse

Together these facilities form the regional resources available to the Bayside community, and their availability and accessibility should be considered by Bayside City Council when considering requests for new regional facilities in Bayside, particularly hockey, soccer and athletics.

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#### **4. OPEN SPACE RESOURCES IN BAYSIDE**

##### **4.1 Identification of Open Space Resources**

The following open space elements were identified in the Bayside open space system:

- land reserved as Public Open Space (P.O.S.) in the Planning Scheme
- land reserved as Proposed Public Open-Space (P.P.O.S.) in the Planning Scheme
- the foreshore reserve
- all school grounds (public and private)
- all golf courses and golf clubs (public and private)
- all heathland and bushland reserves (foreshore and inland areas)
- the Sandringham and Frankston Railway corridors
- the Sandringham and Brighton Municipal Reserves at Royal Avenue and Boxshall Street
- the Elster Creek waterway
- the former MMBW retarding basin, Avoca Street, Highett
- nature strips and main road verges

A plan showing the location of the main open space areas in Bayside is included at Appendix 4.

Not all of the identified open space resources are available to all the community at all times. However, they combine to form the open space resources of the City.

Nature strips and main road verges are also included as open space resources. These areas are often overlooked as an open space opportunity, but they provide enormous potential to improve the landscape and aesthetic quality of streets and main roads and provide an attractive setting for pedestrians.

Street trees form an essential element of the urban character of Bayside. Selection of appropriate street trees for colour, canopy, shade and bird habitat potential is an important consideration for Bayside City Council and will be addressed in the Urban Character Study.

##### **4.2 Distribution of Open Space**

###### **4.2.1 Inland Parks and Reserves**

The inventory of inland reserves resulted in the following categories of parks being identified:

- Conservation Area Parks  
These are the heathland and bushland areas - such as the George Street Reserve; the Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary; Gramatan Avenue Heathland Sanctuary, Beaumaris

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- **Community Parks**  
These parks are the larger parks which contain a mix of regional and local sporting facilities. Elsternwick Park and Dendy Park are examples of parks in this category
- **Local Parks**  
These parks provide a mix of sporting and other recreation facilities for local residents. Examples of parks in this category include Banksia Reserve, Landcox Park, Castlefield Reserve
- **Residential Neighbourhood Parks**  
These parks are small "walk-to" parks comprising informal areas with minimal or no facilities. The park in Gray Court, Beaumaris is an example of this type of park

Inland public open space reserves in the Planning Scheme are distributed reasonably evenly across the centre and southern parts of Bayside.

The open space reserves in the northern part of Bayside (north of South Road), are mainly located in five large areas, namely:

- Elsternwick Park
- Landcox Park
- Hurlingham Park
- Dendy Park and
- the Brighton Golf Course

Elsternwick Park, Hurlingham Park and Dendy Park are primarily developed for active sporting activities, leaving Landcox Park and the Brighton foreshore as the main opportunities for passive recreation in the northern part of the City.

Aside from the Elster "Creek" in Elsternwick Park, Landcox Park is the only park with a water feature in the northern part of Bayside.

In the 'middle' part of Bayside between South Road and Bay Road, the open space reserves are reasonably evenly spaced, providing the community with a mix of accessible residential neighbourhood parks and local parks which provide the opportunity for a mix of passive and active facilities. The Petersen Reserve in Highett Road is an example of a local park. It contains 2 ovals (on which cricket and football are played), a community hall, cricket practice nets, three club rooms, a public toilet, playground and barbeques with attractive shade trees.

In the southern part of Bayside, south of Bay Road, the Sandringham Golf Course and the Cheltenham Golf Club are major open space reserves in the Planning Scheme. The Spring Street/Tulip Street Reserve, Cheltenham Park, Beaumaris Community Reserve, Donald MacDonald Reserve and Banksia Reserve are the local 'middle sized' reserves. These reserves provide a mix of active and passive recreation opportunities.

Donald MacDonald Reserve and Cheltenham Park are also significant flora and fauna reserves. Balcombe Park, Shipston Reserve, Cheltenham Recreation Reserve and the Yott Reserve are the "next

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order" reserves in terms of size. Some of these reserves have been developed for sport and other club or indoor activities to the detriment of passive recreation opportunities.

In general, inland open space areas are distributed relatively evenly across Bayside, and an appropriate range of parks of different sizes with appropriate facilities is available for the community. However, the balance between active and passive uses in some parks requires attention, and improvements to the quality and amenity of open space are required.

#### 4.2.2 The Foreshore

The public open space reserves shown in the Planning Scheme along the foreshore extend from Head Street in Brighton to Charman Road, Beaumaris. Although the width of the reserve varies, it is continuous and extends beyond Bayside's boundaries.

The foreshore open space reserve in Bayside is relatively narrow and wedged between the Esplanade at Brighton and along Beach Road from Hampton to Beaumaris.

The foreshore provides a diversity of experience and opportunity for recreation activity. Of equal importance are the nodes of activity associated with boating and sailing clubs and the opportunities for quiet contemplation in a bushland setting with views of the coastline and waters of Port Phillip Bay.

The significance of the Bayside foreshore as open space for the Bayside community and the wider metropolitan area cannot be over stated. It is **the** main open space area of Bayside. Much of the character and appeal of Bayside is attributed to the foreshore and its assets - the beach, the bushland, the cliffs, the cliff tops and the coastal landscape and scenery. Its significance is acknowledged in the name selected for the City.

For the purposes of the Open Space Strategy, the length of the foreshore reserve was divided into several character areas to enable identification of features and recreation facilities. While this approach assists in identifying uses and facilities on the foreshore, a co-ordinated approach to the management of the foreshore is required and is in progress with the preparation of the Bayside Coastal Strategy.

The "character areas" for the purpose of the Open Space Strategy are as follows:

#### **Area 1 - The area between Head Street, Brighton and Middle Brighton Baths**

This area is characterised by a narrow coastal margin and an urban environment. Major 'occupants' and recreation facilities include the bike path, the carpark and 'pirate ship' playground at the end of North Road, the North Road Boat Ramp, the Volunteer Coast Guard Building, Royal Brighton Yacht Club, the Middle Brighton Pier and breakwater, associated carparking areas, and the Middle Brighton Baths, kiosk and gymnasium.

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**Area 2 - The area between the Middle Brighton Baths to Green Point**

This area is characterised by a beach front 'promenade' to the Brighton Life Saving Club and a greater sense of separation from the urban environment compared to Area 1. Significant elements include the Middle Brighton Beach and Dendy Beach with its attractive coloured 'bathing boxes' of historic and cultural significance, "SS Holloway" an ugly red brick building, the Brighton Dunes which is an area of significant remnant coastal vegetation; the Green Point Gardens reminiscent of formal English style sea side gardens with attractive shade trees, picnic tables and a shelter shed and canon; and the Green Point car park and imposing war memorial.

**Area 3 - The area between Green Point and Picnic Point, Sandringham**

This area is characterised by transition and contrast. The South Road 'Beach Oval' is wedged between South Road, the railway line and Beach Road has no relationship with the foreshore - indeed the major intersection of South Road, the railway line and Beach Road does not celebrate this major gateway to the foreshore. The cliff tops along what was Hampton Beach are bleak and windswept, with little vegetation. Hampton Beach has disappeared, and the Hampton Life Saving Club remains as a reminder of happier times. The Ferdinando Gardens have been described as an English style formal sea-side garden; and they contain attractive plantings of coastal plants, a barbecue, picnic table and shelter. The attractive gravel surfaced pedestrian path winds its way along the cliff top. Picnic Point and the Sandringham Harbour area is a major node of activity centred on the Sandringham Pier, the Sandringham Yacht Club and the Marina and breakwater. Other activities in this location include:

- Sandringham Angler's Club
- Scouts and Girl Guides Sailing Centre
- Sandringham Football Ground
- the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard, Victoria Headquarters
- Australian Windsurfing School and Kiosk
- Brighton Triathlon Club which occupies the former Brighton Amateur Swimming Club premises on Sandringham Beach
- Sandringham Croquet Club
- Trey Bit Reserve, an oval surrounded by bushland on which cricket is played

Several carparks and unattractive toilet blocks are located in the bushland setting at Picnic Point. The cliff tops and coastal paths provide excellent views of the coastal scenery and the Melbourne CBD.

**Area 4 - The area between Picnic Point and Half Moon Bay**

This area includes the Sandringham Life Saving Club, the Sandringham Gardens (which include a band rotunda, barbecues, picnic tables and a new playground), an attractive beach, with a coastal path and cliffs demonstrating instability at Edward Street in particular. The cliffs at Red Bluff are famous for their scenic appeal and landscape quality.

Half Moon Bay is also a node of activity for beach related pursuits, including the Half Moon Bay Life Saving Club and the Black Rock Yacht Club.

The historic vessel HMVS Cerberus, which provides shelter and breakwater for the boat harbour is located at Half Moon Bay. The future of Cerberus has been subject to recent discussions involving the National Trust.

**Area 5 - The area between Half Moon Bay and Table Rock Point**

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In this area the foreshore reserve has a natural character with areas of cliff top bushland through which winds the coastal path. A major node of activity occurs at the Black Rock Clock Tower where the Black Rock Life Saving Club, kiosk and dressing shed, playground and shelter shed create a focus for activity on the foreshore. Other foreshore activities include the Beaumaris Yacht Club and a cafe on the foreshore at Ricketts Point surrounded by attractive bushland picnic and barbecue facilities. The Beaumaris Life Saving Club is located on an attractive beach which was renourished in 1983.

**Area 6 - The area between Table Rock Point and Charman Road**

In this area of the foreshore the coastal path winds its way through the coastal bushland, overlooking the Sea Scout buildings, Keefers Boat shed and jetty and the Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron. The Moysey Gardens opposite the Beaumaris Hotel on Beach Road is the only open area aside from the carparking area on the cliff top off Beach Road. Excellent views of the coastal landscape are afforded from various view points along the coastal path, where seating is provided for quiet contemplation.

**4.3 The Range of Recreation Facilities and the Quality of Facilities**

A table describing the facilities available in inland open space areas is presented as part of the open space inventory at Appendix 4. The inventory indicates that Bayside residents are able to enjoy a good range of diverse recreational experiences and facilities. The range of facilities available extends from major indoor facilities such as the Sandringham Life Style Family Leisure Centre and King Club in Tulip Street, to the local Illaroo Reserve in Wells Road, Beaumaris, which has a barbecue and a playground.

Facilities for active sport such as football, cricket, rugby, baseball, athletics, bowls, tennis, soccer and hockey are also provided for in inland reserves. Opportunities for golf and a golf driving range are also provided. Opportunities for passive recreation including barbecues and playgrounds are provided in local parks, and in community parks in association with sporting activities.

The foreshore also provides an enormous variety of recreation facilities and opportunities ranging from quiet strolls along the cliff top paths and beach promenades to sailing and boating activities in association with organised clubs on the foreshore.

The bike path proposed to be constructed along the verge on Beach Road will provide a formal opportunity for recreational and commuter bike riding.

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#### 4.4 Landscape Character and Visual Quality

The landscape quality of Bayside parks and the foreshore was subjectively assessed by the consultant team as part of the inventory. Most of the local and community parks in Bayside were rated medium to high. The mature trees, attractive grassed areas, lakes, good quality play equipment and sensitively designed and sited buildings contribute to the landscape quality of Bayside parks. Those parks which score 'low' are those smaller residential neighbourhood parks such as Tibrockney Street, Olympic Avenue and Advantage Road, which contain a minimum number of mature trees and poor quality play equipment.

The foreshore area between Green Point and the Ferdinando Gardens, Hampton, was considered to be of poor visual quality in need of improving landscaping. The area around the Black Rock Clock Tower was also identified as an area in need of improved landscaping. Broken seats, ramps, signage, crumbling rock gardens, disused toilet blocks and poorly surfaced and maintained carparks also reduce the visual and landscape quality of the foreshore.

#### 4.5 Initial Assessment of Bayside Open Space Resources

The initial assessment of Bayside open space resources was that:

- there is an adequate amount of open space, with an adequate range of appropriate recreational facilities in Bayside to meet the needs of the community
- the open space in inland areas is appropriately located and distributed across Bayside to provide an appropriate level of access to parks
- the foreshore is **the** primary open space resource for the City, and is complemented by the large inland reserves such as Elsternwick Park and Dendy Park which have an active sporting focus. Other smaller parks provide a mix of active and passive recreation opportunities
- the presence of mature trees, well maintained facilities and the 'open' character of parks contribute to the visual quality and appeal of Bayside parks and Bayside as a desirable residential area

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## 5. CONSULTATION PROCESSES

The development of the vision and Open Space Strategy for Bayside involved extensive consultation with Bayside open space customers, including residents, schools, sporting clubs, community and user groups, friends groups, children, teenagers, families, the elderly and the casual users of open space. The community was involved with the development of the draft Open Space Strategy, produced in June 1996 and was invited to comment on the draft prior to its finalisation in November 1996.

