



**Macedon
Ranges**
Shire Council

Open Space Strategy 2013



About this document

This is the Macedon Ranges Open Space Strategy 2013.

This document presents the principles and directions that address each of the key issues identified in the project.

These directions will be refined following stakeholder comment, and become actions as part of the final strategy.

Priority projects for each locality are identified. A number of the directions suggested by locality are aspirational and may not be implementable in the life of the plan. They are included should resources become available or land development makes them possible.

Acknowledgements

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Council would like to acknowledge the range of stakeholders including residents, ratepayers and community groups who have also contributed to this project.

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1. The project

Aims of the project

The purpose of the Macedon Ranges Open Space Strategy is to provide direction to Council for the planning and provision of open space within the Shire in an ongoing manner over the next ten or more years.

The strategy complements Council's Natural Environment Strategy which provides direction for bushland reserves along with site specific Bushland Management Plans.

Methodology

This Strategy has been produced following:

- A review of the previous Open Space Strategy, Council plans and strategies and other relevant documents
- Site inspections across the Shire
- The analysis of the distribution and quality of open space in all key towns
- The mapping and classification of all open spaces
- The assessment of demographic characteristics by township
- Projected demand for activities likely to occur in open space
- Community and stakeholder engagement including: telephone surveys with stakeholders, online surveys, the preparation of a web site for comments, and a call for submissions.

This document identifies:

- Shire-wide issues, principles and directions
- Locality specific issues, priority projects and other aspirational opportunities. All projects identified are subject to approval in Council's annual budget.

2. Shire-wide issues, principles and directions

The main open space issues across the whole of the Macedon Ranges Shire were identified as the following:

1. **Protection and promotion of visitor experiences, cultural heritage, environmental quality and character**
2. **Increasing the range of social experiences, physical opportunities and a diversity of opportunities in open space**
3. **Establishing a network of off-road trails and local trail circuits**
4. **Increasing the sustainability of sports facilities**
5. **Managing visitor demand in areas of environmental significance (e.g. Stanley Park)**
6. **Engaging residents, community groups and other partners in open space**
7. **Dependence on sites not in Council ownership or reserved for open space**
8. **Planning for future open space provision and management**
9. **Prioritising works and enhancing affordability through realistic suggested actions.**

For each issue principles and directions have been identified. A summary of these directions (by issue) have been summarised in Appendix 5.

2.1 Protection and promotion of visitor experiences, cultural heritage, environmental quality and character

Principles

- *Open Space is an essential land use that has immeasurable value for social, economic and environmental health and wellbeing.*
- *Landscape character, environmental integrity, trees and heritage values should be protected and enhanced where possible, in all future development.*

Directions

Council should where possible:

- 2.1.1 Agree that its brand relies on open space, and use this for promotion of the Shire. This unites the character of its towns and enhances the competitive strength of the Shire.
- 2.1.2 Protect and enhance where possible open space as a competitive strength of the Shire along with heritage, character and stories. This includes its railways, buildings and monuments, avenues of exotic trees, botanic gardens, waterways, bushland, volcanic plugs and the incidental green and rural character.
- 2.1.3 Continue to protect existing street trees and avenue plantings by:
 - Enhancing streetscapes of main streets and town entries by planting new street trees and providing shared accessible pathways, seating and landscaping.
 - Managing the succession of mature trees through systematic replacement of specimens that are senescing.
- 2.1.4 Seek to enhance this natural character and reduce maintenance costs through replanting areas of grass with hardy native flowering plants.

2.1.5 Support the ongoing rehabilitation of and revegetation along waterways and bushland. Allow certain open grassy areas to naturally regenerate. Manage community expectations of the altered maintenance regime.

2.1.6 Continue to consider and where possible protect views and ridgelines from development, and promote the volcanic peaks and views from them, and other landscape features.

2.2 Encourage a range of social and physical activity opportunities and experiences in open space

Principles

- *A range of open space functions should serve all residential communities.*
- *A diversity of forms of open space should be available across the Shire and each township, as well as a diversity of opportunities within each open space.*
- *The range of open space functions available should include a continuum of spaces from those that are social and have a high degree of comforts and conveniences to those that have a high degree of naturalness, few facilities and high environmental amenity. There should be both manicured and rough natural spaces, and all social open spaces should have opportunities for physical activity.*
- *Social / family recreation spaces, in addition to off-road trails, sports facilities and conservation reserves are the priority functions of open space that should be available widely.*

Directions

Council should, where possible within available resources:

- 2.2.1 Support the notion that key open spaces within walking distance of all residential areas should provide for social / family recreation open space, to meet the needs of people of all ages and abilities (rather than single use areas).
- 2.2.2 Ensure social / family recreation open spaces include where possible practical improvements such as perimeter trail, play space, tables and seating, an internal path system linking key elements, shade, landscaped or natural features, as well as social sports elements for teenagers.

The scale of support facilities will be commensurate with the catchment of the space (i.e. local district or regional).
- 2.2.3 Support sites for social / family recreation open space in smaller settlements that are adjacent to other community facilities, such as schools, children's centres, halls and railways stations – as 'whole-of-community hubs'.
- 2.2.4 Support the community to develop social / family recreation open space as 'community parks'.
- 2.2.5 In all towns above 1,000 people consider providing some social / family recreation spaces with specific elements that are accessible to people with a disability, and all social / family recreation spaces have elements where people can be included at least in social areas.
- 2.2.6 Where possible design social / family recreation spaces with paths and landscape elements as well as play equipment, and add environmental components and accessible pathways to all areas with play equipment.

2.2.7 In conjunction with Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan consider providing and promoting dog off leash open space in major towns as demand warrants. Determine the site by consultation and consider:

- A minimum of 1ha site
- Access to water
- Defined by fencing and the like
- Fully accessible to the community
- Provided in an open area.

2.3 Encourage the development of off-road trail circuits

Principles

- ***Off-road trails could be provided as:***
 - ***Perimeter shared paths around larger reserves***
 - ***Circuits around residential areas***
 - ***Intertown or regional routes along major waterways and (active or former) railway corridors.***
- ***Off-road trails should where possible be constructed to meet standard requirements for width, height, surface, construction, corridor design, signage and trailhead facilities.***
- ***Cultural, heritage and environment values should be considered before the planning of off-road trails.***

Directions

Council should where possible, and within available resources:

- 2.3.1 Provide off-road trails as:
 - Perimeter paths around larger reserves
 - Circuits around local areas, between key resident and visitor destinations such as town centres, open space, schools and community facilities, and
 - As intertown and regional trails, along major waterways and railway corridors (including those no longer used).
- 2.3.2 Plan and secure more off-road trail circuits in the Shire as a priority, so that they are ready to take advantage of any funding opportunities.
- 2.3.3 Consider standard design and construction guidelines for trails and signage.

2.4 Increasing the sustainability of sports facilities

Principles

- *Fewer more functional and shared support facilities on reserves should be encouraged to maximise playing space for sports and enhance club viability.*
- *In smaller towns sports reserves could function as the hub for social family recreation for people of all ages and abilities.*
- *Maximise the number of playing fields per support facility.*
- *Sport master planning be conducted with communities considering sport planning and landscape architecture principles.*
- *Practice facilities be provided in conjunction with outdoor playing fields sports that can be used by the community.*

Directions

Council should where possible, and within available resources:

- 2.4.1 Seek to provide multiple playing fields in the one location served by one major pavilion shared by multiple users.
- 2.4.2 Plan for practice facilities to support competition sport, and that can be used for casual use.
- 2.4.3 Ensure sport facilities are included in an asset management system to deliver improved sports fields.
- 2.4.4 Support the development of key sporting reserves as social family recreation hubs, with perimeter paths, and free access facilities for teenagers.
- 2.4.5 Work closely with user groups to progressively plan and manage facilities.

2.5 Managing visitor demand in areas of environmental significance

Principles

- *Visitor and local residents demand should be considered when planning and designing public open space.*
- *The impact of visitor use of local open spaces should be considered and managed, in areas of high visitor use.*
- *All open spaces should be planned and designed to include people of all ages and abilities.*
- *Continue to actively promote the value, use and identity of its open spaces, cognisant of the need to divert demand away from some spaces with a high level of significance and low carrying capacity.*

Directions

Council should where possible, and within available resources:

2.5.1 Manage visitor demand through:

- Promotion and environmental management
- Spreading the load between multiple sites with sufficient carrying capacity, and
- Specifically providing for visitors in key locations, such as at Mount Macedon / Macedon, Malmsbury, and Kyneton.

2.5.2 Provide more opportunities for: wayside stops with amenities at suitable open spaces; car and bus parking; off-road trail circuits; access to appropriate social / family recreation sites for picnics and breaks; directional signage to services and attractions, and interpretive elements that promote key cultural and environmental features.

2.5.3 Improve public seating, footpaths, pedestrian crossings and disability accessibility of public open spaces (as identified in the Age-Friendly Town Audits carried out in the main towns of the Shire in 2009-2010).¹

2.5.4 Promote open space within the Shire, and make available to the community the following information to provide clarity about the purpose of the space:

- a) The function and landscape setting of the space
- b) Activities, facilities, sports and club present
- c) Location and how to access the site – Council could provide an interaction map to assist users
- d) Information on (and links to) alternative sites that users can utilise to undertake similar activities.

2.5.5 To promote and enhance the perceived value of open space, a consistent naming and signing of parks would be beneficial with key directional signage to spaces suitable for visitor use.

2.6 Engaging residents, community groups and other partners in open space

Principles

- *Continue to engage community and stakeholders in open space projects where resources allow.*
- *Community initiated and funded projects supported by Council should be those: with sound policy and strategy basis; which conform to clear design and construction guidance, naming protocols and contributions policy; and with sustainable management plans.*

Directions

Council should where possible within available resources:

2.6.1 Support those community driven open space projects that: are consistent with Council policy, agreed design standards, include professional planning and design input, are supported by clear guidelines or policy about ownership and management of the outcomes, and are in line with the principles and actions of this plan.

