



Open Space Strategy

Frankston... a Healthier Environment, a Healthier Community





Mayor's Message

Our parks and reserves play a vital role in making Frankston City a special place to live and work. Open space provides our community the opportunity to enjoy a better quality of life through outdoor recreation and leisure activities. It also gives us the opportunity to preserve and appreciate our local environment now and in the future.

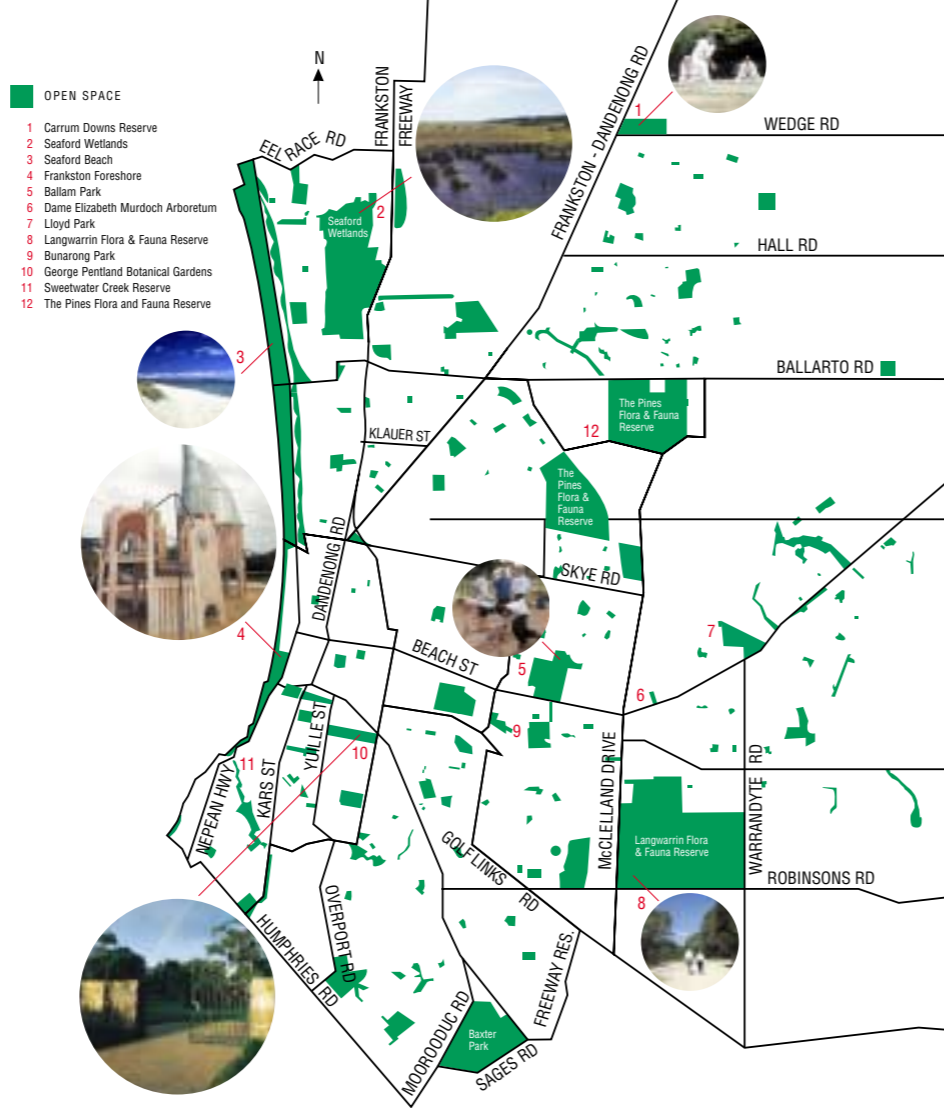
I would like to recognise the valuable contribution of numerous community groups involved in the management of the City's parks and reserves. Together with Council's committed team of staff, a partnership has been formed that indeed works to the benefit of all concerned.

As Mayor of Frankston City, I am delighted to introduce the new Open Space Strategy, which will provide a framework to guide future development and management of Frankston City's parks and reserves.

My thanks to all those who helped shape the Open Space Strategy and I look forward to your continued support.