### 5.1 "The Bayside News"

The Bayside City Council published the "Bayside News" in February 1996. This publication was delivered to all households in Bayside. The "News" included a full page feature on the open space strategy and invited readers (all households in Bayside) to fill in a reply paid section which posed the following questions:

- which local parks and foreshore areas do you visit most often?
- what do you like about these parks and foreshore areas?
- what could be improved?
- any other comments about the parks and foreshore?

A copy of the extract from Bayside News is attached at Appendix 5.

A total of 160 responses were received by the Bayside City.

The Bayside News also invited written submissions to be lodged with the consultant team.

### 5.2 Workshops with Clubs and Groups

Workshops were conducted to identify open space issues, set priorities and consider solutions/actions to address the issues. The workshops were open to the public and representatives from interest groups were invited by letter to attend. The total number of persons attending the workshops was 111, some people attended more than one workshop. The workshop attendee list is in Appendix 6.

The workshops focused on the following issues:

- The Bayside foreshore, and involved representatives from conservation and heritage groups, life saving clubs, sailing, angling, bicycle, other foreshore user and interest groups.
- Sporting clubs which use ovals and share facilities. Football, soccer, baseball, hockey, athletics, cricket and rugby clubs were represented at the workshop.
- Other sporting groups and clubs operating leased facilities including representatives from lawn bowls, tennis, croquet, baseball and basketball.
- The heathland and bushland friends groups including representatives from Beaumaris Conservation Society, Beaumaris Heathland Friends Group, Friends of Abbott Street, Cheltenham Park Friends Group, Friends of the Brighton Dunes, Friends of the George Street Reserve, Friends of the Donald MacDonald Reserve, Black Rock and Sandringham Conservation Association and the Brighton

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Foreshore Preservation Society. Several residents and representatives from other interest groups also attended.

### **5.3 Focus Groups**

The open space needs of four particular age groups in the Bayside community were investigated through focus group discussions.

The groups were:

- parents with very young children
- youth at school
- unemployed young people
- the elderly and disabled

Representatives from each of the four groups were consulted through a combination of the following research techniques:

- group discussions
- individual interviews
- face to face survey questionnaires
- self-administered survey questionnaires

#### **5.3.1 Youth - Secondary School Students**

Group discussions were held with Year 11 and 12 students from:

- Brighton Secondary College
- St Leonards College, Brighton
- Sandringham Secondary College

Most of the students involved live in Bayside. It should be noted, however, that the views of students living outside the municipality were considered to be as equally relevant. These young people travel to the municipality to attend school, play sport, visit friends and use Bayside open space for recreation.

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The purpose of the discussion sessions with the students was to obtain the following information:

- Current open space usage
  - Which open spaces are used?
  - How often?
  - What activities are undertaken?
  - What are the attributes of the area?
  - What improvements are needed?
  
- The importance of a range of factors which determine the choice of open space areas for recreation purposes

To assist the discussion process a questionnaire was completed by each student. A copy of the questionnaire is included at Appendix 7.

## 5.3.2 Youth - Unemployed Young People

Informal discussions were held with unemployed young people who attend the Bayside Youth Resource Centre in Hampton Street, Hampton.

A small sample of people between the ages of 13 and 20 were interviewed. Discussions focussed upon the importance and current use of open space in the Bayside area.

## 5.3.3 Youth - Council LEAP Employees

During the development of the Open Space Strategy, Bayside City Council sponsored a Federal Government funded LEAP (Landcare Environmental Action Program) project based at the Sandringham Beach Oval.

The program employed 30 young people, aged 15 - 21 years, who had been previously unemployed and lived in the Bayside area. The program started in January and will concluded in July.

A group discussion was held with the LEAP workers to ascertain their current usage of local open space and their suggestions for future improvements.

## 5.3.4 Elderly and Disabled Residents

Discussions were held with participants and staff at the Black Rock and Hampton Activities Centres. Both these programs are sponsored by Council and funded by the Federal Government.

The participants interviewed ranged from 50 to 96 years of age. Some were very fit and active people whereas other suffered from varying forms of physical disability which mainly effected their mobility.

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### 5.3.5 Parents of Young Children

Bayside City Council provides a broad range of services for children and their parents. One of these services is the Children's Day Care Scheme which assists nearly three hundred local families.

To gain an understanding of the open space needs of parents and young children, a sample of these families was sent a questionnaire. A copy of the questionnaire and covering letter is provided as Appendix 8.

A total of 52 completed survey forms were returned from a sample of 100 families representing all areas of the municipality.

## 5.4 Survey of Open Space Casual Users

Interviews with casual users of selected Bayside open space areas were also undertaken as part of the consultation process.

The purpose of this survey was to identify factors which have a bearing on the open space perceptions and use by a sample of people participating in non-structural / informal activities in selected Bayside parks.

The factors considered in the survey were:

- Distance travelled and frequency of use
- Park awareness in relation to residence location
- Dwelling type and access to private open space
- Nature of users life style together with demographic variables
- User attitudes toward the various qualities of the open space area
- Preferred activities and length of stay
- The meaning of the area for users:
  - Facilities and equipment - swings, barbecues etc
  - Use - how the space can be used - fly kites, sit, etc
  - Value / Emotion - peaceful, attractive, etc
  - Symbolism - freedom from work, childhood memories, etc
- Suggested improvements to the parks
- Assessment of service and maintenance standards provided by Bayside City Council

A copy of the survey is attached at Appendix 9.

The survey method was to conduct 20 on-site interviews at each selected location with a range of users taking into account their age and gender. This yielded 100 surveys. The selected open space areas were:

- Donald MacDonald Reserve, Beaumaris
- Black Rock Clock Tower Foreshore Area
- Hanby Reserve, Brighton
- Landcox Park, East Brighton
- Basterfield Park, Highett

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The surveys were conducted between 9.00am and 6.00pm from Wednesday 6 March 1996 to Wednesday 20 March 1996.

### **5.5 Written Submissions**

"The Bayside News" published by Bayside City Council in February, 1996, called for written submissions about open space. At each workshop, participants were also invited to lodge submissions. A total of 40 submissions were received.

### **5.6 Schools Survey**

Prior to commencement of the Open Space Strategy process, Bayside City Council had forwarded a questionnaire to all schools in the City. The purpose of the questionnaire was to seek the views of schools in response to a draft policy relating to school use of recreation services provided by the City. The survey also sought the views of schools on a range of key issues concerning Council's role in providing sports facilities and promoting sport.

The school responses were considered in the preparation of the Open Space Strategy.

### **5.7 Opportunities to Comment on the Draft Open Space Strategy**

The draft Open Space Strategy was endorsed by Council for release for public comment in June, 1996. It comprised three volumes:

Volume One:           Executive Summary  
Volume Two:           Report  
Volume Three:    Appendices, Open Space Inventory and Reference Documents

The draft strategy documents were made available for community comment. Written submissions were invited and a community workshop was held on 15 August, 1996. In response, 13 submissions were received and more than 60 people attended the workshop.

A summary of the submissions received in response to the draft Open Space Strategy is included at Appendix 10.

The comments received at the community workshop in response to the draft strategy are found at Appendix 11.

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Following an assessment of the comments received, the draft strategy was revised and the final strategy was presented as two documents;

- a separate Executive Summary
- the complete Open Space Strategy in two parts

Part 1 contains the strategy report and actions

Part 2 contains the Appendices, Open Space Inventory and Reference documents.

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## 6. COMMUNITY RESPONSE

### 6.1 "Bayside News" - Reply Paid Returns

In response to the Reply Paid Forms printed in the 'Bayside News', 160 returns were forwarded to the Bayside City Council.

#### 6.1.1 Parks most often visited

In response to the question - **which local park do you visit most often** - most respondents live within walking distance of the park they visit most often. The majority of parks in Bayside have a local catchment. Those parks with special features that are not available in parks closer to home have a wider catchment. Examples included the 'pirate ship' play structure at North Road Beach Park, the play equipment at Thomas Street, Hampton and the lakes at Landcox Park and Basterfield Park.

People are prepared to travel to visit these parks.

#### 6.1.2 Foreshore Areas Most Often Visited

In response to the question - **which local foreshore areas do you visit most often** - Sandringham/Picnic Point, Hampton, Black Rock, Ricketts Point and Brighton were the areas of the foreshore most frequently visited by the majority of respondents.

Of all the respondents to this question, only 5 did not mention the foreshore at all. One of these respondents said she never visited any parks or foreshore areas because they are perceived to be totally unsafe.

#### 6.1.3 Features and Facilities most Liked in Parks

In response to the question, **what do you like about the parks you visit most often**, the majority of respondents identified native bushland, birdlife, a natural environment, green open space, good playground equipment and interesting walks as reasons for the park's popularity.

Most respondents liked the "natural" character setting and environment of Bayside parks, together with the good facilities provided for families including barbecues and picnic tables combined with play equipment for young children. A sense of space was very important.

#### 6.1.4 Features Most Liked about the Foreshore

In response to the question, **what do you like about the foreshore area you visit most often**, seaviews and coastal scenery were identified.

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However, there are many reasons given for the popularity of the foreshore and many respondents did not distinguish between the qualities of parks and the foreshore making clarification difficult. It is suggested that the natural environment and the natural character of the foreshore, the beach and the everchanging seascapes are the main reasons for the popularity of the foreshore. People enjoy strolling along the coastal path in a bushland environment with coastal views.

#### 6.1.5 Improvements to Parks

In response to the question, **what could be improved in parks** - respondents suggested a range of improvements from site specific requests such as clearing the blocked drain outlet on the drinking fountain in the Tricks Reserve to improvements with wider impacts such as the planting of more indigenous vegetation in Bayside and enforcement of the current dog laws. Four respondents said no improvements were required.

In summary, the following improvements to parks were suggested:

- the maintenance of parks including mowing and rubbish removal
- the provision and maintenance of toilets
- the safety of playground equipment
- the current dog laws and their enforcement
- the development of a planting philosophy, in particular the species selected and location of new planting
- the maintenance and protection of the natural environment setting of parks
- the provision of park facilities such as barbecues, seats, picnic tables, shade, rubbish bins, toilets and bins for disposal of dog waste
- the provision of bike tracks linking with the foreshore bike track
- the balance between active and passive facilities in popular parks
- the provision of additional walking paths in parks

Detailed responses are provided in Appendix 12.

#### 6.1.6 Improvements to the Foreshore

In response to the question - **what could be improved on the foreshore** - a whole range of suggestions were made and these have been summarised as follows:

- the maintenance of the foreshore in particular rubbish removal, beach cleaning and vegetation
- the maintenance and repair of existing facilities including toilets, lighting, seats, ramps, paths and carparking areas
- public safety particularly in relation to toilets and coastal bushland areas
- the provision of new facilities including the bike paths, seats, barbecues, shade, drinking taps, play equipment, cafes and tea houses
- enforcement of dog laws, litter control and poaching of shell fish regulations
- the development of a planting philosophy, particularly in relation to new plantings (type, height, density, location etc).
- renourishment of Hampton Beach, and improvements to the visual and landscape quality of the Brighton and Hampton foreshore

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- protection and management of the highly sensitive coastal environment, particularly indigenous vegetation
  - development of foreshore management plans
  - access to the foreshore, particularly across Beach Road

Detailed responses are provided in Appendix 13.

## **6.2 The Workshops**

### **6.2.1 The Foreshore Workshop**

At the foreshore workshop, discussion amongst those attending and in small groups focused on issues which are summarised below:

- Poor access to the foreshore
- Unsafe, unclean toilet blocks
- Protection of cultural sites
- Maintenance of the foreshore
- Potential for over-development
- Indigenous vegetation protection
- Beach renourishment
- Community involvement
- Protection of the natural character of the foreshore
- Prohibiting new active sports and sporting facilities
- Increasing the range and diversity of facilities and activities
- Improving safety and discouraging anti-social behaviour
- Improving water quality
- Cleaning the beach more effectively
- Separating bike and pedestrian paths
- Stabilising the cliffs
- Carparking

Detailed responses from the foreshore workshop are provided in Appendix 14.

### **6.2.2 Sporting Clubs and Oval Users Workshop**

Sporting groups and club representatives attending the workshop were invited to list issues and put them in priority order.

Main issues identified at the workshop included:

- a perceived lack of commitment and support for sport by Council and an acknowledgment of its significance to the community and the contribution (buildings, maintenance, training etc) made by clubs when setting rental
- variation in the quality of maintenance of grounds, pavilions, club rooms and parking areas by Council
- increasing costs (for all clubs) and declining membership (for some clubs)

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- arrangements for access to pre season facilities and ground sharing are unclear
  - security and vandalism of grounds and facilities
  - need for an identified accessible contact officer at Council
  - inconsistency with tenure and lease arrangements between clubs

Other issues identified by club representatives are included in Appendix 15.