2.6.2 Maintain and further develop good relationships and partnerships with other providers such as DSE etc.

¹ Macedon Ranges Positive Ageing Advisory Committee

2.6.3 Continue to facilitate and support residents and community groups undertaking:

- a) Significant planting for civic pride, amenity and environmental benefits, such as along town entries, main streets and waterways
- b) Greening programs and Landcare work (as evidenced in a number of towns), and
- c) Developing off-road trails.

Examples of such projects include:

- Developing social / family recreation areas as 'community parks', such as in association with the Macedon Railway Station
- Management and protection of the botanic gardens
- Planning and constructing off-road trails and improvements, such as:
 - Campaspe River Trail, Kyneton
 - Five Mile Creek Trail, Romsey
 - Riddells Creek Trail, Riddells Creek
 - Woodend to Daylesford Rail Trail
 - Woodend to Hanging Rock Trail.

2.6.4 Continue to provide funding opportunities to community groups involved in improving open space via programs such as the Parks Improvement Program.

Prioritise the development of key open space in the major town parks of:

- Gisborne – Jacksons Creek parklands, including the Gisborne Botanic Gardens
- Kyneton – Campaspe River parklands, including the Kyneton Botanic Gardens
- Woodend – Five Mile Creek, including the Woodend Racecourse Reserve
- Romsey – Romsey parklands along Five Mile Creek and including Lions Park.

2.7 Dependence on sites not in Council ownership or reserved for open space

Principles

- *Future open space taken as part of subdivision, where possible, be zoned as open space.*
- *Where valuable community infrastructure, trails or vegetation is proposed or exists on road reserves, consider seeking agreement to align expectations about management, tenure and future development.*

Directions

Council should where possible, and within available resources:

- 2.7.1 Seek ways to minimise the damage to valuable open space elements through works in road reserves by State agencies and authorities (such as roads and utilities).
- 2.7.2 Work closely with agencies and authorities to identify significant avenues of trees and prepare clear guidelines and specifications for contractors.
- 2.7.3 Utilise Heritage Overlays where possible to protect significant trees.
- 2.7.4 Protect areas of significant roadside vegetation and provide signage where appropriate on these sites to promote their value to the community.

2.8 Planning for future open space provision and management

Principles

- *Open space planning processes should continue to focus on delivering an equitable distribution of types of spaces that reflect core benefits sought by the community, within an agreed distance from home and at a quality that guarantees it is fit-for-purpose.*
- *The total amount of space required can be more effectively determined using this system of delivering the priority types of open space functions based on type of settlement, at an agreed size and standard and distribution, than by applying an areas / per population ratio benchmark.*
- *The application of the planning framework and classifications set out in this Open Space Strategy will assist in guiding open space planning in Macedon Ranges Shire.*
- *Council structure planning processes may require the inclusion of a recreation planner to ensure open space demand and supply assessment is undertaken at the earliest possible stage of a residential development.*
- *Open space contributions where practicable should be taken as part of all developments and zones in Macedon Ranges Shire.*
- *Open space planning in Macedon Ranges Shire will be guided by planning framework and classifications set out in this plan.*
- *Open space planning should be undertaken as early as possible in the planning process for new development (e.g. structure planning or rezoning).*
- *The form of settlement will influence the demand for open space, and should determine the open space provision model.*

- *Monetary contributions should where practicable be spent in the locality where the open space contribution was taken, unless a district or regional open space is required in which case the contribution can be drawn from the same area as the catchment of the facility.*
- *Open spaces will aim to be fit-for-purpose and provision will be based on agreed Shire-wide core service levels for each open space function type.*

Directions

Council should where possible, and within available resources:

- 2.8.1 Adopt the planning framework and classifications set out in this Open Space Strategy. Refer to Appendix 1.
- 2.8.2 Incorporate the new Open Space Strategy into the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme, to ensure key outcomes are achieved through development.
- 2.8.3 Use open space development contributions to meet the priority needs of new residents provide diversity, and at a standard that Council can practically, cost-effectively and consistently deliver and/or maintain. Refer to [Appendix 2](#) for preliminary guidance on the nature of open space development contributions.
- 2.8.4 Ensure open space contributions are taken from net developable land and do not include areas given as public land for other purposes.

2.9 Prioritising works and enhancing affordability

Principles

- *The priority for providing open space to serve residential communities will always be:*

- *Social / family recreation*
- *Off-road trails, and*
- *Sport*

These should be fit-for-purpose and not provided on encumbered land.

- *The hierarchy of settlements (see Appendix 4) should be used to prioritise the provision of facilities in each locality within Macedon Ranges Shire.*
- *Long-term investment in physical and social activity and restorative qualities should be the priority for open space management and planning in the Shire.*

Directions

Council should where possible within available resources:

- 2.9.1 Utilise the hierarchy of settlements to prioritise the core service level and provision of facilities in each locality, as outlined in the table below.
- 2.9.2 Seek to selectively develop fewer sites and embellish existing small open spaces without infrastructure, for more contemplative or conservation purposes.
- 2.9.3 Utilise the criteria set out in [Appendix 3](#) to determine the priorities for each locality.

3. Township summary

For each township one or more priority projects have been identified using the criteria proposed in the separate *Background Analysis* document. In most cases, other aspirational projects (not in priority order) have also been identified in the event that external funds and resources become available, so these projects can be progressed. In most cases these “aspirational” projects or opportunities are unlikely to be implemented within the life of this Strategy.

3.1 Gisborne

The following table details the priority open space projects for Gisborne, and other aspirational projects should time and resources allow. Refer to the *Background Analysis* for further detail

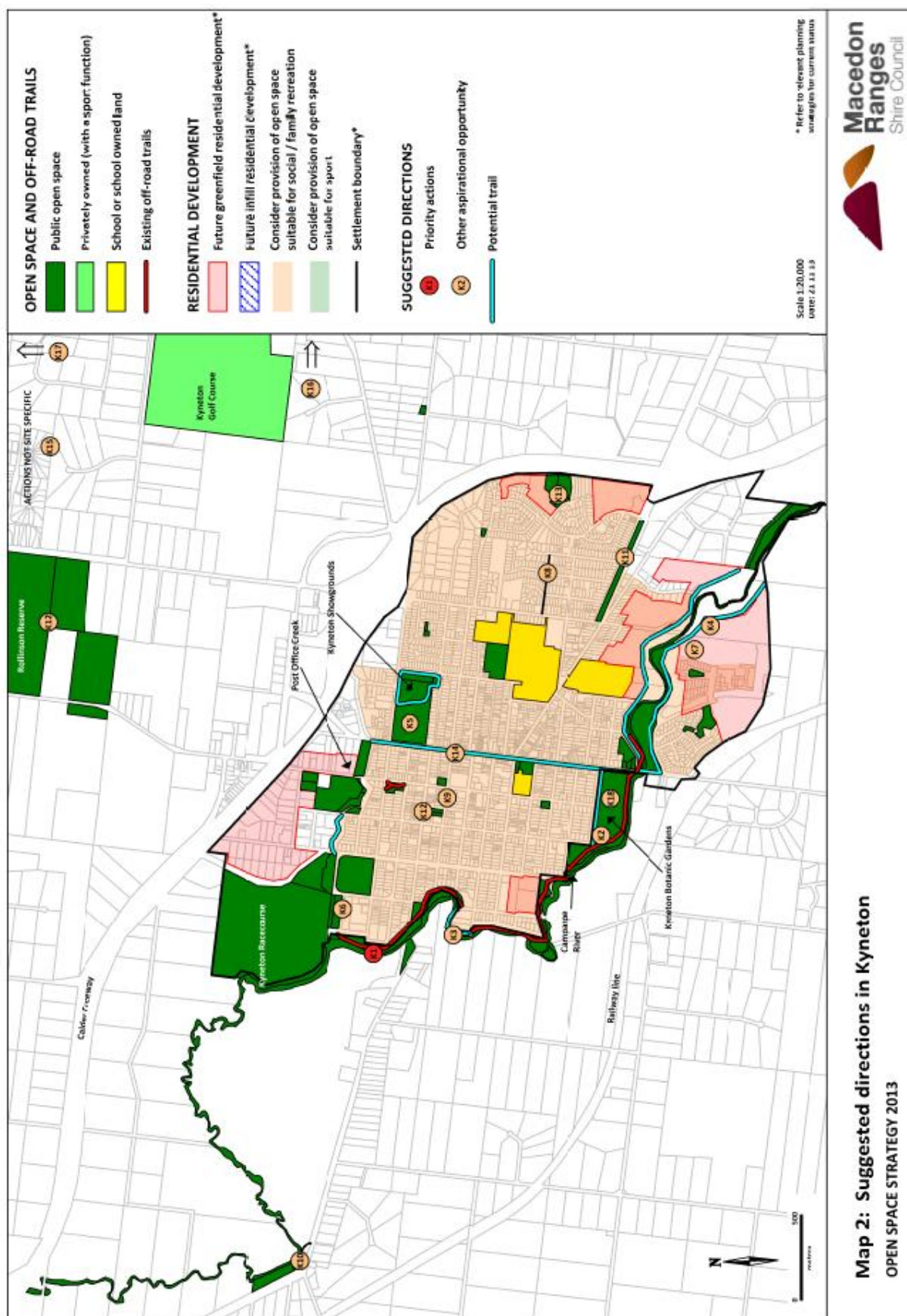
Priority projects	Other aspirational projects
G1 Complete a study to identify open space that can provide for sports fields functions to cater for growth into the future.	G3 Consolidate existing play equipment in Jacksons Creek Reserve and improve as a district social / family recreation open space.
G2 Prepare a master plan for Gisborne Racecourse Reserve / Magnet Hill.	G4 Prepare a master plan for UL Daly Nature Reserve.
	G5 Redesign Ross Watt Reserve as a local social / family recreation open space, and sporting reserve.
	G6 Seek provision of a new local social / family recreation open space as part of new residential development south of Willowbank Road.
	G7 Seek provision of a new local social / family recreation open space as part of new residential development between Fersfield and Willowbank Roads.
	G8 Further develop the Jacksons Creek corridor.
	G9 Seek environment funding to contribute towards management of the Gisborne Racecourse Reserve, Jacksons Creek, and further embellishment of the Gisborne Botanic Gardens.
	G10 Investigate the provision of continuous off-road trails in southern Gisborne.
	G11 Provide an off-road trail circuit around New Gisborne.
	G12 Protect existing street trees throughout Gisborne.
	G13 Undertake improvements to the Gisborne Botanic Gardens and vicinity, in accordance with the existing master plan.
	G14 In line with the Management Plan, provide directional signage and consideration of parking at the base of Mt Gisborne.
	G15 Consider providing parking at the base of Mt Aitken, and develop a walking trail to the summit.
	G16 Continue to preserve the drainage way in southern Gisborne as an open space corridor, and develop a trail along it towards Mt Gisborne.
	G17 In conjunction with Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan 2012-2016 identify an off-leash area to exercise and socialise dogs, to serve New Gisborne, and both the northern and southern areas of Gisborne.
	G18 Should the pine plantation between Gisborne Cemetery and Gisborne Secondary College be harvested and the cemetery expanded: seek a portion of the site to be retained as open space and revegetated with appropriate native species.
	G19 Work closely with user groups of Gilligan Reserve and IR Robertson Reserve in South Gisborne to continue to improve landscaping, environmental management.
	G20 Retain Pleasant View Court Reserve as open space for its restorative values. Allow for people to enjoy views through providing additional shade trees and seating.



