



CHARLES & MOLLISON STREET, ABBOTSFORD

Potential new open space - Project Background Paper

In 2007 the City of Yarra adopted the Yarra Open Space Strategy. The purpose of the Strategy was to provide Yarra with a clear direction for the future planning, provision, design and management of public open space in the City.

Two of the key issues to arise as part of the development of the Open Space Strategy were:

- The inequity in open space distribution and access in Yarra; and
- Gaps in Yarra's existing open space network.

Inequity in open space distribution

More than 70% of Yarra's open space is located in North Fitzroy, Clifton Hill, Alphington and Fairfield – suburbs that accommodate 25% of Yarra's population.

Abbotsford has approximately 11 hectares of open space. This equates to 8% of open space within Yarra servicing 15% of the City's population. Most of this open space is towards the northern part of Abbotsford, and includes Victoria Park and Dight's Falls. Access to these parks is restricted by the need for residents in the southern part of Abbotsford to cross Johnston Street, a major arterial road.

The inherent discrepancies in open space distribution across Yarra are being exacerbated with new residential development in areas already deficient in open space.

Gaps in Yarra's existing open space network

A gap analysis undertaken as part of the Strategy also identified areas where residents do not have safe walking access to open space reserves within Yarra. It recommends that all residents should be within 150-200m walking distance of a small local park, without the need to cross major arterial roads.

The major gaps occur in Collingwood, Richmond and Cremorne, however is also a gap in the south of Abbotsford. Historically non-residential in nature, these are areas with expanding residential population.

To address the above two issues, the Strategy specifically recommends investigating the potential to create a new open space at the intersection of Charles and Mollison Street, Abbotsford. It was thought the wide road reserves in this location represent the opportunity to claim some road area and convert it into green space for people.

A new pocket park in this area can help create community connection, provide green outdoor space and support active lifestyles. Whilst Yarra can never achieve or attempt to be a leafy green suburb, provision of high quality open space within the urban fabric of built up areas is an achievable goal and can greatly contribute to liveability and the health of the community.