

CITY OF PORT PHILLIP REPORT

**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
29 SEPTEMBER 2009**

2. CITY OF PORT PHILLIP OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

LOCATION/ADDRESS: CITY WIDE

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ATTACHMENTS: ATTACHMENT ONE – REVISED OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

ATTACHMENT TWO – OPEN SPACE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FRAMEWORK

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Open Space Implementation Plan Framework and the reviewed Open Space Strategy for endorsement by Council.
- 1.2 The Open Space Strategy Implementation Framework includes:
 - 1.2.1 An overview of the Open Space Planning Process;
 - 1.2.2 Open Space Principles;
 - 1.2.3 Assessment method for prioritising actions in the Open Space Strategy which includes an evaluation criteria weighting matrix;
 - 1.2.4 Acquisition guidelines;
 - 1.2.5 Measurements for success;
- 1.3 The Open Space Implementation Framework will ensure that the Council can achieve a key strategic objective Enhancing Liveability by facilitating the protection and preservation of the natural environment ensuring a beautiful and well maintained foreshore and network of open space.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 2.1 Endorses and adopts the Open Space Implementation Plan Framework and Open Space Strategy (reviewed 2009).
- 2.2 Considers the Open Space Implementation Plan as part of the Council's yearly Budget and Capital Works assessment processes.

3. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The City of Port Phillip has a diverse and attractive network of open space that incorporates 18 significant park sites (e.g. Gasworks, St Kilda Botanical Garden), 93 parks and reserves, 11 kilometres of coastline (including 25 foreshore reserves), 52 Playgrounds, 35,000 street trees and 473 traffic treatments.
- 3.2 In 2006 Council adopted the Open Space Strategy for the City of Port Phillip to ensure open space remained diverse, accommodated the future needs of a growing population and was sustainable. This document is based upon the work undertaken by @leisure Recreation Consultants in 2005.
- 3.3 The development of the 2006 Open Space Strategy involved:
 - 3.3.1 A review of 1998 Open Space strategy;
 - 3.3.2 Community Consultation which was undertaken via surveys sent to all households in the February 2005 Divercity. Consultation with stakeholder groups such as sporting clubs and environmental groups. A public exhibition early in 2006 received 7 community submissions to help inform the Strategy.
 - 3.3.3 Development of Open Space Strategy Principles through workshops with councillors and;
 - 3.3.4 Identification of key issues to be addressed in relation to open space and actions for each neighbourhood.
- 3.4 To strengthen the Open Space Strategy and to ensure the strategy responded to the Council's strategic direction, the Open Space Strategy was reviewed (Refer Attachment One) and an Implementation Plan Framework was developed. (Attachment Two)
- 3.5 As a result of the review the following changes were made to the Open Space Strategy:
 - 3.5.1 An additional principle (Principle 9) was developed to recognise the impact of climate change on open space.
 - 3.5.2 Changes were made to reflect current policy and objectives in the Council Plan 2009- 2013 and current demographic data.

- 3.5.3 Provision of an update of the status of actions identified in 2006.
- 3.5.4 Adjustment to principle one to include a reference to the need to have strong design elements in the creation and renewal of open space.
- 3.6 The Open Space Implementation Plan Framework (Refer Attachment Two) was developed in consultation with the council. The Implementation Plan framework will guide Council's delivery of the actions detailed in the strategy. The framework includes:
 - 3.6.1 An overview of the Open Space Planning Process;
 - 3.6.2 Open Space Principles;
 - 3.6.3 Assessment method for prioritising actions in the Open Space Strategy which includes an evaluation criteria weighting matrix;
 - 3.6.4 Acquisition guidelines;
 - 3.6.5 Indicators to determine the adequacy and values of open space provision to be considered in any open space project.
 - 3.6.6 Measurements for success;

4 CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 4.1 In the development of the Open Space Strategy 2006 the following consultation was undertaken:
 - 4.1.1 Community Consultation which was undertaken via surveys sent to all households in the February 2005 Divercity.
 - 4.1.2 Consultation with stakeholder groups such as sporting clubs and environmental groups.
 - 4.1.3 A public exhibition early in 2006 received 7 community submissions to help inform the Strategy.
- 4.2 To develop the Open Space Implementation Plan Framework the following consultation occurred:
 - 4.2.1 Consultation with councillors.
 - 4.2.2 Consultation occurred with internal departments including Sport and Recreation, Strategic Planning, Environment and Renewal, Parks and Open Spaces and Asset Services.
 - 4.2.3 Consultation occurred with a sample of local schools, sport clubs and community organisations.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 OPTIONS

- 5.1.1 The recommended option is to endorse and adopt the reviewed Open Space Strategy and Open Space Implementation Plan Framework.

This option is preferred because it will support Council achieving its key strategic objectives by facilitating the protection and preservation of the natural environment ensuring a beautiful and well maintained foreshore and network of open space.

It will also ensure that the open space principles will guide the planning, development and management of open space in the City.

5.2 ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN

- 5.2.1 The recommendations in this report align with the Council Plan as outlined below:

5.2.2 Enhancing Livability – Caring for our natural environment

- Strategy 4.1.1 - Maintain and build upon the unique character of the city's neighbourhoods.
- Strategy 4.1.2 - Maintain and enhance streetscapes for improved amenity, character and sustainability.
- Strategy 4.1.7 - Preserve our heritage, valuing the past and planning for the future.

5.2.3 Engaging and Governing the City

- Strategy 1.1.1 - Enhance Council's engagement with the community by maximising community feedback to ensure open and inclusive decision making.
- Strategy 1.4.4 - Maintain council and community assets to a standard that matches industry best practice.

5.2.4 Taking Action on Climate Change

- Strategy 2.1.2 - Reduce council's potable water use.

5.3 POLICY IMPLICATIONS PLAN

- 5.3.1 The Open Space Strategy and Implementation Plan Framework have been developed in the context of existing council policy including the Sport and Recreation Strategy, Foreshore Management Plan, Walking and Cycling Plans and Council's goal to protect the natural environment.

- 5.3.2 Amendment C62 to the Port Phillip Planning Scheme proposes to implement the land use policy directions of the Open Space Strategy 2006 through a revised Municipal Strategic Statement and through the introduction of a mandatory 5% open space requirement at Clause 52.01 (Public Open Space Contribution and Subdivision) of the scheme. The Open Space Strategy and Implementation Framework supports this.

5.4 FINANCE / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.4.1 Implementing the open space strategy will rely upon the council responding to the five year Open Space Implementation Plan and providing ongoing funding of operations to achieve the stated objectives.

5.5 LEGAL & RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.5.1 The risk of not endorsing the Open Space Implementation Plan Framework is that a strategic approach to managing open space is not implemented, which could impact upon Council's potential to achieve the outcomes for community access to open space in the city

6. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

6.1 TIMELINE

- 6.1.1 The Open Space Five-Year Implementation Plan will need to be finalised and considered as part of the annual budget process.

6.2 COMMUNICATION

- 6.2.1 The key messages arising from the recommendation contained within this report are:

- The Open Space Strategy (2009) and the Open Space Implementation Plan Framework will guide the management and upgrade of open space in the city for the next five years to achieve the vision for Open Space -

“A City where public open spaces define the city’s character and respond to its people’s need for places to rest, recreate and be inspired.”

- The Open Space Strategy provides key principles to ensure open space in Port Phillip is diverse and can accommodate future needs of a growing population
- Council will continue to invest significantly in Open Space within the City

7. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

- 7.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.