3.2 Kyneton

The following table details the priority open space projects for Kyneton, and other aspirational projects (not in priority order) should time and resources allow. Refer to the *Background Analysis* for further detail.

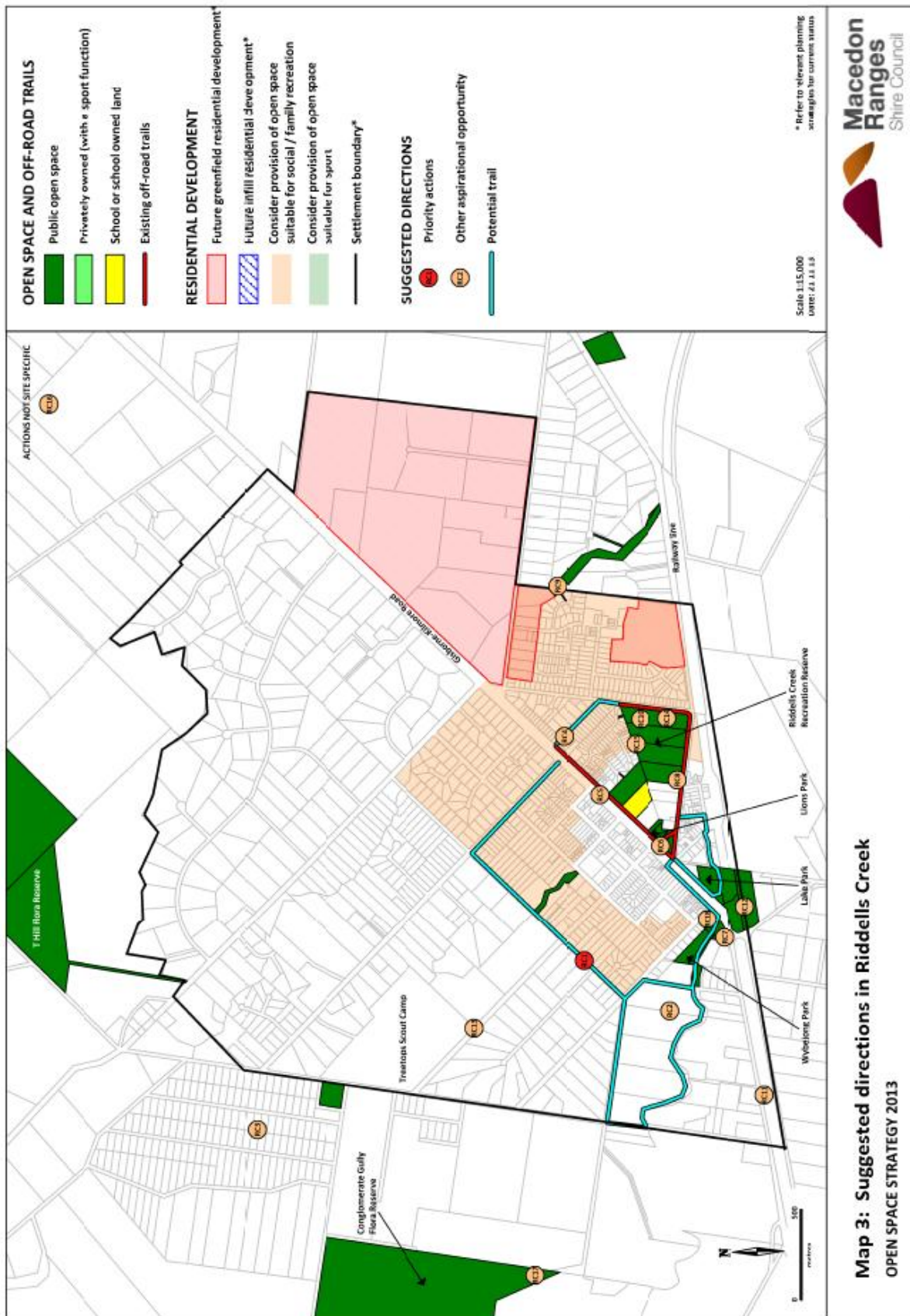
Priority project	Other aspirational projects
K1 Prepare an off road trail plan for the Campaspe River corridor.	<p>K2 Undertake improvements to the Kyneton Botanic Gardens (in conjunction with the existing master plan) that reinforce its significance as a premier open space in the town. <i>Support the development of the Kyneton Community Park as the district social/ family recreation open space in Kyneton.</i></p> <p>K3 If resources become available, secure land fronting the Campaspe River between Mill and Jennings Streets as public land. Construct an off-road trail that connects to the existing trails on either side.</p> <p>K4 Seek an open space contribution of land along the Campaspe River as part of new residential development in the southeast of Kyneton. Seek construction of off-road trails along both sides of the river as an extension to the Campaspe River Trail. This could include a bridge crossing at a suitable location however this is likely to be very expensive.</p> <p>K5 Complete and implement the Kyneton Showgrounds Master Plan.</p> <p>K6 Investigate the provision of an off-road trail along Mollison Street between the Campaspe River and Post Office Creek, and if development or resources allow, secure land fronting the southern side of Post Office Creek between Ebdon and Wedge Streets as public land.</p> <p>K7 Seek provision of a local social / family recreation open space and connecting off-road trails as part of new residential development south of the Campaspe River.</p> <p>K8 Formalise the accessway between Edgecombe, Wheatley, Warren and Barton Streets. Clear vegetation, construct an off-road trail, and improve visibility of the entry points for user safety.</p> <p>K9 Protect existing street trees throughout Kyneton, (including those listed under the Heritage Overlay in the Planning Scheme) and systematically establish new street trees, with priority given to High, Mollison and Piper Streets.</p> <p>K10 Continue to enhance and improve the Kyneton Mineral Springs Reserve. Ensure works reinforces the cultural heritage significance of the site.</p> <p>K11 Continue to enhance and improve the visitor facilities to East End Reserve adjacent to the Visitor Information Centre.</p> <p>K12 Prepare a master plan for Rollinson Reserve and associated waste management facility. This should include additional planting.</p> <p>K13 Design the drainage open space on Quinn Crescent to perform a function as relaxation / contemplation / escape open space. Provide off-road trails that connect to adjoining streets, seating and shade trees.</p> <p>K14 Protect the two Canary Island Palms on the corner of Mollison and Piper Streets.</p> <p>K15 In conjunction with Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan 2012-2016 identify an off-leash area to exercise and socialise dogs.</p> <p>K16 Implement the 2013 Bushland Management Plan prepared for Bald Hill Reserve.</p> <p>K17 Continue to maintain a balance between the conservation and environmental recreational experiences provided at Black Hill Reserve.</p>



3.3 Riddells Creek

The following table details the priority open space projects for Riddells Creek, and other aspirational projects (not in priority order) should time and resources allow. Refer to the *Background Analysis* for further detail.