#### 6.2.3 Other Sports and Non-Oval Users Workshop

Issues of concern to representatives of other sports and non-oval users (bowls, tennis, croquet, baseball) included:

- decline in membership for some clubs
- reduction in revenue
- leasing arrangements/rental/rates are short term and unclear or inequitable
- inequitable Council policy regarding leases
- limited expansion due to lack of land
- poor parking facilities
- lack of communication with Council
- lack of Council support for clubs and recognition of their commitment, contribution and effort
- mowing and maintenance
- no clearly identified contact person
- decline in standard of facilities
- lack of money for capital works
- security of tenure; need for long term security (say 5 to 7 years)
- problem with seasonal occupancy compared to leases
- financial assistance for extensions/upgrades is required
- inconsistency/variation in Council services is a problem
- parking restrictions imposed with no prior consultation

The solutions suggested at the workshop in response to these issues were similar to those identified by the sporting clubs representatives at the earlier workshop.

#### 6.2.4 Friends Groups for the Heathland and Bushland Areas Workshop

This workshop divided into four groups which identified key issues, and identified solutions/recommended actions.

The following main issues and recommendations emerged as priorities at the workshop.

- Council to retain, protect and maintain all open space, bushland, foreshore and Crown Land Reserves
- no further commercial development in open space reserves, especially on the foreshore
- complete an open space audit to identify resources



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## *The Value of Open Space*

As with the community as a whole, young people assign great value to open space areas. They use and enjoy open space to explore and pursue a wide range of recreation opportunities but demand certain standards in its provision.

According to young people, viable open space areas contain the following vital ingredients:

- Safety - in design, facility standards and maintenance
- Diversity - passive and active areas  
- the natural environment is valued as well as opportunities for adventure and excitement  
- opportunities to mix and meet with other young people are important
- Convenience- close to home  
- close to or at school  
- close to public transport  
- accessible; linkages for commuter purposes (walking and bicycle riding) are important  
- low cost
- Quality - basic standards in facility provision (toilets, drinking taps, shelter, rubbish bins)  
- basic standards in the provision of play surfaces and equipment

Appendix 18 sets out in detail the comments provided by young people regarding the "aspects I like" and "improvements needed".

### 6.3.2 Youth - Council LEAP Employees and Unemployed Young People

The findings of the focus group discussions with Council LEAP employees and local unemployed young people closely paralleled those concerning the secondary school students, as discussed in the previous section.

There were however, some points of significant difference.

#### *Time, Income and Open Space*

LEAP employees, working four days each week and unemployed young people, generally have more leisure time than their secondary school peers.

As such, the availability of open space and associated recreational opportunities heightens in importance.

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The popularity of skateboarding emphasises a number of critical issues. As a relatively inexpensive, highly accessible and practical form of recreation and transport, skateboarding stands out among these niche groups in the community as a most popular activity. "Skating" is mainly undertaken in streets, footpaths, driveways, roads and carparks as a recreation and commuter activity but more formal, purpose-built facilities are often sought.

The skateboard facility in Elsternwick Park is a very popular venue for these groups but a great deal of interest is being shown in the evolution of a more centrally located and accessible Bayside skateboarding facility in Royal Avenue Sandringham.

### *Schools - Loss of a Focal Point*

As demonstrated by the young people attending secondary school, the school ground is an important venue for informal and formal outdoor recreational activities. Furthermore, the school is also an important catalyst for students to use open space further afield from the school ground both during and after school hours. This is demonstrated by the number of schools that use Council facilities for school sport and the number of students involved in local sporting clubs.

Opportunities to mix and meet with existing and new friends are also valued components of the schooling experience.

Once leaving school young people are generally denied access to these outdoor facilities and important social environments. Local schools do not generally see 'school leavers' as their responsibility. Only token gestures such as leaving gates unlocked are undertaken by school authorities as a means to allow the wider community to use school facilities.

### *Enriched Experience*

Through their work and training experience over recent months, the LEAP employees generally demonstrate a greater awareness of and sensitivity to foreshore open space areas.

Being based at the Beach Oval, Sandringham some workers walked or cycled to work along the coastal path while many others used the beach or the Beach Oval at lunchtime or after work.

Many employees returned to the foreshore in their own leisure time with their friends and/or family.

### 6.3.3 Elderly and Disabled Residents

Ageing and physical disability do not necessarily occur simultaneously. To emphasise this, it should be noted that there are many children in the Bayside area who are wheelchair-bound and/or have a disability which limits their use of public open space.

The ageing process generates a number of challenges for our 'senior citizens'. Some of these challenges include restricted mobility through loss of sight, stamina, limb usage or other impairment. Inability to be independent can result from these factors, dementia or other conditions.

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From the discussions held with aged and disabled people and their carers, the two major factors which need careful consideration when planning open space opportunities are elements of design and provision of program support services.

### *Design Considerations*

Beyond their home, the most significant open space areas for aged and disabled residents are those areas close to their home. These areas rarely include the local park or playground but more often include neighbouring footpaths, nature strips and shopping centres.

In most cases, the following design considerations are of paramount importance.

- uneven surfaces such as footpaths and kerbs
- overhanging trees and branches
- steep gradients of paths and ramps
- removal of unnecessary steps
- the need for seating in sheltered areas
- provision of handrails where greater support is needed

It was the general view among consulted persons that building standards embracing the needs of aged and disabled people were all very well but as an example, such standards are pointless if a toilet for disabled people is built in a park where access paths were sandy or boggy and thus severely restricting wheelchair access to the building.

### *Programs and Projects*

Beyond improving design principles through more considerate refinements and better maintenance, it is evident that opportunities need to be enhanced for aged and disabled people to experience open space in the Bayside area by Council continuing to support and expand community programs.

Such initiatives should address the following issues:

- Information for aged and disabled residents and their carers about the location and facilities at Bayside open space areas
- Transport as a critical element of community care programs as a means to encourage visits to local open space areas
- Projects which encourage participation of people with special needs e.g. the Friendship path and gardens at the Beaumaris Community Reserve

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#### 6.3.4 Parents of Young Children

Parents of young children value local open space. They particularly see local playgrounds as places for their children to enjoy stimulating experiences in safe environments where the parents themselves can act as supervisors in a comfortable and friendly setting which is well-served with basic facilities and is close to home.

Special 'theme' areas such as the foreshore (sand, shallow water and rock pools), Landcox and Basterfield Parks (water/ducks) and Thomas Street Playground (adventure playground) provide additional attractions where parents happily travel extra distances to enjoy the special experiences offered.

As with most other sectors of the community, the following vital ingredients serve to identify viable open space areas.

- Safety
  - fenced from vehicular traffic
  - minimum 'criminal' element
  - equipment standards
  - regular maintenance
- Diversity
  - interesting and challenging experiences for children
- Convenience- close to home
  - parking facilities
  - linkages to other parks and roads for bicycle, pram and walking access
- Quality
  - basic standards in facility provision (toilets, drinking taps, shelter, rubbish bins, seating)
  - basic standards in surfaces and equipment
  - special consideration in design of play equipment for very young children

As an extension to the 'vital ingredients' noted above, there are a large number of local open space areas which need attention. The predominant concerns identified in the survey of parents of young children are listed below:

- Dogs-
  - running off the leash
  - droppings
  - need for droppings disposal facilities

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- Seating
  - need for more in appropriate positions which take into account shade and visibility of play areas
  - rubbish removal
  - poorly designed equipment - remove surfaces that attract heat
  - safety swings for children under 5 years
  - puddles under swings
- Lack of Toilets
- More access points to open space areas

Appendix 19 sets out in more detail the results of the survey of parents of young children. In summary, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- Open space areas, playgrounds in particular, are used most frequently and for long periods of time by parents of young children
- Most parents walk or cycle to local parks. Generally, they drive to special 'theme' parks
- Playgrounds are mostly used by pre-school or early school-age children. Their parents require appropriate seating and strongly value safety and security factors
- The effective management of dogs is an important issue in local open space areas

#### **6.4 Survey of Open Space Casual Users**

During the month of March, one hundred casual users of five Bayside open space areas were interviewed on site.

The five selected open space areas were:

- Donald MacDonald Reserve, Beaumaris
- Black Rock Clock Foreshore Area
- Hanby Reserve, Brighton
- Landcox Park, East Brighton
- Basterfield Park, Highett

The purpose of the survey was to identify factors which have a bearing on the open space perceptions and use by a sample of people participating in a broad range of activities in the identified parks.

The data gathered has been collated and is presented as Appendix 20.

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The findings of this survey have been summarised as follows:

- **Size of Groups**  
Each of the five open space areas provided a good range of opportunities for group or individual activities. Group size depends on:
  - **Safety and Security;**  
In areas of high visibility from passing traffic, people will visit the area alone but in other enclosed areas like the coastal path, people prefer to walk or jog with a companion.
  - **Type of Activity:**  
Some activities such as picnics or barbecues are more social events which attract groups of people whereas other activities such as sitting and reading are individual pursuits.
  
- **Frequency**  
There are a broad range of usage patterns evident; some people visit the same area daily to jog or walk the dog as a matter of routine whereas it was found that many other people were visiting larger parks (Landcox Park, Basterfield Park and Black Rock Foreshore) for the first time or "every two or three months".
  
- **Length of Stay**  
The length of stay was determined by:
  - **The Weather;**  
The provision of shelter from the sun, rain and wind prolongs visits
  - **Activities Undertaken;**  
Jogging or cycling through an area is a relatively quick activity when compared with having a picnic or feeding the ducks at Landcox and Basterfield Parks
  
- **Mode of Transport**  
It was found that generally people walked or cycled if they lived close to the open space area or travelled by car if there were long distances to cover or equipment to transport (eg. car fridge, outdoor furniture, etc). Nobody interviewed had travelled to the open space area by public transport.
  
- **Origin of Journey**  
As anticipated, most people surveyed were local residents using local parks. Being a highly visible area on a major transport route, the Black Rock Foreshore was patronised by the most people who had travelled the longest distances (Glen Waverley, Dandenong, Rosanna, Croydon, Springvale).  
  
Basterfield and Landcox Parks provided the attraction of the lake and ducks which enticed a large number of people from nearby suburbs.
  
- **Activities Undertaken**  
A broad range of activities were identified:
  - passive pursuits
  - moderately active pursuits
  - sitting, reading, eating
  - walking, walking the dog

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- active pursuits

- jogging, cycling, playing  
ball games

The most popular activities were playing in playground (children), watching children in playground (parents), walking, walking the dog and as noted above, feeding the ducks.

The co-location of take away food shops, the car park and the Black Rock foreshore is an important mix of facilities/services which results in the area being an attraction in itself. Many people were observed crossing Beach Road to visit the Black Rock shops and then returning to eat their take away food in the park, the shelter shed or in their cars.

- Perception of Facilities and Maintenance Standards.  
Appendix 21 contains the results of casual open space users perception of the facilities and maintenance standards. Cleanliness and general maintenance were rated 'good' by the majority of residents, as were the provision and maintenance of facilities.

## 6.5 Schools Surveys

During November 1995 a 'Sports Questionnaire for Schools' was sent to each of the 34 public and private schools in the Bayside area.

The primary purpose of the survey was to seek views from schools about school use of Council recreation facilities.

From the 26 questionnaires returned, the following summary notes have been prepared:

- Fees and Charges  
The proposed sports pricing objectives were mostly ignored by the respondents. Those that did comment, indicated that schools could not afford to pay any additional fees and furthermore, it was stated on three occasions that Council facilities should be free of charge to children and ratepayers.

Only one school supported the draft pricing objectives.

- Sports Played  
Each of the 14 sports suggested in the questionnaire are played at most of the schools.

Continued strong support was noted for traditional school sports; Australia Rules Football, Cricket, Netball, softball and Athletics.

- New Sports  
Soccer is the most popular sport being introduced in local schools this year with four schools adding it to their sports program. The next most popular new sports being introduced in 1996 are Baseball (3 schools), Hockey (2 schools) and Volleyball (2 schools).

As some schools progressively become co-educational, their sports programs are changing to reflect the traditional 'gender sports'; two schools are each introducing Australian Rules Football and Cricket during 1996 as their enrolment of boys increases.

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A further two schools are introducing Cross Country Running and Cycling.

- Demand  
All school and Council outdoor sports facilities are in heavy demand by local schools. Only one school does not use any Council facilities whereas others use as many as 8 or 9 facilities.

Dendy Park and Thomas Street Athletics Tracks are used by nearly all local secondary schools.

Most schools are satisfied with their allocation of Council reserves however, as new sports are introduced, enrolments increase and compulsory sport programs are adopted, it is anticipated that demands on Council facilities will increase.

- Facility Standards  
Although a large number of shortcomings have been noted, most schools are satisfied with the standard of facilities provided and the maintenance of those facilities.

The shortcomings noted relate to poor playing surfaces, sub-standard toilets, inadequate ground markings and the lack of drinking taps.

