



knox open space plan 2012-2022





acknowledgements

This plan has been written by Knox City Council in association with Context Pty Ltd and in partnership with the community.



knox open space plan

May 2012

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Disclaimer:

The maps included in this plan are based on information available in Knox City Council's Geographic Information System at October 2011. This information may have changed, have been subject to review at the time, or be inaccurate, and as such should not be wholly relied upon. Please refer to Council's current planning scheme for the most accurate up to date information.

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Executive summary

The *Knox Open space Plan (2012-2022)* represents a new approach to open space planning and management for the City of Knox.

The vision for our open space is one which will be sustainable, attractive and green. It will provide for a diversity of leisure activities, and enable people to enjoy nature, engage with others, learn and play. Our open space network will be well-connected and accessible, and contribute to the natural systems of the city.

To achieve this Vision we need to:

- Share our open spaces
- Nurture our natural places
- Activate community use
- Plan for great open spaces

This Plan aims to achieve this Vision by proposing four strategic directions, each reflecting a key focus for Knox City Council working with the community. The strategic directions are:

1. Create healthy creek corridors that people love
2. Activate community hubs
3. Empower the community to be stewards of open space

4. Engender a network of sustainable spaces

These strategic directions encompass themes of sustainability, community involvement, greater community use of open space and linkages between open space areas, which appear throughout this Plan.

Achieving this vision will require a sustained effort over many years.

Open space has many facets and the relationships between these are often complex. Recognising this, the Plan looks at open space through nine lenses. Each describes current issues and opportunities, offers a vision and a goal, and defines specific approaches that will enable the vision and each strategic direction to be achieved. The lenses are:

Biodiversity, Connections, Culture, Economy, Leisure, People, Play, Sustainability, and Water.

This Plan outlines a methodology and ranking mechanism to prioritise open space planning delivery. Delivering the Plan will involve active community involvement and key partnerships with other land managers. Good open space design combined with effective planning and management will be needed.

1. Introduction

Knox City Council manages more than 700 hectares of open space, both for informal leisure activities and active sports, on behalf of the community. This is a substantial and challenging task. Council has to balance competing pressures - for development, protection, recreation and leisure needs, services and access - together with its statutory responsibilities.

Understanding what the Knox community desires, needs and expects is important, and equally Council wants to build the community's appreciation of the practicalities of open space management and how they can contribute to this task. As well, Knox City Council is seeking to continually improve how it uses its resources.

Creating a new plan for Knox's open spaces

The Knox Open Space Plan (2012-2022) will guide how open space is used and developed in the future. This Plan is being developed by the Council in collaboration with the community. It seeks to recognise the strong relationship that the community has with their open space and, for Council, the complexities in delivering the open space services, places and amenity that people love.

The Knox Open Space Plan (2012-2022) builds on the 2004-2014 Open Space Plan and provides the framework within which specific solutions can be created for each piece of open space. It will operate alongside Council's Open Space Asset Management Plan which defines Council's open space asset and service management performance .

Open space is a significant part of our City's landscape. It benefits our community and our environment on many levels including simply enjoying the outdoors, participating in active recreation, protecting our natural heritage or adding value to the local economy. As such this plan aims to bring together the many aspects of open space planning into a strong framework, harnessing existing key strategic and technical plans and uniting them towards a clear vision.

The Knox Open Space Plan (2012-2022) is designed to help achieve all of the key themes outlined in Vision 2025 and to deliver elements of the City's three guiding strategies: the Community Health and Well-Being Strategy, the Economic Development Strategy, and the Sustainable Environment Strategy.



Social Sustainability

Knox's open space contributes to community wellbeing, social interaction, belonging and identity.

Economic Sustainability

Knox's open space makes Knox a desirable place to live and work, helping employers to attract and retain workers.

Environmental Sustainability

Knox's open space creates habitat, supports biodiversity, improves storm water quality and may help to reduce the effects of climate change.



Knox's City Landscape

Reading this Plan

The Knox Open Space Plan (2012-2022) has been designed for several distinct audiences:

- For the Knox community, to help them understand and get involved in open space planning and management
- For government agencies, institutions and other land managers to help engage them in partnerships with Council to improve the open space values across Knox
- For the Council itself as a forward looking guide to the planning and management of Knox's open space.



Community members in Knox at the Knox Festival

Defining a Vision and Strategic Directions

The Knox Open Space Plan (2012-2022) defines a vision for Knox's open space and four major strategic directions. These can be found in Section 2.

The four strategic directions are:

1. Create healthy creek corridors that people love
2. Activate community hubs
3. Empower the community to be stewards of open spaces
4. Engender a network of sustainable spaces

Open space spatial framework

Open space serves many purposes. Section 3 describes Knox's open space network, defining five broad types of open space and describing their distinctive roles as part of the network:

- Municipal
- Neighbourhood
- Local
- Creek corridors
- Community hubs

Lenses

In Section 4, open space is examined through nine distinct lenses, each focusing on a different aspect of open space. These lenses help focus our vision. This section details specific approaches to achieving the open space vision and strategic directions, and provides the indicators that will be used to measure success. The nine lenses are:

Biodiversity: enhancing locally indigenous flora and fauna in our open spaces across the city.

Connections: improving the open space network for journeys – walking and cycling – and linking interesting destinations.

Culture: enriching open spaces through arts and culture

Economy: enhancing our open space network as a valuable part of our City's attractiveness for business and residents.