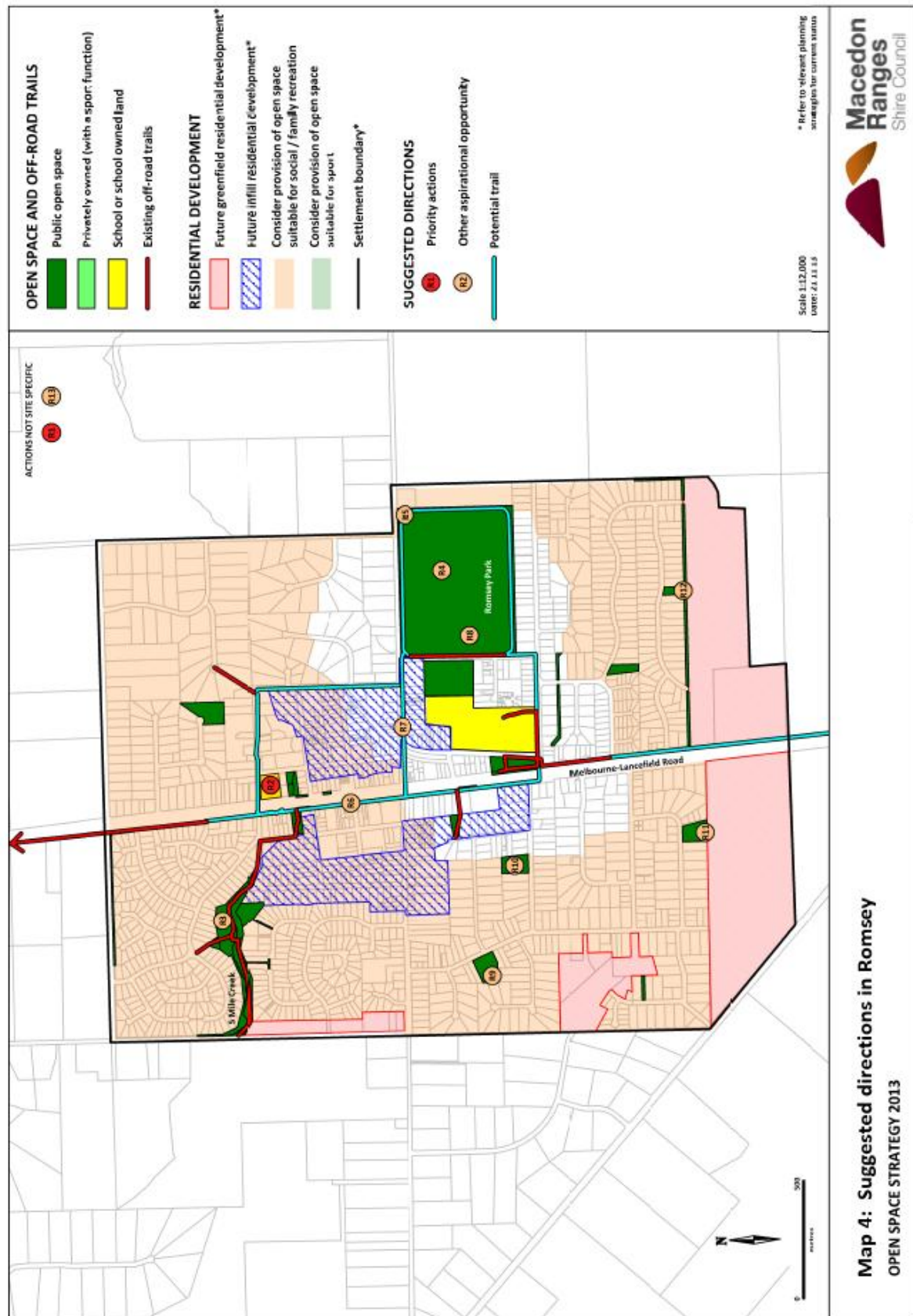
Priority project	Other aspirational projects
RC1 Plan and provide an off-road trail circuit linking key open spaces in the town.	<p>RC2 Should residential development take place in this area, seek provision of public open space and an off-road trail along Riddells Creek through any development of land in southwest of the town. This could include rehabilitation of the creek, possible construction of a bridge over the creek at McClusky Street, and connections to Royal Parade, Wybejong Park and the Smiths Nursery site.</p> <p>RC3 Continue to protect vegetation in the 'Barrm-Birrm' land on Princess and Prince Alfred Streets through planning controls.</p> <p>RC4 Continue the off-road trail circuit from the rear of the Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve along Racecourse Road to Richardson Street and along Gisborne-Kilmore Road.</p> <p>RC5 Protect the existing street trees along Gisborne-Kilmore Road and enhance with new plantings. Involve the community in this process.</p> <p>RC6 Consolidate elements in Lions Park and design as the district social / family recreation open space for Riddells Creek.</p> <p>RC7 Consider improving the wayside stop on Gisborne-Kilmore Road at the southern corner of Wybejong Park. Provide a small formalised parking area and trailhead facilities. This could include directional signs to services and attractions, and interpretive elements that promote key cultural and environmental sites in the area. Rehabilitate Riddells Creek and landscape the site to frame views to the rail bridge over Riddell Road.</p> <p>RC8 Improve the use of the skate park in the Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve by adding elements to increase usage and accessibility, such as additional skate / scooter elements, hard courts for social ball games, seating and shade, improved visibility and sealed pathway access along Sutherlands Road and through the Recreation Reserve.</p> <p>RC9 Seek to extend the open space and off-road trail from the town centre along the waterway corridor to Sutherland Road, as part of new residential development.</p> <p>RC10 Establish a program to selectively replace mature cypress and Radiata pine trees in the Recreation Reserve and Lions Park.</p> <p>RC11 Investigate the potential for an off-road trail to Gisborne via Kilmore / Saunders Roads.</p> <p>RC12 Seek agreement from VicTrack to landscape the railway embankment along the southern edge of town.</p> <p>RC13 Seek an off-road trail connection through the Treetops Scout Camp land between Royal Parade and Whittaker Lane if it is developed.</p> <p>RC14 Work closely with user groups to progressively plan and manage facilities on Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve (in line with the Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve Masterplan).</p> <p>RC15 Investigate development of a lawn bowling facility as recommended in the Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve Master Plan.</p> <p>RC16 In conjunction with Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan 2012-2016 identify an off-leash area to exercise and socialise dogs.</p> <p>RC17 Consider off-road trails or directional signage that connect to Conglomerate Gully and the larger trails outside of the town.</p> <p>RC18 Investigate protecting the aesthetic and heritage values of the vacant lot owned by the Anglican Church on the corner of Melvins Road, through planning controls.</p>



3.4 Romsey

The following table details the priority open space projects for Romsey, and other aspirational projects (not in priority order) should time and resources allow. Refer to the *Background Analysis* for further detail.

Priority projects	Other aspirational projects
<p>R1 Establish a suitable site for the development of social / family recreation open space.</p> <p>R2 Continue to work with the community and GRAAP (Greater Romsey All Abilities Park Inc) to secure the former Romsey Primary School Site for the purpose of the all abilities park project.</p>	<p>R3 Complete development of the Five Mile Creek Reserve between Couzens Lane and the eastern end of Palmer Street. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and constructing a shared trail • Preparing an environmental rehabilitation and management plan for the creek. <p>R4 Investigate reducing the Romsey Golf Course to nine holes and make the remaining land available for expansion of sport and open space facilities.</p> <p>R5 Construct a perimeter off-road trail around Romsey Park, with linkages to Park Lane, Barry Street / Romsey Road and White Avenue.</p> <p>R6 Complete construction an off-road trail along one side of Melbourne-Lancefield Road through the town. Protect the avenue of trees, and enhance with new plantings. Provide additional seating and landscaping. Provide formalised pedestrian / cyclist crossings adjacent to Lions Park and Five Mile Creek.</p> <p>R7 Investigate the provision of off-road trails.</p> <p>R8 <i>Work closely with user groups to progressively plan and manage facilities on Romsey Park.</i></p> <p>R9 Embellish Metcalfe Drive Reserve as local social / family recreation open space with a treed parkland landscape setting. This could include a small children's playground.</p> <p>R10 Embellish Regan Drive Reserve as local relaxation / contemplation / escape open space with a bushland landscape setting. Provide seating and pathways.</p> <p>R11 Seek expansion of the Newham Drive Reserve through a contribution of additional land as part of new residential development to the south. This could provide additional road frontage to the Reserve. Development could also contribute towards embellishment of the Reserve as a local social / family recreation open space. Investigate any conflict with drainage infrastructure.</p> <p>R12 Seek an expansion of the Coleraine Drive Reserve through a contribution of additional land as part of new residential development to the south. This could provide additional road frontage to the Reserve. Development could also contribute towards embellishment of the Reserve as a local social / family recreation open space.</p> <p>R13 In conjunction with Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan 2012-2016 identify an off-leash area to exercise and socialise dogs.</p>



3.5 Woodend

The following table details the priority open space projects for Woodend, and other aspirational projects (not in priority order) should time and resources allow. Refer to the *Background Analysis* for further detail.