Cr Cathy Wilson
Mayor

Professional photographs by Yanni



Open Space in Frankston City

- Over 500 reserves
- 78 sports fields
- 600 ha of open space
- 123 playgrounds
- 9 natural reserves



The Last Five Years

Over the past five years, Frankston City Council has responded to the following open space issues:

- A lack of management plans for our larger reserves.
- Poor quality sporting surfaces.
- No strategic approach to provision of playgrounds.
- Many playgrounds with poor quality equipment.
- A poor quality foreshore environment.
- Limited support for our friends groups.
- A lack of walking and cycling paths.
- An ad-hoc approach to street tree maintenance and planting.

Frankston City's network of parks and reserves has improved significantly over the last five years.





Our Parks and Reserves Today

What Parks Mean to People of Frankston City

Improvements

There have been many improvements to Frankston's parks and reserves over the last five years.

The enhancement of Frankston's magnificent foreshore including the boardwalk, playground, bridge and picnic facilities has resulted from \$3.1m of funding staged over the last four years.

In addition, there have been significant sporting facility developments such as the Peninsula Hockey Complex and Ballam Park Athletics Track. Sporting infrastructure is being continuously improved, with 17 ovals and 13 pavilions upgraded.

Environmental works are being undertaken in various natural reserves, demonstrating the high level of co-operation between Council and friends groups.

A beautification program of streetscapes has included the planting of 9,000 trees since the mid-1990s.

A Playgrounds Strategy is now in place, with 31 playgrounds installed or upgraded in the past five years. Furthermore, management plans have been developed for 21 reserves.

To enable these improvements to take place, Council has substantially increased the budget allocation for open space management. In recognition of the importance of parks and reserves to the people of Frankston, Council now allocates 13 cents from every ratepayer dollar to open space planning, development and maintenance.

Issues and Opportunities

Consultation with the community and park user groups during the course of developing the Open Space Strategy has identified several key issues and opportunities.

- The foreshore is one of the City's greatest strengths, with the opportunity to improve environmental quality, public access, visual amenity and facilities.
- There needs to be a balance between passive use of open space and sporting facilities.
- There is currently a poor network of linked pathways and trails.
- The quality of park facilities is quite variable across the municipality.
- Park maintenance needs improving. Feedback from park users indicated that litter removal, safety, toilets and shade were the main areas for improvement.
- There is a timely provision of open space in new subdivisions.
- The remaining pockets of remnant bushland need protecting.
- There is a need for regional park facilities.



A place for friends and families to socialise

Places for exercise and physical fitness

A place to relax and get away from pressures

Places for the community to gather and celebrate

A safe place for children to play

Places to conserve our natural heritage and act as an 'outdoor classroom'

The Future

By 2010, Frankston City will have an established network of *quality* parks and reserves that contribute to the *health and wellbeing of our community*, whilst at the same time *preserving our environment for future generations*.

Council will undertake the following strategies to achieve this vision.

A Healthier Environment

- Plan new subdivisions to protect remnant vegetation.
- Acquire land with significant conservation values.
- Increase the partnerships with friends groups and encourage greater community involvement in looking after their local environment.
- Educate schools, residents and park visitors about Frankston's environmental values and issues.
- Ensure ecologically sustainable practices are adopted in managing the City's open space. This principle applies to minimising energy and water use, recycling waste, and planting with indigenous species.

A Healthier Community

- Improve the quality of existing open space. The level of park maintenance and provision of basic park facilities [seating, walking paths] will be upgraded. The visual amenity of parks will improve, with trees planted to provide increased shade.
- Develop a linked network of pathways and trails that enable safe use by both walkers and cyclists.
- Improve the diversity of open space that can cater for different needs within the community. Sporting reserves will be more multiple use, whilst increased opportunities will be created for children and older adults to enjoy open space.

Making It Happen

Priority actions over the next two years

- Conduct a community forum on the future development and siting of trails. Local interest groups, associations and peak agencies such as Bicycle Victoria and Parks Victoria will be involved in determining how the City's trail network should be established.
- Review park maintenance programs and schedules. Park user forums will provide input into revised maintenance programs.
- Review the Municipal Planning Scheme to incorporate the key principles of this Open Space Strategy. A priority will focus on the planning for new subdivisions, ensuring that the Strategy is being applied in the municipality's growth areas.
- Clearly define the Level of Service to be provided in local parks. This will see an improved provision of basic park facilities at key locations within the municipality.
- Continue to focus on improving the environmental quality and facility development along the foreshore. Visitor nodes such as Keast Park will have a master plan prepared to be progressively implemented.

... through a strong partnership with our local community.





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