- Service Provision  
Overall, Council's provision of facilities and services for school sport is mainly rated as 'very well'.

The following table sets out the response to the question, "How well do you think Council performs in providing for the wide range of sports in the municipality?".

<u>Rating</u>	<u>Responses</u>
Extremely Well	1
Very Well	13
Undecided	10
Fair	1
Poor	1
Extremely Poor	<u>0</u>
	<u>26</u>

The high level of 'very well' responses should please Council, however the substantial number of 'undecided' responses should be of concern.

Such a concern is amplified by the general lack of understanding by local school personnel of the role of Council as indicated in other sections of the survey. The issue of improving liaison with schools needs close attention to ensure that open space facilities can be used more efficiently and effectively by schools and the wider community.

## 6.6 Written Submissions

In response to the invitation for submissions, 40 written submissions were received.

Members of the Bayside community and organisations and groups who made submissions are listed in Appendix 22.

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Submissions received were divided into three main categories namely:

- the foreshore;
- sport and recreation;
- conservation and protection of the environment and the heathland/bushland reserves

#### 6.6.1 The Foreshore

The main points made in submissions include:

- the foreshore should be protected and enhanced; what remains of our natural heritage must be protected
- the visual and landscape quality of the foreshore should be improved, particularly at Hampton
- views of the water and coastline should be provided and protected from Beach Road and the coastal path
- remnant coastal indigenous vegetation along the foreshore should be protected and new stock planted; native bird habitats must be protected and enhanced
- the cultural, historical and scientific assets of the foreshore should be identified and protected; appropriate interpretive information should be provided to enhance the community's understanding and appreciation of these assets of the foreshore; the natural assets must be "inviolable", to be conserved and enhanced
- public safety on the foreshore should be improved, particularly in bushland areas and around carparks and public toilets. Women, children and older persons feel vulnerable and threatened on the foreshore; perhaps organised walks may encourage people to participate in group activities and discourage criminal and anti-social behaviour  
only water related or coastal dependant activities should be allowed on the foreshore, all non-coastal uses such as the Sandringham Croquet Club and the Sandringham Football Club should be relocated and the areas currently occupied by them turned over to native bushland
- small scale kiosks and tea houses on the foreshore are appropriate provided they are sensitively designed to fit with the environment and do not result in the loss of indigenous vegetation or increase the demand for carparking
- there should be no commercial intrusions or further overdevelopment of the foreshore reserve, and this includes tea houses, cafes and restaurants, as these uses will continue to break up an already damaged ecosystem, making it less viable
- there must be no further alienation of open space that remains for peaceful and passive recreation

A summary of the points raised is found at Appendix 23.

The submissions cover a range of opinions about the foreshore - a common theme was to protect and enhance the quality of the foreshore and to improve public safety. The degree of change to be permitted generates differences of opinion based on likely impacts. While no one objects to the location of the bike path on the Beach Road verge, the Hampton Tea House or any other cafe or tea house proposed on the foreshore generates heated debate.

#### 6.6.2 Sport

Submission were received from the following sports clubs in Bayside.

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*Sandringham Football and Social Club Inc*

Sandringham Football Club recognises its physical location within the designated foreshore area may be of concern to some, but also believes its occupation of the area is an integral part of the foreshore community in the same way as swimming, angling, life saving and yacht clubs. The club strenuously opposes relocation.

Other points raised by the Club are included at Appendix 24.

*Joint Bowling Clubs Submission*

Lawn bowling clubs in Bayside made a combined submission. The main points are:

- Concern that there is no common criteria for sports club rates and that large discrepancies occur between different clubs - the approach to all clubs should be balanced and equitable
- Membership levels of bowling clubs are declining and the average age of members is older, with many members living on fixed incomes (pension, superannuation investments)
- Bowling clubs develop and maintain their grounds with little or no financial contribution from Council which is different from many other sports clubs. They also pay water and sewerage charges, utility charges and insurance including public liability

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- Clubs with seasonal occupancy have an advantage over leasehold clubs as they pay no rates and the charges they pay are only a small percentage of the actual funding required to maintain the facilities they use
- Bowling Clubs offer the following to the community:
  - an active recreational pastime for all age groups
  - a recreation activity in which people with disabilities can participate
  - daily recreation from September to May
  - additional social activities
  - recreation in a small area involving a high density population
  - providing a service at no cost to Council
  - improvements to Council land/enhancing quality including clubhouses which could be used by Council for other community uses
  - support of local charities (financial)

*Brighton Junior Soccer Club*

Brighton Junior Soccer Club made the following points in its submission.

- Prefer long term security for use of facilities and that lease negotiations should take place well before seasons commence
- Pavilions require separate changeroom and toilet facilities with good lighting for women
- Sports clubs require adequate, secure, storage facilities for sports equipment
- Recommend provision of clean, safe drinking water - old pipes supplying grounds should be replaced in Dendy Park
- A children's playground should be developed in Dendy Park to occupy siblings during games
- Pavilions should be suitable for conducting meetings and holding social functions
- Council should supply, erect and maintain soccer ground posts for junior and sub-junior playing grounds in Dendy Park
- Dendy Park requires a flow through carpark as thoughtless drivers often block access for all
- Council should supply sandy topsoil for temporary repair of ground holes prior to soccer games
- Soccer pitches should be dog-free during practice and games. Dog excrement is a problem
- Dendy Park soccer grounds should be well drained, with the main pitch having surface and sub-surface drainage problems. Wet areas are a health hazard
- Suitable toilet and changeroom facilities should be made available
- Dendy Park pavilion should include an undercover viewing area for wet weather

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- Pavilion floor coverings should be able to be washed but not slippery, and should be easily maintainable
  - Pavilions should have good public lighting and be highly visible, preferably through passive surveillance
  - Girls teams should not be located on grounds close to areas where alcohol is served in order to assist in minimising harassment problems
  - Council should recognise that sports clubs help build community cohesiveness and spirit and as such support them
  - Fencing in Dendy Park is damaged and in parts falling over. Holes develop which fill with water
  - Time spent on public liability insurance issues and tendering for ground facilities are often badly timed and inappropriate. Costs incurred in preparing and administering the tender process are wasteful
  - Carparking surfaces should be sealed whenever possible as pot holes are everywhere, especially in winter
  - There is a clear lack of facilities for active women's sport participation which is discriminatory

*Bayside Federation of Soccer Clubs*

- Soccer clubs currently have no year-round social facility for meetings or social events
- Clubroom facilities at Ludstone Street, Spring Streets Destructor Reserve, Reserve Road, and Dendy Park are inadequate
- Soccer is moving towards being a year round sport instead of using grounds purely from April to September

Other issues raised by the Bayside Federation of Soccer Clubs have not been included due to the confidential nature of their submission but have been provided to Bayside City Council for its further consideration.

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*Sandringham Hockey Club*

Sandringham Hockey Club has grown rapidly over the last few years. All of the clubs senior teams are required to play on approved synthetic surfaces. There are none in Bayside. The Club has submitted a joint business plan to Bayside Council for the construction of a synthetic hockey surface by the Elsternwick and Sandringham Hockey Clubs.

6.6.3 Heathland and Bushland Areas

In relation to the heathland and bushland areas, submissions call for:

- continuation of the protection of the heathland and bushland areas as significant conservation and environmental resources
- continuation and expansion of the sensitive hands-on weed control, planting and nurturing of indigenous plants
- continued Council support for volunteer groups and recognition of their efforts
- promotion of the heathlands to inspire, inform and educate Bayside residents and the wider community about the value of indigenous vegetation
- the preparation of additional Bayside Environment booklets covering indigenous plants, the coastline etc.
- a recognition of the contribution that the heathland's make to the character of Bayside
- the heathlands and foreshore areas should be given National Park Status to protect them from development
- the heathlands and bushland areas are valuable sources of seed and are highly significant reminders of what Bayside was like prior to development
- the individuality of the plant species in each reserve should be recognised
- re-introduction of consultative structures such as the former Natural Environment Advisory Committee chaired by a Councillor to provide advice on planning and open space matters referred to it, particularly in relation to the management of the heathland and bushland areas
- promotion and encouragement of volunteers to develop a sense of community pride and ownership of heathland and bushland areas and parks in general
- properly trained professional staff should have responsibility for the management of heathland and bushland reserves
- Council must continue to fund the bushland maintenance activities in association with local voluntary groups
- Council must continue to support the Community Nursery with its programs of seed collection and planting in the foreshore and parks
- the Sandringham Conservation Strategy, City of Sandringham 1993 should be endorsed by the Bayside City Council and form part of its commitment to conservation
- a limited number of designated pathways should be provided in heathland areas so that the public can enjoy the heathlands without causing damage
- increase public use and access to the Beaumaris High School/Gramatan Avenue heathland, improve interpretive signage, provide a designated pathway, undertake an additional burn at the southern end of the site and have it open during the week for residents.

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## **7. ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Many issues emerged during assessment of community consultation feedback, and the open space inventory.

### **7.1 The Management of the Foreshore**

The foreshore is **the** major open space resource for the Bayside community. Issues are:

- the management of the foreshore
- protection of its natural, cultural, historic and landscape features
- minimising the impact of change, while encouraging opportunities for increased access and activities
- co-ordinating decision making
- attracting State Government funding, setting priorities and allocating resources
- the number, nature and location of new buildings and activities
- access and carparking
- improving the visual quality of the foreshore
- keeping the beach clean
- improving public safety and strengthening links with Bayside's hinterland

Bayside City Council needs to review and amalgamate the foreshore management plans for Brighton and Sandringham as an urgent priority. The Bayside Coastal Strategy must develop policies which address the issues identified above.

### **7.2 Reducing the Barrier Effect of Beach Road**

Traffic on Beach Road (and the Esplanade, Brighton) is **the** major barrier between the foreshore and the inland open space areas in Bayside.

Council needs to consider options to reduce the barrier effects of traffic and provide improved access across Beach Road for pedestrians and cyclists. Consultation with VicRoads to examine traffic management options is recommended.

### **7.3 Dog Management and the Enforcement of Local Laws**

The need for effective management of dogs in Bayside open space areas and along the foreshore emerges as a major issue in the open space strategy. While few people complained about uncontrolled dogs, the most frequent complaint was the fouling of paths, playgrounds, playing fields and park surfaces by dog waste. This is a problem which seriously affects the community enjoyment of Bayside's parks and the foreshore.

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The development of a public education program to encourage dog owners to collect and remove dog waste, will assist to address these issues. As a priority all designated dog off leash parks and foreshore areas should be provided with pooper-scooper equipment and appropriate bins. While this may encourage responsible behaviour, the consultant team acknowledges that stricter enforcement and policing by Bayside City Council offices will also be required to encourage responsible behaviour in the interests of the wider community who expect to enjoy open space and foreshore areas free from dog waste.

It is also suggested that Council investigate the possibility of introducing volunteer rangers for a twelve month trial period to encourage responsible dog ownership and to educate the public about Bayside dog laws.

#### **7.4 Protection of Remnant Bushland and Heathland Areas**

Bushland and heathland areas are highly valued by the community as significant conservation and environmental resources.

Bayside City Council should continue its commitment to the protection and management of remnant bushland and heathland areas, and support the efforts of the Friends Groups who make a major contribution to the management and improvement of these areas.

It is recommended that Council explore opportunities for increasing passive access to all these areas and actively promote and encourage wider community interest in them as a significant environmental resource.

An opportunity to develop a significant regional resource occurs at the Beaumaris Campus Heathland. The management plan for this area should be prepared in association with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and the Directorate of Schools Education. The plan should also consider nearby Balcombe Park.

#### **7.5 Links Between Inland Open Space Resources and the Foreshore**

The foreshore and the inland reserves of Bayside are highly valued by the community. The consultation process identified that the community perceive these areas as separate elements in the open space system.

Council should therefore explore opportunities for linking the foreshore and the inland reserves by providing pedestrian paths and bicycle connections between parks where possible, and the foreshore. Opportunities identified for further investigation by the consultant team include:

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- along the main north-south and east-west roads, all of which lead to the foreshore. These gateways to the foreshore should be “celebrated” and designed to reinforce links between the foreshore and the hinterland. The Black Rock Clock Tower Park is an example of such a gateway. Other opportunities occur at North Road; South Road/Beach Road; Hampton Street/Beach Road; Bay Road/Beach Road; Reserve Road/Beach Road and Charman Road/Beach Road;
- opportunities for links through Elsternwick Park to the foreshore, as described in the masterplan for Elsternwick Park;
- opportunities for the Elsternwick Park link to be extended along Elster Creek to connect to Gardenvale Station and the Nepean Highway bike path;
- opportunities along the Sandringham railway line corridor from Gardenvale Station to Brighton Beach, Hampton and Sandringham stations;
- opportunities to link the Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary to the Beaumaris foreshore via the Sandringham Secondary College Senior Campus, the “Greenbelt”, George Street Reserve, the Sandringham Municipal Golf Course, Royal Melbourne Golf Club/Balcombe Road, Balcombe Park, Sandringham Secondary College Beaumaris Campus, Gramatan Avenue Heathland, Donald MacDonald Reserve and along Surf Avenue to the foreshore;
- opportunities to link Cheltenham Park and Cheltenham Railway Station to the Beaumaris foreshore via Cheltenham Golf Club/Shipston Reserve, Royal Melbourne Golf Club to Reserve Road and Ricketts Point;
- opportunities to link Moorabbin/Highett to the Beaumaris foreshore via the existing path along the Frankston railway corridor to Cheltenham Park and along Charman Road to the Beaumaris foreshore.