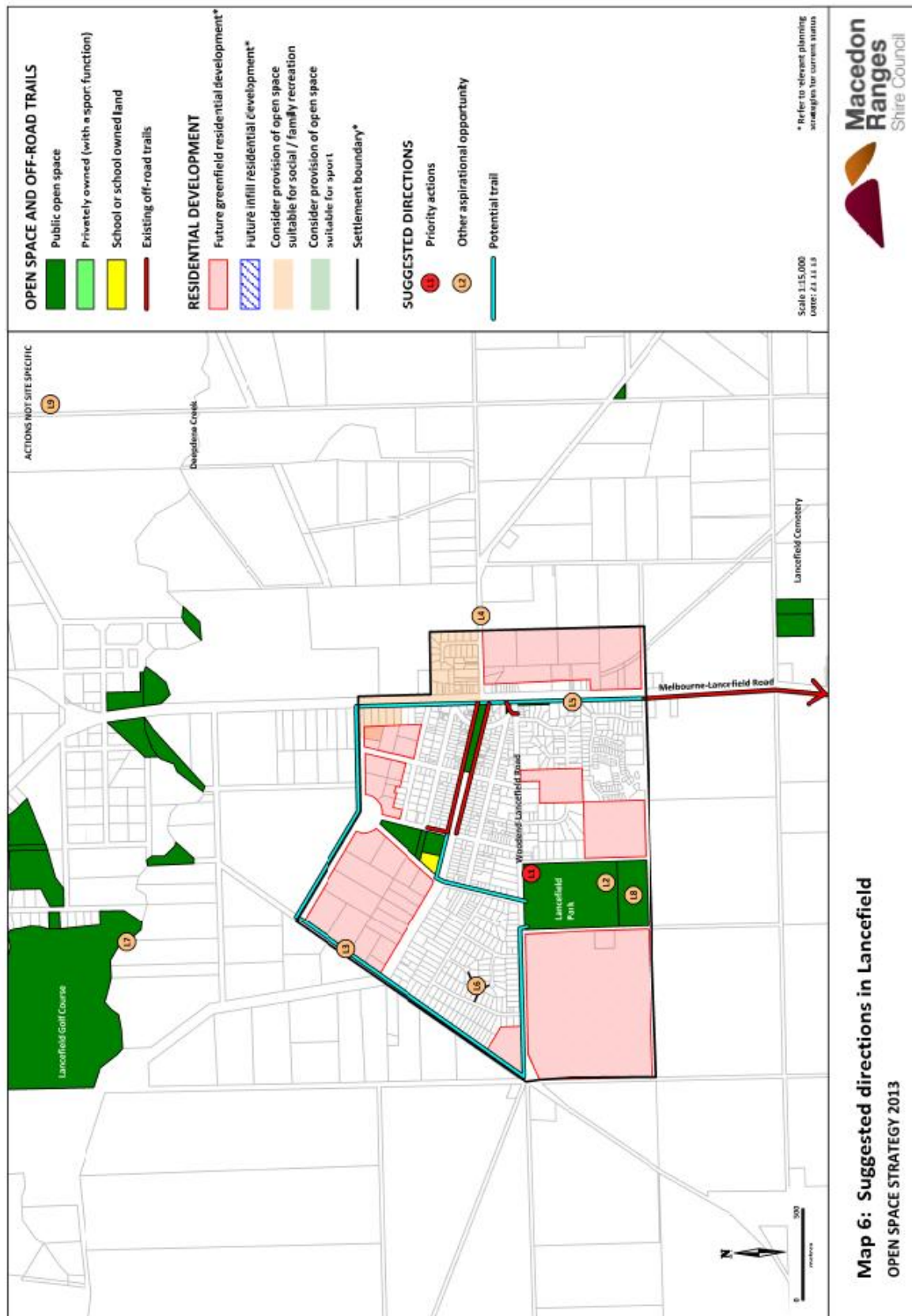
Priority project	Other aspirational opportunities
W1 Continue to work closely with user groups to progressively plan, develop and manage sport facilities at Gilbert Gordon Reserve.	W2 Plan and construct the Woodend to Hanging Rock Trail along Five Mile Creek. Obtain agreement to locate the off-road trail through Braemar's second campus. W3 Continue to improve Hanging Rock Reserve as a visitor and event destination that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of significant environmental and landscape elements, including formalised access areas and fencing • Additional or improved visitor facilities, including car and bus parking • Provision of a three-phase electricity supply, and • Investigate the purchase of land east of Straws Lane to provide for further expansion of Hanging Rock for conservation and as a buffer to surrounding encroachment. W4 Complete the perimeter trail around the Woodend Racecourse Reserve. W5 Provide public access along Gregory Street as a walking circuit from Woodend Racecourse Reserve to Woodend Golf Course. W6 Investigate the provision of off-road trails in the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Along the unformed Gregory Street road reserve north from Forest Street and then along the northern boundary of the Woodend Golf Course to North Street • Along North Street and Lancefield Road to Five Mile Creek • Through Gilbert Gordon Oval, along Five Mile Creek to High Street • Along one side of High Street from Lancefield Road to the Woodend Railway Station. • These trails should connect to the perimeter trail around the Woodend Racecourse Reserve and the Five Mile Creek Trail to create a circuit. W7 Continue to investigate the construction of the Woodend to Daylesford Rail Trail. W8 Protect the Avenue of Honour and other significant avenues of street trees in the town, and enhance with new plantings as required. Provide additional seating and gardens. W9 Design the Campaspe Park over the creek from Woodend Children's Park as the gateway to the park. Together, these could be developed as the district social / family recreation open space for Woodend. Provide a trail head facility and remove the play equipment from this side of the creek. Provide additional car and bus parking, directional signage to services and attractions, and interpretive elements that promote key cultural and environmental sites in the area. W10 Seek contribution and embellishment of local social / family recreation open space in both the southeast and southwest of the town, as part of future residential development. This should include off-road trail connections to existing residential areas and open space. W11 Develop Quahlee Reserve as a local social / family recreation open space, undertake further tree planting, and landscape the private lot boundaries. W12 Prepare a master plan for Quarry Reserve that revegetates the site where it would not impact on its drainage function. W13 Continue to embellish Woodend Racecourse Reserve, maintaining a balance between the conservation, sport and other recreational experiences it provides. Consider how equestrian activities fit within the reserve. W14 In conjunction with Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan 2012-2016 identify an off-leash area to exercise and socialise dogs.



3.6 Lancefield

The following table details the priority open space projects for Lancefield, and other aspirational projects (not in priority order) should time and resources allow. Refer to the *Background Analysis* for further detail.

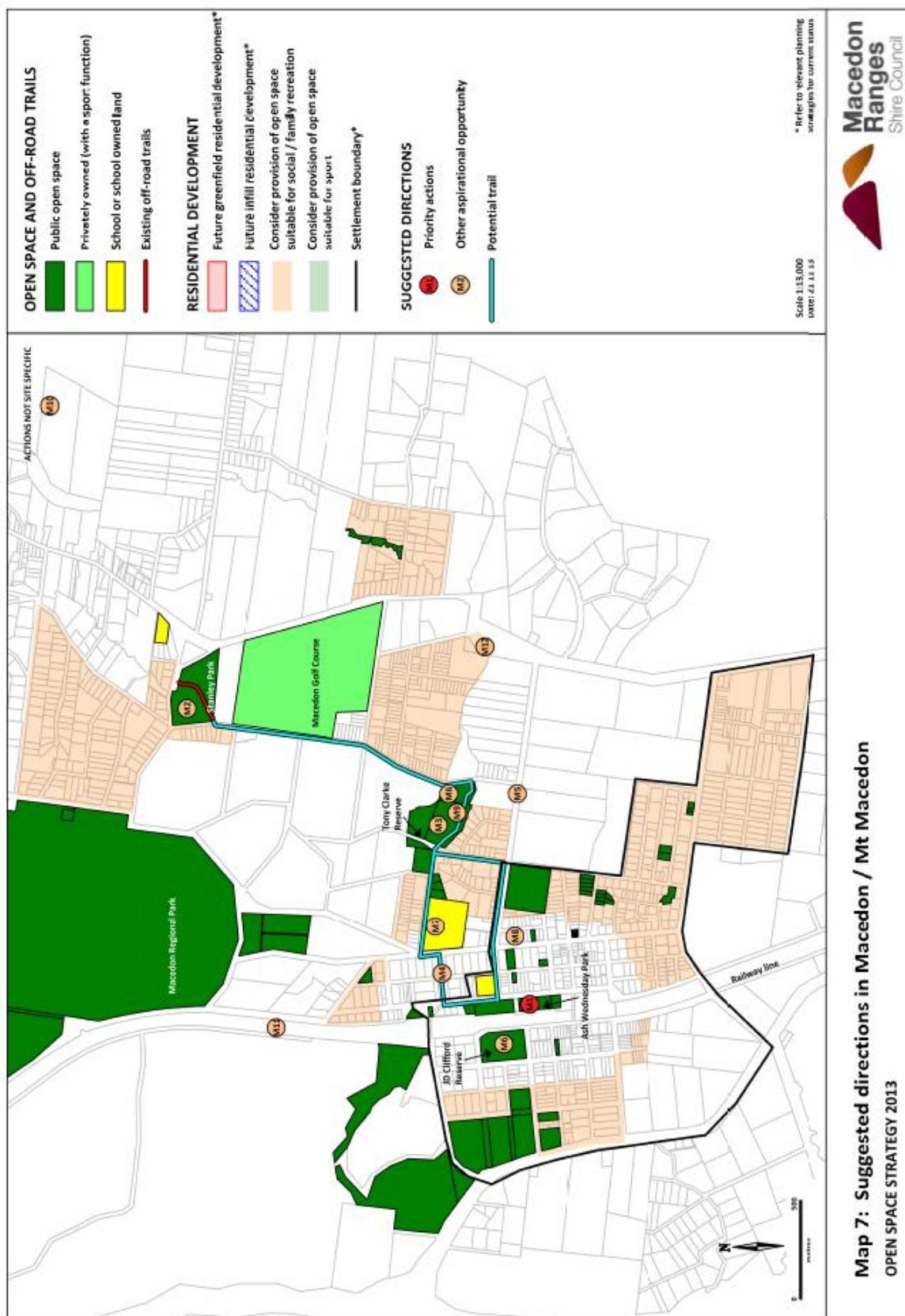
Priority project	Other aspirational opportunities
L1 Consolidate elements in the northeast corner of the Lancefield Recreation Reserve and design as the district social / family recreation open space.	L2 Continue to implement the Lancefield Park master plan and incorporate the following improvements and select key aspects to assist in implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the opportunity arises secure additional land through subdivision and provide a larger second oval directly to the west of the existing oval for future growth in a variety of field sports • Consider consolidating existing pavilions, buildings and practice facilities so that they can be shared by multiple groups • Establish a perimeter path around the Park, which also connects with future residential development on adjoining land • Protect the avenues of elm trees and incorporate a path and seating along their length • Undertake revegetation in the park • Landscape the perimeter of the swamp, provide paths access and interpretive elements at the archaeological site • Work closely with user groups to progressively plan and manage facilities • Investigate use of the inside of the trotting track for overflow sports activities • Seek contributions towards embellishment of the Reserve from new residential development to the east and west. L3 Investigate the provision of off-road trails in the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Along Park Street between Lancefield Park and High Street • Along Woodend-Lancefield Road, McMasters Lane and the unnamed road reserve at the northern settlement boundary, to create a circuit trail in the town and ensure connections between Lancefield Park and the town centre. L4 Protect the avenue of Golden Cypress along Kilmore-Lancefield Road, and the existing street trees along Melbourne- Lancefield Road / Lancefield-Tooborac Road. Enhance with new plantings, and provide additional seating and landscaping. L5 Extend the Lancefield to Romsey Trail to the wayside stop on Melbourne- Lancefield Road. Provide interpretive elements along the trail that promote key cultural and environmental sites along the route. L6 Improve visibility of the entry points to Price Court Reserve and undertake further vegetation planting of the site. Consider designating this as an off leash area to exercise and socialise dogs. L7 Investigate the provision of additional off-road trails in the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Along Lancefield-Tooborac Road to the Lancefield Golf Club, and • Around the perimeter of Lancefield Golf Course, Heddle Road, Lancefield-Carlsruhe Road. L8 Continue to support the Deep Creek Landcare Group in its works in the Lancefield Recreation Reserve. L9 In conjunction with Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan 2012-2016 identify an off-leash area to exercise and socialise dogs.