Links such as these are suggested as opportunities for further investigation. Their development and implementation will depend upon the attitude of the relevant land management agencies including the PTC, Melbourne Water and the Golf Clubs. These links form an important part of the consultant team's vision for an open space system in Bayside which connects the foreshore and inland reserves.

## **7.6 Commitment to Sport and its Promotion in Bayside**

Sporting clubs and other providers of active recreation opportunities feel that their contribution is not recognised by Council. Other growing sports, such as soccer and baseball are seeking Council's support for new facilities. It is recommended that communication and consultation between Council and clubs should be improved to provide a better service to residents who participate in sport in the City.

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It is recommended that Council should also develop a sport and recreation policy that documents the manner in which Council and community groups can work in partnership. The following issues need consideration:

- leasing and occupancy
- capital improvements
- joint use of facilities
- fees and charges
- commercial viability
- level of activity
- maintenance standards and responsibilities

### **7.7 Active and Passive Recreation Opportunities - Getting the Right Balance**

The community considers that in parks predominantly used for active sporting recreation, such as Elsternwick Park, Dendy Park, Petersen Street Reserve and Castlefield Park, opportunities for passive recreation have not been provided at all or require substantial improvement to achieve a better balance and greater opportunity for a wider section of the community to enjoy these open space areas.

The need to create a mix of active and passive recreation opportunities in parks traditionally developed for sport and oval related activities has emerged. In these parks opportunities for multi-use and complementary passive activities must be addressed. It is recommended that management plans are developed for these parks to provide a better mix of recreation opportunities.

A Strategy Plan has been prepared for Elsternwick Park. A management plan for Dendy Park should be developed as a priority. Dissatisfaction with the quality and mix of facilities in Dendy Park has emerged as an issue and requires the urgent attention of Council.

### **7.8 Naturestrips and Main Road Verges**

Naturestrips and main road verges are part of the open space system in Bayside. They are often overlooked as "open space" elements. They provide the opportunity for appropriate trees to enhance streetscapes and to provide attractive pedestrian environments.

A street tree planting strategy for Bayside is required to be developed in association with the Urban Character Study. Where links between parks use the street system, appropriate street tree plantings can reinforce this connection and enhance the recreation experience and contribute to the development of a Bayside character.

### **7.9 Maintenance of Open Space and the Foreshore and Quality of Facilities Provided**

There is divided opinion about the quality of maintenance of open space and the quality of the facilities provided in Bayside's parks and along the foreshore.

The most frequent complaints about facilities relate to the poor condition of toilet blocks and poor quality playground equipment.

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Some residents complain about the deterioration in maintenance standards, particularly in relation to rubbish which is highly visible, while others complement Council on the excellent maintenance standards observed.

Council should regularly reviews services and maintenance standards for parks and the foreshore as part of an annual customer satisfaction survey, and introduce an appropriate complaint response process to ensure maintenance standards reflect community expectations.

Further, the community consultation process identified a range of sites which have high community expectations in regard to maintenance. Services should be provided to these locations to match this expectation:

- Basterfield Park
- Billilla Homestead gardens
- Black Rock House gardens
- Brighton Beach Oval
- Brighton Municipal Gardens
- Elsternwick Park Main Oval
- Foreshore reserves
- Kamesburgh Gardens
- Landcox Park
- Sandringham Beach Oval

#### **7.10 Personal Safety in Parks and Along the Foreshore**

Fears about personal safety in parks and in the bushland areas of the foreshore have been expressed by the community, and is a reason why some residents do not use parks or parts of the foreshore at all. Concerns over personal safety discourage use of parks and reduce people's enjoyment of them.

Council should consider ways of making parks safer by providing view corridors into and out of them; improving opportunities for casual surveillance, and encouraging increased use and activity levels in parks and along the foreshore as a means of discouraging anti-social behaviour.

The bushland areas of the foreshore are identified by the community as well known problem areas; Balcombe Park, parts of the Donald MacDonald Reserve and George Street Reserve are also visually isolated, with poor casual surveillance opportunities. Safety in parks with these characteristics presents a problem. It is recommended that this issue be addressed in the preparation of management plans for the parks and the foreshore, and acknowledges that removal of vegetation to enhance opportunities for casual observation is a limited option given the significance of bushland uses.

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Council should also focus on opportunities to increase the use of parks and the foreshore to discourage criminal and anti-social behaviour. Opportunities include promoting parks, organising group events and activities and providing paths through parks to destinations which encourage pedestrian activity.

Concerns have also been expressed about the safety of isolated and poorly lit toilet facilities.

### **7.11 Maintenance of Public Toilets**

Most people who complain about poor facilities in Bayside parks and along the foreshore identify the maintenance of public toilets as the major problem requiring Council's urgent attention.

Concerns expressed relate to the poor maintenance and cleanliness of toilets, including the need for repairs to broken doors and seats and improved lighting.

In the Melbourne Parks User Survey, the provision of clean, well maintained and safe public toilets was identified as a main factor contributing to the respondents enjoyment of parks.

The consultant team recommends that Bayside City Council reviews the maintenance of public toilets to ensure that the community's expectations are met, complaints are responded to, and that arrangements are made for the regular inspection and monitoring of the condition of public toilets.

Further, a review of the provision and location of toilet blocks is recommended, particularly on the foreshore. Removal of unused or dilapidated toilet blocks should be considered.

New or replacement toilet facilities should be provided in association with existing buildings and activities.

### **7.12 Introduction of a Volunteer Ranger Service**

In response to community concerns about the level of personal safety in parks and along the foreshore, and lack of enforcement of dog laws, it is recommended that Bayside City Council investigate the option of introducing a Volunteer Ranger service for a trial twelve month period.

The focus of the Volunteer Ranger service should be on public education to encourage responsible dog owner behaviour.

The introduction of the Volunteer Ranger service should coincide with a public education campaign to encourage responsible behaviour in parks and along the foreshore. The visible presence of a Ranger may also discourage anti-social and criminal behaviour in parks and improve the community's sense of personal safety.

The effectiveness of the volunteer Ranger service should be reviewed after a twelve month period. This review could be undertaken as part of the regular customer satisfaction survey identified in Section 7.9.

### **7.13 Hampton Beach Renourishment**

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Despite the lack of a “beach” at Hampton, the Hampton foreshore is one of the most often visited foreshore areas in Bayside.

There is strong community support for the renourishment of Hampton Beach. This should be undertaken in context of the preparation of a management plan for the foreshore reserve between South Road and Picnic Point.

Issues to be addressed in the management plan include:

- vehicle access to the beach area during “construction”;
- identification of appropriate sites for the stockpiling of sand;
- provision of short term carparking arrangements;
- improved landscaping and beach access, once beach reconstruction is completed;
- an on-going beach maintenance program;
- identification of any new facilities to be provided

### 7.14 New Activities/Buildings on the Foreshore

The provision of new buildings and activities in the foreshore reserve is an issue of great interest to the community. Opinion is strong and ranges between those who do not want any new buildings and activities in the reserve at all, to those who support development of a St Kilda style foreshore complete with restaurants, concrete paths and palm trees. There is a range of opinion between these views.

The Hampton foreshore between South Road and the Ferdinando Gardens may offer the opportunity for a sensitively designed tea house/cafe to increase activity on the foreshore and the diversity of experiences offered along the foreshore. However, this will need to be further addressed as part of the detailed Bayside Coastal Strategy currently being prepared by Council.

### 7.15 Provision of Core Facilities in Parks

The types of facilities and their quality, influence the use of parks and people’s enjoyment of them. The Bayside community has requested that “core facilities” be provided in parks. In Illaroo Reserve Beaumaris, for example there is a barbecue but no picnic table. These core facilities are:

- drinking taps
- barbecues
- shelter/shade trees
- tables and seats
- pooper scooper equipment and bins (in dog off leash parks as a priority) and
- rubbish bins

It is recommended that at least the core facilities are provided in all parks other than Residential Neighbourhood Parks (see Section 4.2.1). The park in Gray Court Beaumaris is an example of a Residential Neighbourhood park.

### 7.16 Planning and Design of Parks

The Bayside community has identified the need to better plan and design parks and the foreshore to improve the visual quality of these areas, to appropriately locate new facilities, to identify unused

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buildings or structures to be removed, to identify opportunities for new planting, to improve circulation and access etc.

Central to the better design and planning of parks and the foreshore is the need to protect and enhance the natural environmental setting of parks.

The natural setting of parks, the presence of trees, the "open", "green" characteristics of parks and scenic coastal views are the reasons why Bayside's parks and foreshore areas are popular.

It is important that these qualities are retained and enhanced through improved park planning and design.

The sporadic approach to the planning, design and management of major parks such as Elsternwick Park and Dendy Park is no longer appropriate. These parks are major community resources and, need to be upgraded, planned and designed to provide recreation opportunities which meet the community's needs. It is noted that Council has already prepared a Strategy Plan for Elsternwick Park.

Management Plan preparation should be extended to other parks and the foreshore. High priority areas for the preparation of management plans include:

- the foreshore (including Green Point to Hampton foreshore and North Road Beach Park)
- Basterfield Park
- Elsternwick Park (in progress)
- Kamesburgh Gardens
- Dendy Park
- Cheltenham Park
- Landcox Park
- Royal Avenue Reserve
- Tulip/Spring Street Reserve
- Petersen Street Reserve
- Balcombe Park

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### **7.17 Lakes and Water Views**

The community has identified water views as one of the main reasons why the foreshore is so popular.

The presence of lakes in parks is also identified as a major reason why certain parks are popular. For example, people are prepared to travel greater distances to visit Landcox Park because of the lake.

Lakes are not a common feature in Bayside parks. Landcox Park and Basterfield Park have lakes which is one of the reasons why these parks are so popular. A small lake is provided in the park adjacent to the Sandringham Life Style Family Leisure Centre and King Club. Opportunities for a lake have been identified at Elsternwick Park. Balcombe Park has been identified as a possible location for a natural wetland. Melbourne Water's stormwater retarding basin in Avoca Street, Highett may also provide an opportunity for a more permanent water feature to provide greater diversity in the character of open space in Bayside.

Opportunities for new lakes/wetlands should be identified in the development of management plans for parks. The Bayside Drainage Strategy may identify increased opportunities for on-land storm water retention and treatment ponds to improve the quality of storm water prior to discharge into the Bay. Where identified, these opportunities should be developed as part of the park management planning and design process.

### **7.18 Golf Courses and Links to Parks**

Golf courses and Golf Clubs are major land uses in Bayside. While it is recognised that some facilities are public and others private (and therefore playing golf is restricted to members), opportunities for increased pedestrian access exist through golf courses or around their edges to link with main roads or other areas of open space. This should be investigated by Council in association with the clubs.

A pedestrian trail to the foreshore through Elsternwick Park adjacent to the Golf Course is recommended in the Strategy Plan for this park. This is an important initiative.

A trail through Cheltenham Park, Cheltenham Recreation Reserve, Shipston Reserve Royal Melbourne Golf Club, Victoria Golf Club, to Reserve Road and onto the foreshore, is another possibility.

A trail through the Sandringham Golf Course, Royal Melbourne Golf Club, to Reserve Road and Balcombe Park, is also a possibility which could be linked to parks further to the north in Cheltenham, Highett and Moorabbin, and to the south via Sandringham Secondary College (Beaumaris Campus), Gramatan Ave and the Donald MacDonald Reserve to the foreshore.

Identification of links and the provision of paths through the Golf Courses to connect the elements of Bayside's open space system is a major focus and long term vision for the Bayside open space strategy.

### **7.19 Golf Practice**

Golf practice in some parks has become an issue due to damage to ground surfaces and threats to public safety. It is recommended that Council and the operator of the Golf Driving Range in Wangara Road promote this facility as an alternative. Council may also need to consider positive steps to discourage unauthorised golf practice which was observed at Holloway Road and the oval at the Beaumaris Campus of the Sandringham Secondary College.

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## 7.20 Playgrounds

The availability of "good", "interesting", "safe", "imaginative" play equipment and facilities for young children in parks, has been identified as one of the most important reasons why particular parks (Thomas Street, Landcox Park, North Road Beach Park, Black Rock Clock Tower Park) are very popular.

While seats, shade and trees enhance the experience, Bayside residents expect play equipment and the playground environment to be safe.

Bayside City Council has undertaken an audit of playground equipment within Bayside's parks and along the foreshore.

The recommendations relating to removal of obsolete and outdated equipment contained in the "Strategic Review of (Bayside) Playgrounds" prepared by Ray Hutchinson and Associates, October 1995 is endorsed by the Open Space Strategy.

Removal of obsolete equipment in accordance with the report is a priority, together with the upgrading of the Dendy Park playgrounds as part of the development of a management plan for Dendy Park.

The priority list for the renovation of the playgrounds identified in the report should be immediately addressed as a means to improve the quality and safety of playgrounds.

Bayside City Council currently provides play equipment located at 54 sites.

The provision of playgrounds is seen as an essential function of local government, together with collection of garbage, meals-on-wheels programs and library services. It is clearly evident that children and their parents value the opportunity to use and enjoy local playgrounds. All components of the open space consultation process generated comment regarding the provision of playgrounds.

In particular, the interviews of users of five selected open space areas emphasised the importance of playgrounds. This was demonstrated by:

- the frequency of use; the majority of users of playgrounds use the facilities at least once every two weeks
- customer satisfaction; most people continued to use the playgrounds because they were pleased with the standard of the facilities

The universal call from Bayside residents for core facilities in open space areas particularly applied to playgrounds. In addition, residents value convenience, safety, diversity and quality.

It is evident that future action concerning playgrounds in Bayside should focus on four essential themes:

### 7.20.1 Demand

The importance of playgrounds as a significant recreation venue for adults and children cannot be over-estimated. Although most residents in the municipality live in free-standing homes with back and front yards, they enjoy the experience of going to a playground as an opportunity to enjoy special experiences largely determined by the range of play equipment provided.

Parents like to walk or cycle with their children to playgrounds close to their home, on a regular basis.

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On other occasions they will drive to playgrounds further afield where special attractions are available. In this regard, destinations such as Landcox and Basterfield Parks are popular due to the co-location of the play areas, water and ducks. The Thomas Street Playground in Sandringham and 'Pirate Ship' Playground at the end of North Road in Brighton provide unique 'theme' attractions.

The responses to the survey of park users indicated that depending upon weather conditions, people generally visited play areas for at least half an hour and for as long as one or two hours. The duration of stay was usually lengthened if there were opportunities to eat and the provision of other nearby attractions such as water.

There is no evidence to suggest that the popularity of any single playground in Bayside is declining. There have been no demands expressed for new playgrounds to be built or existing playgrounds to be closed. It has been suggested that the three sub-standard playgrounds in Dendy Park be removed and one quality playground be built.

Although the resident population of Bayside is ageing, there is no apparent need for Council to curtail its playground provision and maintenance programs. The increasing number of grandparents living in the community look forward to the opportunity to walk to a nearby playground with their grand children and enjoy the facilities available.

### 7.20.2 Community Involvement

History shows that some of the most outstanding playgrounds in Bayside were established by and for local residents. For example, Pasadena Avenue Playground in Beaumaris was originally built by a committee of local parents who cleared and landscaped the site for their children. In the 1950s an old steam engine was procured and secured at the site as a novel piece of play equipment. Years later as the engine began to decay, it was donated to the Puffing Billy Society as a source for spare parts.

The construction of the Thomas Street Adventure Playground in Sandringham is a more recent example of positive community involvement.

The 'friends' concept currently being encouraged in heathland and bushland reserves throughout the Bayside area should be extended to playgrounds.

### 7.20.3 Facilities Upgrade

Throughout the Open Space Strategy consultation process comment was received concerning specific action that users of playgrounds want to see undertaken. Most of these comments related to repairing damaged equipment, provision of new equipment or the provision of additional facilities.

A clear plan of action to address substandard play areas is provided in the report prepared for Council in October 1995 by Ray Hutchinson & Associates, 'Strategic Review of (Bayside City Council) Playgrounds', and is endorsed by this Strategy.

### 7.20.4 Innovation

Council should continue to be innovative in its approach to the provision of play areas. Consideration should be given to the following suggestions:

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- Interesting play experiences for older children. Suggestions include flying foxes, water play areas, mazes and adventure areas where children can construct and create their own play spaces
  - Playgrounds built in close proximity to and in consultation with local schools, kindergartens and child care centres

### **7.21 Athletics**

Both Dendy Park and Sandringham (Thomas Street) Reserve provide facilities for athletics which are used by the wider community and schools.

Community feedback has indicated that these facilities are utilised and highly valued by people of all ages and a broad range of athletic interests.

However, there has been general criticism of track surfaces, venue maintenance and inadequate support facilities.

A detailed review of both venues is required. The review must be prepared in association with user groups and should address:

- current and projected usage level
- local and regional significance especially in relation to school usage and the impact of the upgrade of the Duncan McKinnon athletics track in Murrumbidgee
- opportunities for multipurpose functions e.g. soccer
- financial viability in the light of community benefit derived
- the preparation and implementation of management plans

### **7.22 Soccer**

There has been rapid growth in the participation in soccer by local males and females of all ages. Four local schools have introduced soccer as a new sport in 1996. Many use Council reserves for soccer training and/or competition.

The Bayside Federation of Soccer Clubs has prepared a draft submission which identifies new facility options; each includes the utilisation of more open space and therefore the potential relocation of current users.

It is recommended that Bayside City Council consult with the Bayside Federation of Soccer Clubs regarding current and projected usage as well as proposed management practices and responsibilities. The draft proposal, prepared in February 1996, raised a number of issues:

- Fencing public open space
- Year round occupancy
- Impact upon other users at the Spring Street Reserve and Dendy Park
- Impact upon local residents e.g. traffic, lighting, noise
- The need for additional or improved support facilities such as pavilion/clubrooms, parking, seating, lighting, etc.

It should be noted that all local secondary and most primary schools teach and encourage participation in soccer.

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Bayside City Council should investigate the provision of more facilities and services to cater for the needs of soccer, in association with soccer clubs and local schools.

### **7.23 Hockey/Netball/Baseball**

All of these sports are in a growth phase and have special open space requirements.

Further analysis is required of these needs, local participation, regional context and future plans.

### **7.24 Australian Rules Football and Cricket**

As both of these sports utilise open space areas of similar size, opportunities abound for ground and facility sharing. Many strong partnerships between both sports have been undertaken, and these opportunities should be strengthened and include a more direct relationship and partnership with Council.

The major issues concerning these sporting groups were raised at the sporting groups workshop and include:

- maintenance and management of grounds and facilities
- liability insurance
- communication channels with Council
- equitable rental and lease arrangements etc

Added to this list should be Council's responsibility to ensure that there is significant community benefit derived from facilities and services provided with the assistance of Council resources.

Australian Rules Football and Cricket are played at all skill levels in the Bayside community. Activities range from coaching clinics for 'beginners' through to under age and open age teams, school tuition and competition and representation in regionally significant competitions e.g. Sub District Cricket (Brighton Cricket Club) and the Victorian Football League (Sandringham Football Club).

The requirements for these broad ranges of participation, demand careful consideration.

The issues that relate to this broad range of participation, that became evident during the study period were:

- The need for social club facilities as a means to generate substantial levels of income that are required by clubs
- Standards of facility provision and the costs required to meet these standards e.g. In the case of cricket, the provision of costly turf wickets used by few players as opposed to cheaper alternatives used by many players
- Maintaining the balance between natural conservation and effective year round player and spectator facilities at Sandringham Beach Oval
- The need for consultation and careful management when grounds are being allocated for season use. Issues to be considered:
  - excessive usage of grounds for training and competition resulting in deteriorating playing surfaces

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- night usage: loss of local resident amenity
- season change-over lead times

It is envisaged that Council will develop an overall sports policy which will address all sporting issues and in particular, those that apply to the provision of facilities and services to encourage participation in all levels of Cricket and Australian Rules Football.

### **7.25 Indoor Sporting Facilities**

Although the Project Brief did not encompass indoor sporting and recreation facilities, a closer examination of such facilities is warranted. This view has been prompted by community feedback concerning:

- The provision of facilities for and by sporting clubs in pavilions at Council reserves. Issues such as community access, community benefit, standard of facilities and exclusive use have all been raised.
- The management and terms of tenure of sporting groups using Council pavilions
- The continued growth of basketball in the Bayside area and the heavy demands upon existing facilities

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- The need for effective joint-use and joint-venture school and community facilities. For example, Brighton Secondary College has submitted to Council a joint-venture proposal for the construction of a new indoor school/community "Community Sports Stadium"

Council, State government, private enterprise and the wider community have a large investment in indoor sport and recreation facilities in the Bayside area. Further study should be undertaken to examine current and future needs in relation to the facilities and programs that are presently available.

### **7.26 Community Involvement**

The Bayside community values very highly the open space resources in the City. It has expressed a strong desire to be consulted in decision making processes in relation to open space and to actively participate in the planning, design and management of the City's open space and foreshore areas.

### **7.27 School Grounds**

The open space areas associated with schools make a significant contribution to the open space assets of Bayside. Residents like the aesthetic qualities of these areas, as well as the opportunities for children to recreate within school time. They are perceived as valuable community assets.

The majority of school grounds are not available to general public use, normally due to concerns about vandalism and security. As such, these spaces are not providing the significant benefit to the community that they potentially might.

In an endeavour to facilitate greater community use of school open space areas, the strategy recommends that Council forge partnerships with local schools, focussing on increased access and joint facility planning. The establishment of regular Council/school forums would assist in this process.

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**8. THE BAYSIDE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY - THE VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

Following the assessment of issues in relation to open space in Bayside, the following vision for an open space in Bayside was developed:

**“To achieve an integrated system of quality open space which meets the achievable expectations of the Bayside community.”**

Achievement of the vision requires :

- improved links between the foreshore and inland reserves to achieve an integrated open space system
- development of a bicycle network and pathway system linking the elements of open space
- reduction of the “barrier” effect of Beach Road between the foreshore and Bayside’s hinterland
- continued protection of Bayside’s remnant heathland and bushland areas combined with greater public awareness and passive access to these environmental resources
- development of management plans in association with the community to better plan, design and manage parks and the foreshore
- improvements to the visual and landscape quality of open space and the foreshore including more tree planting
- creation of multi-use parks equipped with a range of active and passive recreation facilities
- the design of “gateways” (such as Black Rock Clock Tower Park) at main foreshore intersections to strengthen connections between the foreshore and hinterland of Bayside

This vision for the Bayside open space system should be included in the Corporate Plan, and endorsed as a Corporate commitment.

Implementation of the Bayside Open Space Strategy will require the development of a new role and focus for Bayside City Council in relation to the delivery of an open space service to its customers.

The role of local government in relation to open space has traditionally involved responsibility for the provision and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities in response to community needs and opportunities as they arise. Council must now develop a more pro-active approach to the management of open space in the City. This new effort and direction is reflected in the Bayside Corporate Plan.

New opportunities identified for the Bayside City Council to take the lead and deliver a much wider and customer orientated service to the Bayside community include:

- an emphasis on community consultation and participation in the planning, design, maintenance and management of the open space resources

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- the preparation of a marketing strategy for the Bayside foreshore and open space areas to encourage greater community use and appreciation of these resources
- the provision of improved interpretive and educational services to increase the community's understanding of Bayside open space resources
- to facilitate the development of masterplans for school campuses to provide the context for new facilities and to encourage co-operative partnerships between schools, Council and the community in relation to the use of facilities
- the development of management plans for the foreshore and open space areas in association with the community and user groups to ensure that these resources are planned, designed and managed in accordance with agreed objectives
- the development of a design code for park furniture, and a planting strategy and philosophy for Bayside parks and the foreshore, to help to create a recognised Bayside character
- facilitating the provision of links between the public and private elements of the open space system in Bayside, including facilitating masterplanning of school campuses and provision of public paths through Golf courses to link with public open space
- consulting with VicRoads to investigate ways of reducing the barrier effect of traffic on Beach Road
- developing a bicycle network in Bayside, connected to the regional network and the Beach Road bike path
- develop a framework for the regional management of natural bushland and heathland areas
- developing in association with the Bayside business community, new funding opportunities for open space facilities, promotion and maintenance
- developing a policy for the allocation and expenditure of the open space contribution under the Subdivision Act to ensure attractive useable open space is provided
- developing an effective partnership with community based sporting groups and recognising the contribution of sporting groups to the Bayside community
- planning in association with growth sports, for new facilities for soccer, baseball, hockey and netball

These initiatives are included in the Bayside Open Space Strategy.

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The Open Space Strategy sets out the goals, objectives, strategies and actions which provide Bayside City Council with a framework to achieve the vision and effectively manage, plan and design Bayside open space areas to better meet the expectations of the Bayside Community.