3.7 Macedon / Mt Macedon

The following table details the priority open space projects for Macedon / Mt Macedon, and other aspirational projects (not in priority order) should time and resources allow. Refer to the *Background Analysis* for further detail

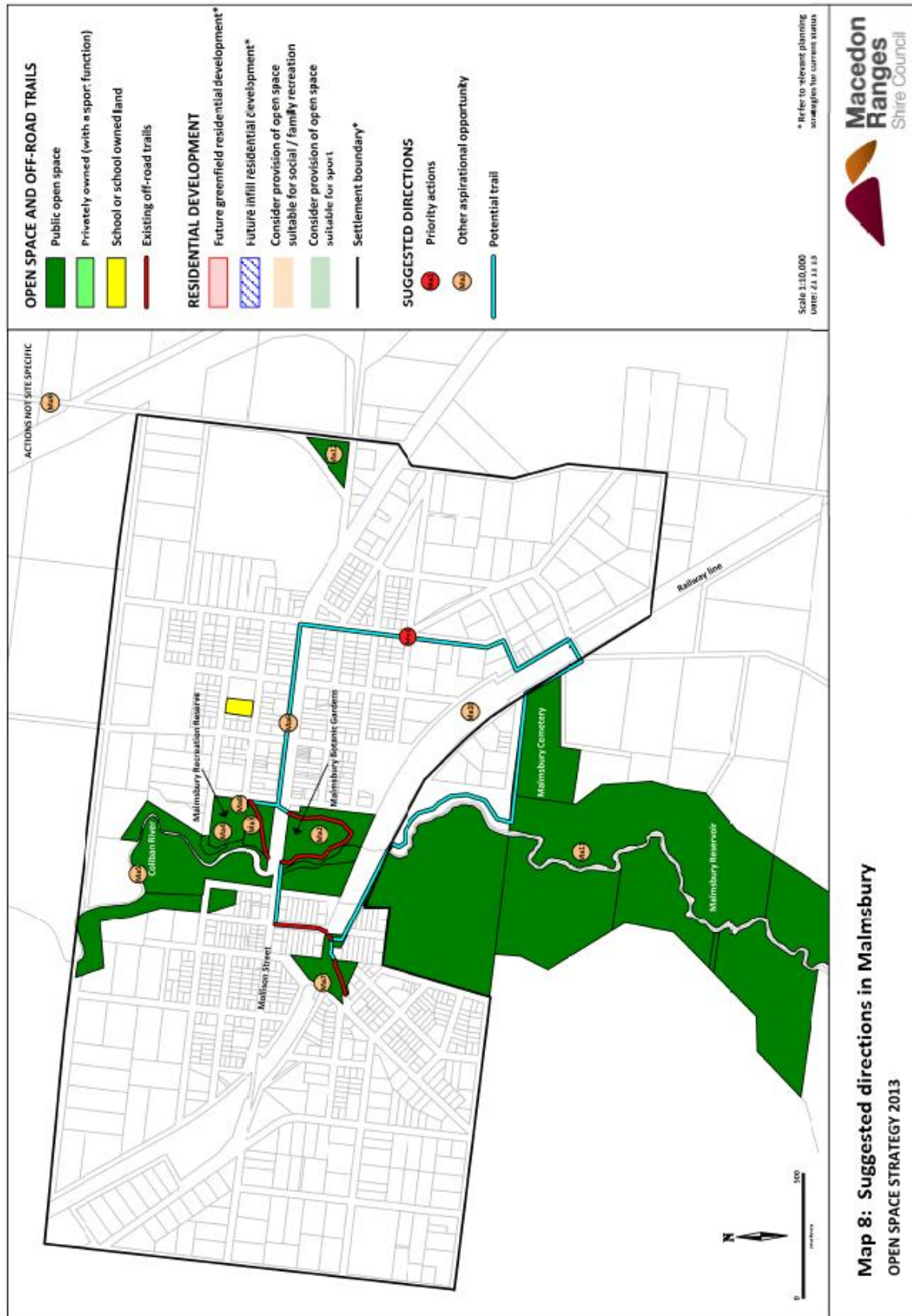
Priority project	Other aspirational opportunities
M1 Prepare a master plan for Ash Wednesday Park.	M2 Consider the following inline with the draft master plan for Stanley Park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance the park's environmental values • Interpretation elements that promote key cultural and environmental sites in the area. M3 Designate the Tony Clarke Reserve as the primary sporting complex to serve Macedon / Mt Macedon. Provide local social / family recreation facilities and a perimeter trail. In the long term seek opportunities to secure additional land to the north or southeast to provide for additional facilities should this be required. M4 Investigate the provision of an off-road trail circuit between the Macedon Railway Station, Ash Wednesday Park, town centre, Tony Clarke Reserve, Mt Macedon, Stanley Park and Macedon Cemetery, via Smith Street, Craven Street, Cable Street, Waterfalls Road, Honour Avenue, Bent Street and Victoria Street. M5 Protect existing street trees along Honour Avenue and enhance with new plantings throughout Macedon. M6 Work closely with user groups to progressively plan and manage facilities of Tony Clarke Recreation Reserve and JD Clifford Reserve. M7 Should the pine plantation on the corner of Bruce and Cable Streets be harvested, seek development as open space with a treed parkland landscape setting to add diversity to the bushland settings already provided in the area. This could include provision of an off-road perimeter trail with connections to Tony Clarke Reserve. M8 Investigate the status of some of the small open space parcels and assess their future use as open space. M9 Seek connection of Tony Clarke Oval to irrigation water (from the same reserve as JD Clifford Reserve). M10 In conjunction with Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan 2012-2016 identify a designated off-leash area to exercise and socialise dogs. M11 Investigate potential off-road trails to Woodend and Gisborne, as extensions to the potential Woodend to Daylesford Rail Trail that is currently being investigated. M12 Continue to manage and protect Centennial Park as an important piece of open space irrespective of its location on a road reserve.



3.8 Malmsbury

The following table details the priority open space projects for Malmsbury, and other aspirational projects (not in priority order) should time and resources allow. Refer to the *Background Analysis* for further detail.

Priority project	Other aspirational opportunities
Ma1 Investigate the provision of an off-road trail circuit that recognises the heritage of the Malmsbury area.	Ma2 In conjunction with the Department of Sustainability and Environment, and Heritage Victoria seek funding for necessary improvements that reinforce the significance of the Malmsbury Botanic Garden. Complete a perimeter trail, with a more suitable type and colour of surface to increase accessibility. Ma3 In the long term, design Malmsbury Common as the district social / family recreation open space for Malmsbury and to meet visitors needs. This could include a perimeter trail (that connects to the Recreation Reserve and Botanic Gardens), a play space suitable for a range of age groups and abilities, public amenities, seating and shade trees. Ma4 Undertake improvements to the Malmsbury Recreation Reserve including a perimeter trail, which connects to the Recreation Reserve, and the removal or repair of unsafe structures. Ma5 Continue weed removal and revegetation of the Coliban River corridor, including allowing for natural regeneration. Support the Malmsbury District Landcare Group to continue its activities. Ma6 Protect the road reserve open space, and existing street trees along the old Calder Highway and enhance with new plantings through the town. Ma7 Seek approval from VicTrack to design the unused rail land on either side of the Malmsbury Railway Station (to the east of Daylesford-Malmsbury Road) as relaxation / contemplation / escape open space for residents and visitors. Ma8 Work closely with user groups to progressively plan and manage facilities on Malmsbury Recreation Reserve. Ma9 In conjunction with Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan 2012-2016 identify a dog off-leash area to exercise and socialise dogs. Ma10 Investigate a potential off-road trail to Kyneton along the rail corridor, through negotiations with VicTrack. Ma11 Investigate a potential off-road trail along the Coliban River from Malmsbury to Tylden, via Malmsbury Reservoir, Lauriston, the Lauriston Reservoir and the Upper Coliban Reservoir. This could also connect with the potential Woodend to Daylesford Rail Trail that is currently being investigated. Ma12 Revegetate the open space bounded by Malmsbury East Road, Malmsbury-Metcalf Road and Milvain Road.



3.9 Rural Settlements

The following details the priority open space projects for rural settlements, and other aspirational projects (not in priority order) should time and resources allow. Refer to the Background Analysis for further detail.

Bullengarook

Priority project:

In line with the Bullengarook Recreation Reserve Master Plan, consolidate elements and design as the primary open space for Bullengarook. This should include social / family recreation facilities, a perimeter trail and improved play space suitable for a range of age groups and abilities, completion of a vegetation survey, and additional seating and shade trees.

Other aspirational opportunities:

Protect existing street trees along the length of Gisborne Road and enhance with new plantings.