The **goals** identified in the Bayside Open Space Strategy are:

1. **Community ownership and participation in the planning of Bayside open space areas**
2. **Enhance the quality of open space**
3. **Enhance the useability of open space**
4. **Introduce an appropriate review mechanism to determine the level of customer satisfaction with the provision and maintenance of open space and associated facilities**
5. **Appropriate funding for the implementation of the Open Space Strategy**
6. **Recognise the value of sport and recreation in the Bayside community**
7. **Protect residential amenity and minimise the impact of the use of open space on neighbours**

The **objectives** of the Open Space Strategy for Bayside are:

1. Ensure open space facilities reflect the needs and desires of the current and future Bayside community
2. Co-ordinate the maintenance and management of open space
3. Provide a system of open space links between inland parks and the foreshore
4. Ensure Bayside recreational links connect with regional systems and opportunities beyond Bayside's boundaries
5. Improve the landscape and environmental quality of open space in a sustainable manner
6. Continue to provide a balance of active and passive recreation opportunities and facilities in accordance with the needs of the community
7. Improve personal safety in parks and along the foreshore
8. Improve access between the inland reserves and the foreshore
9. Maintain pathway surroundings and surfaces of paths to enable safe and convenient access for users, especially those with restricted mobility

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10. Ensure that new subdivision provides useable and attractive open space to meet the needs of new residents in the context of existing open space
  11. Ensure customer input into open space maintenance and management practices
  12. Ensure Council budgets enable implementation of works required to achieve the appropriate maintenance standard for open space, asset replacements/improvements and the provision of new facilities
  13. Develop with the business community new funding opportunities for open space facilities, promotion and maintenance
  14. Promote personal and community development by providing a diversity of sporting and recreational opportunities and foster an ongoing relationship between Council and groups
  15. Increase community group participation in the planning, management of open space and facilities
  16. Recognise the current and changing needs of sporting groups and the wider Bayside community
  17. Ensure that activities in open space do not impinge on the surrounding neighbourhood

The attached Table develops the strategies and actions which are required to give effect to the goals and objectives of Bayside Open Space Strategy.

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<p><b>GOAL</b> 1. Community ownership and participation in the planning of Bayside open space areas</p> <p><b>OBJECTIVE</b> 1. Ensure open space facilities reflect the needs and desires of the current and future Bayside community</p>		
<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish community consultation mechanisms to ensure relevant and appropriate input into open space planning, maintenance and management from general park users, schools, clubs and local residents</li> </ul> <p>(Ref: Section 7.26, Page 54, Part 1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a community consultation policy and procedure for open space development</li> <li>Regularly review services and maintenance standards in conjunction with open space users, to endeavour to match expectations with provision</li> <li>Establish relevant community reference groups to provide Council with feedback on open space issues</li> <li>Promote Council's open space facilities as "Parks for People", involving the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immediate</li> <li>Annually</li> <li>Immediate</li> <li>Immediate</li> </ul>

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<p><b>GOAL</b> 2. Enhance the quality of open space</p> <p><b>OBJECTIVE</b> 2. Co-ordinate the maintenance and management of open space</p>		
<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To prepare a management plan for each open space area  (Ref: Section 7.16, Page 47, Part 1)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review priorities and timelines for the preparation of management plans for each open space area and the foreshore</li> <li>As a priority prepare management plans for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the foreshore reserve (particularly Green Point to Hampton and North Road Beach Park)</li> <li>- Basterfield Park</li> <li>- Elsternwick Park (in progress)</li> <li>- Kamesburgh Gardens</li> <li>- Dendy Park</li> <li>- Cheltenham Park</li> <li>- Landcox Park</li> <li>- Royal Avenue Reserve</li> <li>- Tulip/Spring Street Reserve</li> <li>- Petersen Street Reserve</li> <li>- Balcombe Park</li> </ul> </li> <li>Identify the key elements of the management plan which reflect the character and needs of each open space area and express a clear statement of design intent including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- opportunities and constraints</li> <li>- entrances and gateways</li> <li>- movement systems and links with other parks/trails</li> <li>- appropriate planting themes</li> <li>- the balance of active and passive opportunities</li> <li>- special needs of users</li> <li>- visual access and amenity</li> <li>- removal of unused and unsafe structures and equipment</li> <li>- provision of core facilities in accordance with an agreed design code which establishes a Bayside theme</li> </ul> </li> <li>Develop a design code for Bayside which covers: tables and seats, rubbish bins, drinking taps, barbecues, signs, shelters, bollards, lighting and fences</li> <li>Plan for the capital funding of the implementations of management plans for each open space area, thereby fulfilling community expectations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annually</li> <li>1-3 years</li> <li>1 to 2 years</li> <li>Annually</li> </ul>

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<p><b>GOAL</b> 2. Enhance the quality of open space</p> <p><b>OBJECTIVE</b> 2. Co-ordinate the maintenance and management of open space</p>		
<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish relevant maintenance standards for each open space area</li> </ul> <p>(Ref: Section 7.9, Page 43, Part 1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regularly review service levels in all open space areas based on community feed back</li> <li>• Ensure that work programs attend to facilities and equipment identified for action in the consultation process</li> <li>• Provide high quality maintenance services at the following locations to satisfy identified community needs:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Basterfield Park</li> <li>- Billilla Homestead gardens</li> <li>- Black Rock House gardens</li> <li>- Brighton Beach Oval</li> <li>- Brighton Municipal Gardens</li> <li>- Elsternwick Park Main Oval</li> <li>- Foreshore reserves</li> <li>- Kamesburgh Gardens</li> <li>- Landcox Park</li> <li>- Sandringham Beach Oval</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annually</li> <li>• Immediate</li> <li>• Immediate</li> </ul>

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<p><b>GOAL</b> 2. Enhance the quality of open space</p> <p><b>OBJECTIVE</b> 3. Provide a system of open space links between inland parks and the foreshore</p>		
<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review potential linkages from major inland parks to the foreshore, consistent with the Urban Character Study</li> </ul> <p>(Ref: Section 7.5, Page 41, Part 1) (Ref: Section 7.18, Page 48, Part 1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate identified opportunities for linking of the public and private elements of the open space system, including consultation with land management authorities to determine the scope and arrangement for public access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Elster Creek corridor (Melbourne Water)</li> <li>- Avoca Street retarding basin (Melbourne Water)</li> <li>- the private golf clubs</li> <li>- Public Transport Corporation railway land</li> <li>- Department of Natural Resources and Environment</li> <li>- Public and private schools</li> </ul> </li> <li>To develop a strategy to make public access an attractive option for land management authorities - especially the private golf clubs (e.g. Options might include rate relief, sharing maintenance costs and arrangements for liability)</li> <li>Establish priorities and develop detailed proposals for these links including design, location, liability, cost, access, maintenance, levels and types of usage and promotion</li> <li>To develop an implementation schedule, including the identification of funding opportunities for the links</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 to 2 years</li> <li>1 to 2 years</li> <li>1 to 2 years</li> <li>1 to 2 years</li> </ul>

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<p><b>GOAL</b> 2. Enhance the quality of open space</p> <p><b>OBJECTIVE</b> 4. Ensure Bayside recreational links connect with regional systems and opportunities beyond Bayside's boundaries</p>		
<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify opportunities and regional links (Ref: Section 7.5, Page 41, Part 1)</li>   <li>• To develop a bicycle path system within Bayside and provide connections with the regional network (Ref: Section 7.5, Page 41, Part 1)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult with neighbouring Municipalities and State Government agencies to ensure co-ordinated (and connected) approaches to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- existing and planned bicycle paths and pedestrian paths</li> <li>- regional destination points eg. shopping centres, parks and public transport</li> <li>- foreshore paths and other links beyond Bayside eg the "around the Bay path"</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Seek funding from the State Government for the provision of regionally important paths and related facilities</li> <li>• Consult with Bicycle Victoria in relation to links and promotion of the network</li> <li>• Develop and implement a bike path strategy plan for Bayside which would link shopping centres, parks and other activity/transport "nodes"</li> <li>• Sign bike and pedestrian paths to designate mode of use</li> <li>• Construct the Beach Road bike path</li> <li>• Develop a series of bike trails with brochures and appropriate signage</li> <li>• Facilitate through the PTC the provision of lockers and other facilities for bicycles at Hampton, Brighton Beach, Middle Brighton, North Brighton, Gardenvale, Cheltenham and Highett railway stations similar to those already available at Sandringham station</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate</li>   <li>• 1 to 2 years</li> </ul>

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<p><b>GOAL</b> 2. Enhance the quality of open space</p> <p><b>OBJECTIVE</b> 5. Improve the landscape and environmental quality of open space in a sustainable manner</p>		
<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a framework for the regional management of natural bushland and heathland areas, consistent with Council's Conservation Strategy  (Ref: Section 7.4, Page 41, Part 1)</li> <li>• Foster community involvement in the management of natural areas</li> <li>• Recognise the habitat role of all open space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a strategic framework for the management of all natural vegetation areas</li> <li>• Develop a Flora and Fauna Strategy to complement the framework</li> <li>• Prepare management plans for all natural areas based on expert botanical and land management advice</li> <li>• Facilitate and support the operation and promotion of all "Friends" groups</li> <li>• Develop "Friends of Bayside" as a core requirement for the successful future operation of community based groups</li> <li>• Review the role of the Community Nursery in the context of CCT and "Friends" groups structures</li> <li>• Implement the actions and recommendations of the Flora and Fauna surveys in conjunction with the preparation of management plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate</li> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• 1 year</li> <li>• Immediate</li> <li>• Immediate</li> </ul>



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<p><b>GOAL</b> 2. Enhance the quality of open space</p> <p><b>OBJECTIVE</b> 6. Continue to provide a balance of active and passive recreation opportunities and facilities in accordance with the needs of the community</p>		
<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
<p>(Ref: Section 7.10, Page 44, Part 1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage sharing of facilities to minimise the need for additional buildings</li> <li>Ensure "core" are provided facilities in parks, especially those parks used predominantly for sporting activities such as Elsternwick Park and Dendy Park</li> </ul> <p>(Ref: Section 7.15, Page 46 Part 1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council and schools to acknowledge the open space and recreation facilities provided by schools as important elements in the open space system and to plan for the future</li> </ul> <p>(Ref: Section 7.27, Page 54, Part 1)</p>	<p>providing open days, removing solid fences e.g. at the southern boundary of the Beaumaris heathland reserve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage private clubs on Council land to provide the opportunity for the public to use/access facilities eg. tennis, bowls, athletics clubs etc conducting "come and try" days, hosting school visits etc.</li> <li>Undertake a building audit to identify opportunities for sharing, demolition or improvement of facilities as part of the development of a management plan for each park</li> <li>Develop a policy in relation to the occupancy of buildings to encourage sharing of facilities and greater community access</li> <li>Provide the following core facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- drinking taps</li> <li>- barbecues</li> <li>- shelter/shade trees</li> <li>- tables and seats</li> <li>- rubbish bins</li> <li>- pooper scooper equipment and bins (in dog off leash parks as a priority)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Provide the "core" facilities as well as opportunities for informal play (i.e. play equipment, pedestrian pathways linking beyond the park, half court basketball pads, tennis rebound walls)</li> <li>Facilitate partnerships with schools, to encourage community use of facilities outside school hours and to ensure open space concerns are addressed</li> <li>Encourage schools to prepare master plans for school campuses in association with the community to ensure open space and recreation opportunities are maximised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 to 2 years</li> <li>1 year</li> <li>Immediate</li> <li>Immediate</li> <li>Immediate</li> <li>Immediate</li> <li>1 year</li> </ul>

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<p><b>GOAL</b> 2. Enhance the quality of open space</p> <p><b>OBJECTIVE</b> 6. Continue to provide a balance of active and passive recreation opportunities and facilities in accordance with the needs of the community</p>		
STRATEGY	ACTION	PRIORITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regularly review and evaluate dog management local laws, and the effectiveness of enforcement procedures  (Ref: Section 7.3, Page 40 Part 1)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a regular forum with schools in relation to on-going management, planning and use of Council and school facilities</li> <li>Develop a policy and fee structure for the use of sporting facilities by schools</li> <li>Police and enforce dog management laws, particularly waste collection by dog owners</li> <li>Develop a strategy to encourage dog owners to collect and remove dog waste</li> <li>Provide appropriate dog waste collection and disposal facilities in all dog off leash parks and foreshore areas as a priority, with other parks and the foreshore areas to follow</li> <li>Regularly review implementation of local laws and actively involve the community and other interested parties in the review process. Particular attention should be given to the selection and location of dog off-leash parks to ensure that the needs of dog owners and park users are met</li> </ul> <p>The existing dog laws appear to be not clearly understood and therefore it is recommended Council undertake a community information and education program which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- appropriate signage in parks</li> <li>- informative local newspaper publicity</li> <li>- a user friendly brochure, distributed with rate notices and dog registration notices and available at Council offices and Libraries</li> <li>- advice about responsible dog ownership and penalties for failure to comply with the dog law</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 year</li> <li>Immediate</li> <li>Immediate</li> <li>Immediate</li> <li>Immediate</li> <li>Annually</li> <li>Immediate</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discourage unauthorised golf practice in open space areas  (Ref: Section 7.19, Page 49, Part 1)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the possibility of a Volunteer "Ranger" service for a twelve month period, to educate the community about dog management laws and responsible behaviour</li> <li>Promote the golf driving range in Wangara Road, Sandringham in association with the operator</li> <li>Police and enforce golf practice restrictions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immediate</li> </ul>