Investigate the provision of an off-road trail between the Bullengarook Recreation Reserve, Gisborne landfill site, and on toward Gisborne.

Carlsruhe

Priority project:

Design the Carlsruhe Memorial Park as the district social / family recreation open space for Carlsruhe. This should include social / family recreation facilities, a perimeter trail and shade trees.

Other aspirational opportunities:

Investigate the provision of an off-road trail circuit between the Carlsruhe Memorial Park and the Campaspe River, using the road reserves for Ebdon and Pultney Streets.

Protect existing street trees along Cobb and Co Road and enhance with new plantings adjacent to the town.

Clarkefield

Priority project:

In the long term consolidate elements in the Clarkefield Recreation Reserve and redesign as the district social / family recreation open space for Clarkefield. This should include social / family recreation facilities, a perimeter trail, play space suitable for a range of age groups and abilities, and additional seating and shade trees. Council may consider taking over management and maintenance of the facility in the longer term.

Other aspirational opportunities:

Investigate the provision of an off-road trail circuit from the Clarkefield Recreation Reserve, along Station Street and back to the rear of the Reserve along the rail corridor.

Support the community establishing a community garden in the Clarkefield Recreation Reserve.

Establish a program to selectively replace mature cypress and Radiata pine trees in the Clarkefield Recreation Reserve.

Should land along the eastern side of the Clarkefield Recreation Reserve be developed for urban purposes (and demand required it), seek a contribution of open space to increase the area of the Reserve so that a second oval can be established.

Darraweit Guim

Priority project:

Ensure that the land with the tennis courts and other recreation facilities abutting the Darraweit Guim School are maintained as the district social / family recreation open space for Darraweit Guim. This should include social / family recreation facilities, a perimeter trail, play space suitable for a range of age groups and abilities, and additional seating and shade trees.

Other aspirational opportunities:

Investigate the provision of an off-road trail circuit from the Darraweit Guim Recreation Reserve, along Deep Creek at the rear of the school, and back along Glendonald and Francis Lanes.

Protect existing street trees along Darraweit Valley Road and enhance with new plantings through the town.

Lauriston

Priority project:

Consolidate elements in the Lauriston Hall and design as the district social / family recreation open space for Lauriston. This should include social / family recreation facilities, a perimeter trail and shade trees. Promote the picnic, walking and fishing opportunities associated with Lauriston Reservoir.

Other aspirational opportunities:

Investigate the provision of an off-road trail circuit from the Lauriston Recreation Reserve, along Portwines Road, across the old road bridge, south along the Coliban River, across Lauriston-Springhill Road and along the eastern boundary of the Lauriston Bushland Reserve back to the recreation reserve.

Protect existing street trees along Lauriston-Drummond Road and enhance with new plantings.

Newham

Priority project:

Investigate the provision of an off-road trail circuit from Wesley Park, along Woodend-Lancefield Road, Robertson Drive, Trewhella Drive and Jim Road, and back to the park.

Other aspirational opportunities:

Embellish the social/ family recreation facilities at Wesley Park.

Protect existing street trees within the town and enhance with new plantings.

Tylden

Priority project:

Consolidate elements in the Tylden Hall Reserve Lions Park and design as the district social / family recreation open space for Tylden.

Other aspirational opportunities:

Do not construct Lowe Street between the Tylden Recreation Reserve and school. Include the unconstructed section of road reserve as open space.

Investigate the provision of an off-road trail circuit between the Tylden Recreation Reserve and Tylden Hall Reserve along Trentham Road and Clayton / Lowe Streets.

Protect existing street trees along Tylden-Woodend Road and enhance with new plantings through the town.

Appendix 1. Classifications of open space

1. Primary open space function types

Function type	Description
Social / family recreation (SFR)	Open space areas reserved or provided for social, group and physical activities of people from a wide range of age groups and abilities. These areas typically provide opportunities for play, social gatherings, social games and sports activities, exercise, as well as including amenity and environmental elements.
Sport	Open space areas reserved or provided for sporting pursuits.
Off-road trail / accessway	Open space areas reserved or provided for off-road trails, or pathways that provide connections between streets and neighbourhoods.
Botanical garden	Open space reserved or provided for collections of flora for educational purposes, whether native or exotic.
Campground	Open space areas reserved or provided for recreational camping. These may not necessarily have permanent built accommodation or support facilities.
Community horticulture	Open space areas reserved or provided for community horticultural activities, such as community gardens, orchards, vineyards or farms.
Cultural heritage	Open space areas reserved or provided for the protection of European or indigenous cultural heritage.
Flora / fauna conservation	Open space areas reserved or provided for the protection of flora and fauna. This may include existing bushland, grassland, wetlands and waterways, as well as potential habitat / biolink and carbon sinks.
Drainage / stormwater management / floodway	Open space areas reserved or provided for drainage and management of stormwater and flooding. This includes retarding basins, water quality treatment devices and floodways.
Memorial park / cemetery	Open space areas reserved or provided for the memory of people or events, including avenues of trees.
Play	Open space areas reserved or provided for children's play, and which do not cater for other age groups or recreation facilities, physical activity and environmental components. Note: These single purpose spaces should be phased out in favour of multi- purpose social / family recreation areas that accommodate children's play in addition to range of opportunities for other age groups.
Relaxation / contemplation / escape	Open space areas reserved or provided for quiet, contemplation pastimes and with high environmental and amenity qualities. These areas would have only minor improvements such as seats, paths, viewing areas and / or interpretative signage.
Utility / buffer / constrained land	Open space areas reserved or provided to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodate electricity, gas, sewerage or water supply infrastructure; Provide a buffer from incompatible land uses or activities such as industry, hazardous areas, agricultural land or transport routes; or Accommodate areas of environmental constraints, such as landslip or contamination.
Visual amenity	Open space areas reserved or provided to provide visual relief from urban surroundings, protect viewsheds and view corridors and ridgelines, or enhance the visual amenity of neighbourhoods.
Water-based recreation	Open space areas reserved or provided to support water-based recreation activities (e.g. swimming pool, fishing, boating).
Wayside stop	Open space areas reserved or provided along main roads / highways for travellers to stop for rest breaks or picnics.

2. Open space landscape setting types

Landscape Setting type	Description
Ornamental or formal garden	A garden area designed with ornamental flowering and / or foliage plants (typically exotic), which may include garden beds, lawns, specimen trees and pathways. Other decorative features may be included such as fountains, pools and artwork.
Sealed or paved area	An area that is sealed or paved such as a plaza or square.
Lawn or managed turf	An area of mown turf managed for sports, dog exercise, aesthetic purposes, social gatherings, social games and sports, and / or exercise.
Specialised sports surface	An area of synthetic turf or a specialised playing surface used for sports such as tennis, hockey or equestrian sports.
Open grassy area	An open area of rough grass (typically exotic) that is not specifically cultivated as lawn or managed turf for sports, etc. Some trees may be located around boundaries.
Treed parkland	A treed open space with open areas of lawn or grass otherwise in between. Typically this form of open space only has two storeys of vegetation – grass and trees.
Crop / pasture / orchard	An area cultivated for food or animal production, such as vegetable garden, pasture, farmland or vineyard.
Bushland / forest	A bushland or forested area (generally indigenous or native), with a high degree of tree canopy and without open areas or a grass understorey. May have 1+ storey.
Native grassland / wetland	An area of indigenous grassland or wetland.
Waterway corridor / waterbody	Waterway corridor or waterbody where water is a key feature / landscape element.
Rough natural area	An area that is degraded, unmanaged or not designed, and which is not fenced or protected for conservation purposes. It typically has some trees and may have more than one storey of vegetation.

3. Settlement type

Settlement type	Description
Rural area / rural living	Area of large residential blocks or farms with likely access to areas of incidental open space and / or the natural environment.
Rural village	Small collection of residential blocks with a community hub such as school, commercial enterprise, hall or community facility, generally with at least one central area of open space (e.g. recreation reserve) and access to incidental open space and / or the natural environment.
Township / urban area	Large residential area where houses generally have at least some private open space. Some areas may be set aside for industrial and commercial purposes. The scale of the settlement necessitates that open space and community facilities are located at multiple nodes.
Mixed use / medium density	Areas where residences have limited private open space and are likely to be more than one storey. These may be located in an area with commercial, industrial and / or community facilities.

4. Open space catchment

Catchment type	Description
Local	Open space predominantly serving an immediate local catchment. This has a relatively small size (e.g. up to 1ha); services daily and weekly needs, and is generally accessed by walking or cycling from surrounding areas.
District	Open space predominantly serving a township, precinct, or group of suburbs.
Regional	Open space predominantly serving the whole municipality or region. This may have significance to a large population including visitors.

Appendix 2. Guidance for open space development contributions

Principles

- *Open space contributions should be taken as part of all developments in Macedon Ranges Shire. Justification will need to be provided for non-residential zones.*
- *Determining the location size distribution and quality of open space required should be undertaken as early as possible in the planning for new developments (e.g. structure planning or rezoning).*
- *Where practical, a contribution of land will take preference to a monetary contribution.*
- *Monetary contributions should be spent in the locality where the open space contribution was taken, unless a district or regional open space is required that will serve multiple areas (in which case the funds can be utilised from within that broader catchment).*
- *Open spaces will be fit-for-purpose and provision will be based on agreed Shire-wide core service levels for each open space function type.*

Planning guidance

- A2.1 Open space development contributions will seek to meet the priority needs of new residents, provide diversity, and at a standard that Council can practically, cost-effectively and consistently deliver and maintain.
- A2.2 Priority needs of residents fit-for-purpose social / family open space, off-road trail circuits and sport (as a minimum) will be provided as part of the development.
- A2.3 Take a land contribution through development in preference to a monetary contribution, where:
- a) There is demand for open space in that location
 - b) There is a need to provide at least one of the following primary open space function types; social / family recreation, sport or off-road trail
 - c) An existing open space corridor needs to be enhanced to provide for recreation activities
 - d) A strategically important link is required with adjoining open space or land use, for wildlife movement or for an off-road trail
 - e) There are mature trees, or features of environmental or cultural significance
 - f) The land is of sufficient size, and in an appropriate location to meet the requirements for a type of open space, recreation or sporting activity needed in the area
 - g) The nature and condition of the land is compatible with the preferred end use / purpose, and its development for that purpose can be cost effective.