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**GOAL**

2. Enhance the quality of open space

**OBJECTIVE**

6. Continue to provide a balance of active and passive recreation opportunities and facilities in accordance with the needs of the community

<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>



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**GOAL**

3. Enhance the useability of open space

**OBJECTIVE**

7. Improve personal safety in parks and along the foreshore

STRATEGY	ACTION	PRIORITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide parkland facilities which meet safety standards and community expectations  (Ref: Section 7.16, Page 47, Part 1)</li> <li>• Ensure open space areas are visible and accessible from passing vehicular and pedestrian traffic without reducing the functional and environmental quality of the area  (Ref: Section 7.10, Page 44, Part 1)</li> <li>• Provide safe, clean, well maintained and functional toilet blocks  (Ref: Section 7.11, Page 45, Part 1)</li> <li>• Provide a well distributed range of safe and attractive playgrounds  (Ref: Section 7.20, Page 49, Part 1)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the management plan process to set out procedures for regular review of safety standards including path surfaces, playing surfaces, play equipment and environments and rubbish removal</li> <li>• Remove fences that are of solid construction and prevent views into open space areas</li> <li>• Consider the location height and density of new planting to ensure that effective sight lines into and out of open space areas are provided and maintained particularly where new planting is proposed close to paths, toilets and carparking areas</li> <li>• Maximise public visibility into parks by the thoughtful location of new structures, buildings, carparks etc.</li> <li>• Provide paths through parks which connect to destinations beyond the park eg schools, shopping centres etc. to encourage pedestrian activity</li> <li>• Assess all toilet facilities to establish and implement an urgent program of repairs, to ensure facilities are maintained to high standards</li> <li>• Assess the viability of all toilet blocks along the foreshore and then in other open space areas with a view to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- determining appropriate hours of operation and security arrangements</li> <li>- removing isolated and unused freestanding facilities</li> <li>- incorporating new/replacement toilets within existing buildings</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ensure toilet blocks are clean, repaired, maintained, appropriately lit and are publicly visible</li> <li>Evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the new "Exceloo"</li> <li>• Adopt the recommendations of the Interim Strategic Review of the Playgrounds (Hutchinson, 1995)</li> <li>• Complete recommended playground equipment renovation program at the following parks as a priority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annually</li> <li>• 1 to 2 years</li> <li>• Immediate</li> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• 1 to 5 years</li> <li>• Immediate</li> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• 1 year</li> <li>• Immediate</li> <li>• 1 to 5 years</li> </ul>

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**GOAL**

3. Enhance the useability of open space

**OBJECTIVE**

7. Improve personal safety in parks and along the foreshore

STRATEGY	ACTION	PRIORITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure safe night use of toilet blocks, car parking areas, pedestrian paths, car parks and in all access/links areas  (Ref: Section 7.10, Page 44, Part 1)</li> <li>• Discourage criminal and other anti-social behaviour in open space and along the foreshore  (Ref: Section 7.12, Page 45, Part 1)</li> </ul>	<p>identified in the above report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dendy Park</li> <li>- William Street Reserve</li> <li>- Wilson Reserve</li> <li>- Donald MacDonald Reserve</li> <li>- Alexander Park</li> <li>- Highland Avenue Reserve</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace any play equipment that does not meet current safety standards and install soft fall material</li> <li>• Remove playground equipment in accordance with the Report's recommendations</li> <li>• Ensure seats and shade are provided at playgrounds to enable parents to comfortably supervise their children</li> <li>• Provide lighting to appropriate park locations/facilities, set priorities following consultation with the Police</li> <li>• Develop an action plan in consultation with the Police. The plan should address vandalism, graffiti and loitering</li> <li>• Investigate the possibility of a Volunteer Ranger service for a trial twelve month period, and review the effectiveness of this in relation to public perceptions of safety in parks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate</li> <li>• Immediate</li> <li>• 1 to 2 years</li> <li>• 1 to 2 years</li> <li>• Immediate</li> <li>• 1 year</li> </ul>

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<p><b>GOAL</b> 3. Enhance the useability of open space</p> <p><b>OBJECTIVE</b> 8. Improve access between the inland reserves and the foreshore</p>		
<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate ways of reducing the effect of Beach Road as a barrier to pedestrian access to the foreshore</li> </ul> <p>(Ref: Section 7.2, Page 40, Part 1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide signalised pedestrian crossing points on Beach Road at regular intervals and especially at major "gateway intersections" to the foreshore</li> <li>Consult with Vic Roads in relation to the treatment of Beach Road, including assessment of road widths and traffic characteristics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 to 2 years</li> <li>Immediate</li> </ul>

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<p><b>GOAL</b> 3. Enhance the useability of open space</p> <p><b>OBJECTIVE</b> 9. Maintain pathway surroundings and surfaces of paths to enable safe and convenient access for users especially those with restricted mobility</p>		
STRATEGY	ACTION	PRIORITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure pathway surfaces meet approved standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine all beach access ramps to ensure safety standards are met with regard to gradient, surfaces, handrails, lighting and use of steps and resting places at appropriate intervals</li> <li>• Remove sand from beach paths</li> <li>• Maintain pathway surfaces to ensure safe use</li> <li>• Install signage to designate appropriate pathway users and indicate destinations</li> <li>• Prune overhanging foliage from all paths to ensure safe usage</li> <li>• Ensure overhead obstructions are maintained within the "safe" distances set down in the regulations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate</li> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• 1 to 2 years</li> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• Ongoing</li> </ul>

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<p><b>GOAL</b> 3. Enhance the useability of open space</p> <p><b>OBJECTIVE</b> 10. Ensure that land subdivision provides useable and attractive open space to meet the needs of new residents in the context of existing open space</p>		
<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the community derives the maximum benefit from the open space contribution from a new subdivision</li>   <li>• Provide developers with information relating to Council's objectives, standards and procedures for the development of open space within new subdivisions</li>   <li>• Provide targeted use of cash in lieu of open space from subdivisions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a policy for the allocation and expenditure of the open space contribution under the Subdivision Act which addresses the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the open space needs of the incoming residents</li> <li>- opportunities to link with existing open space</li> <li>- opportunities for new facilities in existing adjacent or nearby open space</li> <li>- the useability, quality and management of the proposed open space</li> <li>- availability of open space within the neighbourhood</li> </ul> </li>   <li>• Initiate discussions with applicants for subdivision to ensure policy objectives are met</li>   <li>• Develop a brochure describing Council's objectives in relation to the new open space</li>   <li>• Where dollar contributions are received the money must be spent on the improvement of nearby open space for the benefit of new residents and the existing community</li>   <li>• Town Planning Reports regarding subdivisions must identify specific reserves and improvements to them on which cash in lieu contributions should be spent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate</li>   <li>• Ongoing</li>   <li>• Immediate</li>   <li>• Ongoing</li>   <li>• Ongoing</li> </ul>

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**GOAL**

4. Introduce an appropriate review mechanism to determine the level of customer satisfaction with the provision and maintenance of open space and associated facilities

**OBJECTIVE**

11. Ensure customer input into open space maintenance and management practices

STRATEGY	ACTION	PRIORITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess customer satisfaction with existing service standards and the quality of facilities provided in open space areas</li> </ul> <p>(Ref: Section 7.9, Page 43, Part 1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake a telephone survey of randomly selected ratepayers to determine the level of customer satisfaction in relation to open space</li> <li>• Establish a community based auditing process to ascertain effectiveness of delivery by service providers</li> <li>• Incorporate in Council's Corporate Plan a review of its service delivery</li> <li>• Review the open space strategy by the end of 1997 and the achievement of actions given a high priority</li> <li>• Review management plans for parks every three years</li> <li>• Make adjustments to the open space strategy and management plans for parks to reflect customer expectations identified through this monitoring and review process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annually</li> <li>• Immediate</li> <li>• Immediate</li> <li>• 1997 - 1998</li> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• 1997 - 1998</li> </ul>

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<p><b>GOAL</b> 5. Appropriate funding for the implementation of the open space strategy</p> <p><b>OBJECTIVE</b> 12. Ensure Council budgets enable implementation of works required to achieve the appropriate maintenance standard for open space, asset replacements/improvements and the provision of new facilities</p>		
<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review allocation of funding to reflect Corporate Plan and open space strategy commitments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce cost estimates for all actions in the open space strategy (including ongoing maintenance)</li> <li>Prepare prioritised list of costed actions, including ongoing maintenance</li> <li>Develop and fund a five year ongoing program of capital works in accordance with management plans for the foreshore and open space areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immediate</li> </ul>

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<p><b>GOAL</b> 5. Appropriate funding for the implementation of the open space strategy</p>		
<p><b>OBJECTIVE</b> 13. Develop with the business community new funding opportunities for open space facilities, promotion and maintenance</p>		
<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish an open space management and development fund which seeks to attract appropriate sponsorship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop the criteria and structure for implementation of the fund</li> <li>Produce guidelines for sponsors and recognition of contribution</li> <li>Consider the following opportunities for sponsorship:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- information brochures and guides as part of the open space marketing strategy</li> <li>- provision of "core" facilities such as play equipment, barbecues, seats, plants, tables, etc</li> <li>- Friends Groups and activities</li> <li>- special events</li> <li>- work programs identified in management plans for open space areas</li> <li>- historic and cultural research grants</li> </ul> </li> <li>Target all lease payments derived from telecommunications facilities into the open space management and development fund to improve visual amenity of the area and provide additional recreation facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immediate</li> </ul>

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<b>GOAL</b>		
6. Recognise the value of sport and recreation in the Bayside community		
<b>OBJECTIVE</b>		
14. Promote personal and community development by providing a diversity of sporting and recreational opportunities and foster an ongoing relationship between Council and groups		
<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the quantity, quality and range of groups in the Bayside area</li>   <li>• Provide special consideration for those facilities that are of regional significance  (Ref: Section 7.21, Page 51, Part 1)</li>   <li>• Ensure that the channels of communication between Council and community groups are clearly understood and effectively utilised  (Ref: Section 7.24, Page 52, Part 1)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a community sporting organisation directory which is produced in a format which enables easy access and regular updating</li>   <li>• Make the directory available to all sporting clubs and Council contact points for easy access and response to general enquiries</li>   <li>• Consult with users of the Dendy Park and Thomas Street athletics tracks with a view to improving current facilities</li>   <li>• Involve the community groups in the preparation of a sporting policy and open space management plans</li>   <li>• Facilitate links between local schools and sporting groups</li>   <li>• Conduct regular sports forums as an information sharing and joint-action opportunity</li>   <li>• Assist with sports promotion and community participation by encouraging 'Open Days', 'Expos' and 'Come and Try Days'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate</li>   <li>• Immediate</li>   <li>• Immediate</li>   <li>• Immediate</li>   <li>• Immediate</li>   <li>• 1 to 2 years</li> </ul>



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<b>GOAL</b> 6. Recognise the value of sport and recreation in the Bayside community		
<b>OBJECTIVE</b> 16. Recognise the current and changing needs of sporting groups and the wider Bayside community		
<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
<p>Consult local residents who do and do not participate in sport and recreation activities as a means to identify gaps and opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review needs of major sporting activities (cricket, football) (Ref: Section 7.24, Page 52, Part 1)</li> <li>• Review the needs of local growth sports (Ref: Section 7.22, Page 52, Part 1) (Ref: Section 7.23, Page 52, Part 1)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review all recent recreation survey data and design and implement a resident leisure needs study</li> <li>• Undertake studies addressing the current and future requirements of these sports</li> <li>• Undertake studies addressing the current and future requirements of soccer, hockey, netball and baseball</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate</li> <li>• Immediate</li> <li>• Immediate</li> </ul>

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<p><b>GOAL</b> 7. Protect residential amenity and minimise the impact of the use of open space on neighbours</p> <p><b>OBJECTIVE</b> 17. Ensure that activities in open space areas do not impinge on the surrounding neighbourhood</p>		
<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the impact of floodlighting, increased carparking, noise and the scale of activity on residential amenity, particularly at night</li> </ul> <p>(Ref: Section 7.24, Page 52, Part 1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a floodlight policy; where floodlighting is proposed consult with residents</li> <li>Implement annual reviews of all occupancy agreements and leases to manage local environmental concerns</li> <li>Include sporting clubs in litter management programs at all sportsgrounds</li> <li>Monitor complaints about noise, litter, unauthorised parking etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 years</li> <li>Annually</li> <li>Immediate</li> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>