A2.4 Take a monetary contribution through development in preference to a land contribution, where:

- a) The size of the subdivision does not allow sufficient land to be taken as open space and land cannot be taken to adjoin a future subdivision where land may be taken as open space
- b) A good range of open space functions and landscape settings is already available (that meets the specified distance thresholds for each)
- c) Land is not required for one of the priority functions (as determined by the nature of settlement type), and specific embellishments of existing open space are required
- d) Resources are needed to contribute to a regional recreational resource that serves the new residential development.

A2.5 Ensure open space contributions are taken from net developable land and should not include areas given as public land for other purposes. In particular, the areas of land required for an open space contributions should exclude areas required for:

- Land for community facilities, such as community centres
- Areas of significant vegetation or cultural heritage that is to be protected
- Road reserves
- Areas for stormwater management / drainage or that are flood prone
- Land encumbered by water supply, sewerage, electricity, gas or telecommunications infrastructure, whether or not within an easement

- Plantation / tree reserves
- Water bodies unless able to be used for at least secondary contact uses, or in required space for relaxation after the priority functions have been taken
- Estate entry features.

A2.6 Ensure planning and selection of open space utilises sound land information including hydrology, topography, flora, fauna, cultural heritage conditions, hydrology and landscape character, to determine the suitability and capability of a site to meet different functional requirements.

A2.7 Ensure rezoning proposals and planning applications provide evidence for how open space and off-road trail requirements will be addressed as part of the development.

A2.8 Ensure that new open space contributed through development is reserved for that purpose on the property title and included in the appropriate planning zone.

Appendix 3. Methods of assessment and prioritisation

Preliminary directions for open space for each locality have been determined using the following criteria:

- a) Range of open space functions available in order to meet whole of community needs for existing and future populations
- b) Diversity of landscape setting types: to provide a choice of environmental and social experiences
- c) Affordable range of open spaces and facilities in context with the hierarchy of town, size of population and whether town is in growth phase
- d) Demand based on demographic profile, likely participation in outdoor recreation activities, and preferences of the population
- e) Importance and urgency, and likelihood of action being achievable given Shire-wide priorities and the order of cost
- f) Availability of other options to meet the identified demand
- g) Distribution of available opportunities especially within walkable distance.

Appendix 4. Towns in Macedon Ranges Shire, with settlement type²

Locality	2021 Population	2036 Population	Hierarchy of Settlement	Desired Open Space Provision
Gisborne	9,656	14,700	Regional Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple district sports open space • Multiple district social / family recreation open spaces • Local social / family recreation open spaces within residential areas • Other open space equitably distributed throughout the urban area • Off-road trail network
Kyneton	5,389	8,600	Large District Town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple district sports open space • One district social / family recreation open space • Multiple local social / family recreation open spaces equitably distributed throughout the urban area • Off-road trail network
Romsey	5,095	6,000		
Riddells Creek	3,449	6,100		
Woodend	4,047	5,000	District Town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One centrally located district sports open space • One district social / family recreation open space • Local social / family recreation open space within residential areas • Other open space accessible to residential lots • At least one off-road trail circuit and perimeter path around large reserves
Lancefield	1,479	3,000		
Macedon	1,514	1,400	Small Town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One district sports open space • One district social / family recreation open space • One off-road trail circuit
Mt Macedon	1,108	1,100		
Malmsbury	811	900		
Rural settlements	<700	<700	Village / Hamlet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One shared central local sports and social / family recreation open space • Trails along key waterways, etc.

² Macedon Ranges Shire Council Settlement Strategy (Macedon Ranges Shire Council; 2011)

Appendix 5. Summary of Shire-wide directions

Issue	Directions
2.1 Protection and promotion of visitor experiences, cultural heritage, environmental quality and character	2.1.1 Agree that its brand relies on open space, and use this for promotion of the Shire, that unites the character of its towns and enhances the competitive strength of the Shire.
	2.1.2 Protect and enhance where possible open space as a competitive strength of the Shire along with heritage, character and the stories.
	2.1.3 Continue to protect existing street trees and avenue plantings.
	2.1.4 Seek to enhance this natural character and reduce maintenance costs through replanting areas of grass with hardy native flowering plants.
	2.1.5 Support the ongoing rehabilitation of and revegetation along, waterways and bushland. Allow certain open grassy areas to naturally regenerate. Manage community expectations of the altered maintenance regime.
	2.1.6 Continue to consider and where possible protect views and ridgelines from development, and promote the volcanic peaks and views from them, and other landscape features.
2.2 Encourage a range of social and physical activity opportunities and experiences in open space	2.2.1 Support the notion that key open spaces within walking distance of all residential areas should provide for social / family recreation open space.
	2.2.2 Ensure social / family recreation open spaces include where possible practical improvements such as perimeter trail, play space, tables and seating, an internal path system linking key elements, shade, landscaped or natural features, as well as social sports elements for teenagers.
	2.2.3 Support sites for social / family recreation open space in smaller settlements that are adjacent to other community facilities, such as schools, children's centres, halls and railways stations – as 'whole-of-community hubs'.
	2.2.4 Support the community to develop social / family recreation open space as 'community parks'.

Issue	Directions
	2.2.5 In all towns above 1,000 people consider providing some social / family recreation spaces with specific elements that are accessible to people with a disability, and all social / family recreation spaces have elements where people can be included at least in social areas.
	2.2.6 Where possible design social / family recreation spaces with paths and landscape elements as well as play equipment, and add environmental components and accessible pathways to all areas with play equipment.
	2.2.7 In conjunction with Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan consider providing and promoting dog off leash open space in major towns as demand warrants.
2.3 Encourage the development of off-road trail circuits	2.3.1 Provide off-road trails as perimeter paths around larger reserves, circuits around local areas, as inter-town and regional trails, and along major waterways and railway corridors.
	2.3.2 Plan off-road trail circuits in the Shire as a priority, so that they are ready to take advantage of any funding opportunities.
	2.3.3 Consider standard design and construction guidelines for trails and signage.
2.4 Increasing the sustainability of sports facilities	2.4.1 Seek to provide multiple playing fields in the one location served by one major pavilion shared by multiple users.
	2.4.2 Plan for practice facilities to support competition sport that can be used for casual use.
	2.4.3 Ensure sport facilities are included in an asset management system to deliver improved sports fields.
	2.4.4 Support the development of key sporting reserves as social family recreation hubs, with perimeter paths, and free access facilities for teenagers.
	2.4.5 Work closely with user groups to progressively plan and manage facilities.

Issue	Directions
2.5 Managing visitor demand in areas of environmental significance	2.5.1 Manage visitor demand through promotion and environmental management, spreading the load between multiple sites with sufficient carrying capacity, and specifically providing for visitors in key locations.
	2.5.2 Provide more opportunities for: wayside stops with amenities at suitable open spaces; car and bus parking; off-road trail circuits; access to appropriate social /family recreation sites for picnics and breaks; directional signage to services and attractions, and interpretive elements that promote key cultural and environmental features.
	2.5.3 Improve public seating, footpaths, pedestrian crossings and disability accessibility of public open spaces.
	2.5.4 Promote open space within the Shire, and make available to the community information to provide clarity about the purpose of the space.
	2.5.5 To promote and enhance the perceived value of open space, a consistent naming and signing of parks would be beneficial with key directional signage to spaces suitable for visitor use.
2.6 Engaging residents, community groups and other partners in open space	2.6.1 Support where possible those community driven open space projects that: are consistent with Council policy, agreed design standards, include professional planning and design input, are supported by clear guidelines or policy about ownership and management of the outcomes, and are in line with the principles and actions of this plan.
	2.6.2 Council need to maintain and further develop good relationships and partnerships with other providers such as DEPI etc.
	2.6.3 Continue to facilitate and support residents and community groups.
	2.6.4 Continue to provide funding opportunities to community groups involved in improving open space via programs such as the Parks Improvement Program.
2.7 Dependence on sites not in Council ownership or reserved for open space	2.7.1 Seek ways to minimise the damage caused by roadworks undertaken by other authorities to valuable open space elements in road reserves.
	2.7.2 Work closely with agencies and authorities to identify significant avenues of trees and prepare clear guidelines and specifications for contractors.

Issue	Directions
2.8 Planning for future open space provision and management	2.7.3 Utilise Heritage Overlays to protect significant trees where not prohibited by cost or safety concerns.
	2.8.1 Adopt the planning framework and classifications set out in this Open Space Strategy.
	2.8.2 Consider incorporating the new Open Space Strategy into the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme, to ensure key outcomes are achieved through development.
	2.8.3 Use open space development contributions to meet the priority needs of new residents, provide diversity, and at a standard that Council can practically, cost-effectively and consistently deliver and/or maintain.
2.9 Prioritising works and enhancing affordability	2.8.4 Ensure open space contributions are taken from net developable land and do not include areas given as public land for other purposes.
	2.9.1 Utilise the hierarchy of settlements to prioritise the core service level and provision of facilities in each locality
	2.9.2 Seek to selectively develop fewer sites and embellish existing small open spaces without infrastructure, for more contemplative or conservation purposes.
	2.9.3 Utilise the criteria set out in Appendix 3 to determine the priorities for each locality.