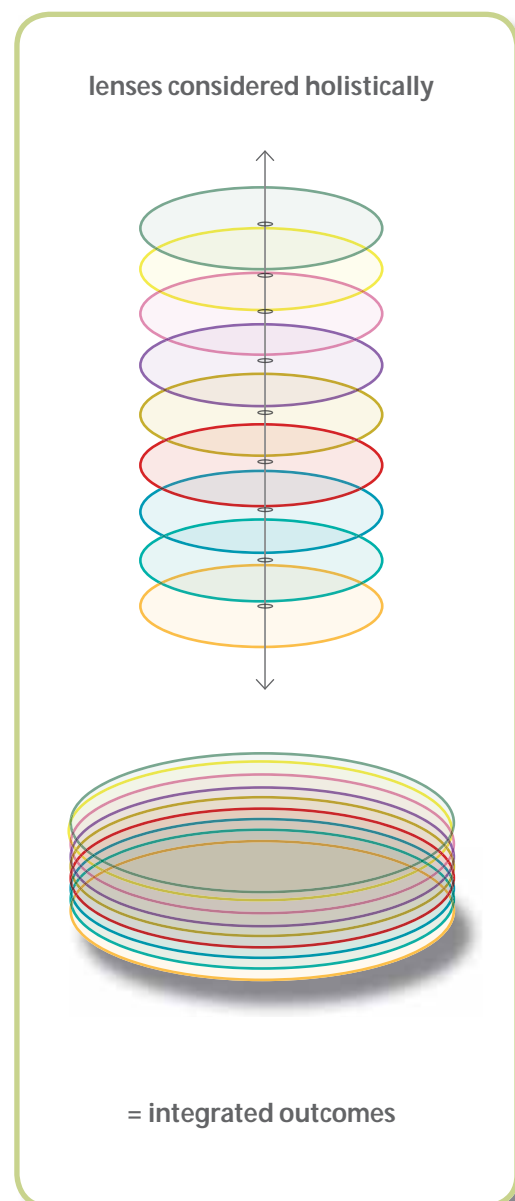
Leisure: opportunities for diverse and engaging leisure activities.

People: celebrating community well-being and diversity by recognising open spaces as part of identity and belonging.

Play: enhancing open spaces as places for play for all generations.

Sustainable: employing innovation, new technologies and ways of delivering open spaces as integrated, holistic places.

Water: focusing healthy water quality through holistic approaches to water management systems.





Findings from community consultation for the 2004-2014 Open Space Plan included that the highest priority of open space were small/local parks, and that sports grounds were well catered for.

Delivering the Plan

Section 5 Implementation, describes how the Plan will be delivered.

Implementing the Plan will require a concerted connected effort and strong partnerships between Knox City Council, other land owners and managers and the Knox community. Such partnerships are not unique to open space planning, however the importance of open space to the community, makes partnerships vital. Section 5 defines principles to guide community participation and partnerships between Council and others.

Section 5 also defines how Council will prioritise actions on open spaces, and establish integrated processes, good design principles and integrated management practices for all open spaces.

Relationship to other Council documents

This Plan will enable an integrated approach to open space planning and management. To do this, it draws on many other Council strategies, plans and guides, including: Draft Open Space Asset Management Plan (2011); Arts and Culture Plan; Bike Plan; Drainage Plan; Economic Futures Study; Heritage Plan; Housing Strategy; Integrated Travel Plan; Liveable Streets Plan (Draft); Play Strategy; Recreation and Leisure Plan; Shared Path Plan; Sites of Biological Significance; Sporting Reserve and Facilities Guidelines; the Water Sensitive Urban Design Plan and more.

This Plan sits alongside these documents, is informed by them and conversely informs how they are realised in open space using the device of the lenses. Some of these documents will have different levels of influence on individual pieces of open space depending on the use

of that space. For example, the Recreation and Leisure Plan has a significant influence in many reserves while the Sites of Biological Significance plan is important in others. The key to good open space planning is the way that alternative uses such as recreation and bushland management are able to coexist in the one piece of open space.

Change in Knox

The open space network that we currently enjoy is a result of green field development. Knox has seen massive change over the last 30-40 years changing from a municipality of townships within a rural landscape to a vibrant fully developed series of activity centres and business/employment hubs and suburbs with 156,000 people.

Over the next 20- 30 years, there will be a substantial change in the population. Currently change in Knox is as a result of demographics and lifestyle choices, such as ageing and increasing single person households. This change is likely to predominately come from within the existing Knox community. This change is evident in increasing infill development with a focus on key activity centres in accordance with Vision 2025.

The open space network could be improved to meet both current and future community use, hence the development of the Knox Open Space Plan 2012-2022.

The Knox Open Space Plan has sought to identify what this change means for open space planning provision, and management. It is known that there will be changes in the way we plan and manage Knox's open space but those changes won't necessarily be about quantity but about how we get the best out of our existing open space



assets. This simply means ensuring that there are the right amount of paths, seats and open space leisure facilities.

In areas that may undergo change, open space provision will be about more than just the parks and gardens. What currently constitutes road reserve will play a crucial role in open space provision. Collectively this will be the community's experience of the Public Realm. The opportunity to unlock these new public realm experiences will be realised in future planning and capital works allocations for change areas .

Consultation

This Plan has been developed collaboratively by teams from all of Council's directorates. Community Advisory Committees have also played a key part in identifying challenges and setting directions in planning and developing open space. A list of those involved can be found in the Appendix.

This Plan, as a draft, will be presented to the Knox community, agencies and land managers for review and comment.

In the implementation of this Plan, Knox City Council will continue to engage with the community in developing the actions needed for realisation of the overall visions and strategic directions. Community engagement will be a key to the successful implementation of this Plan.

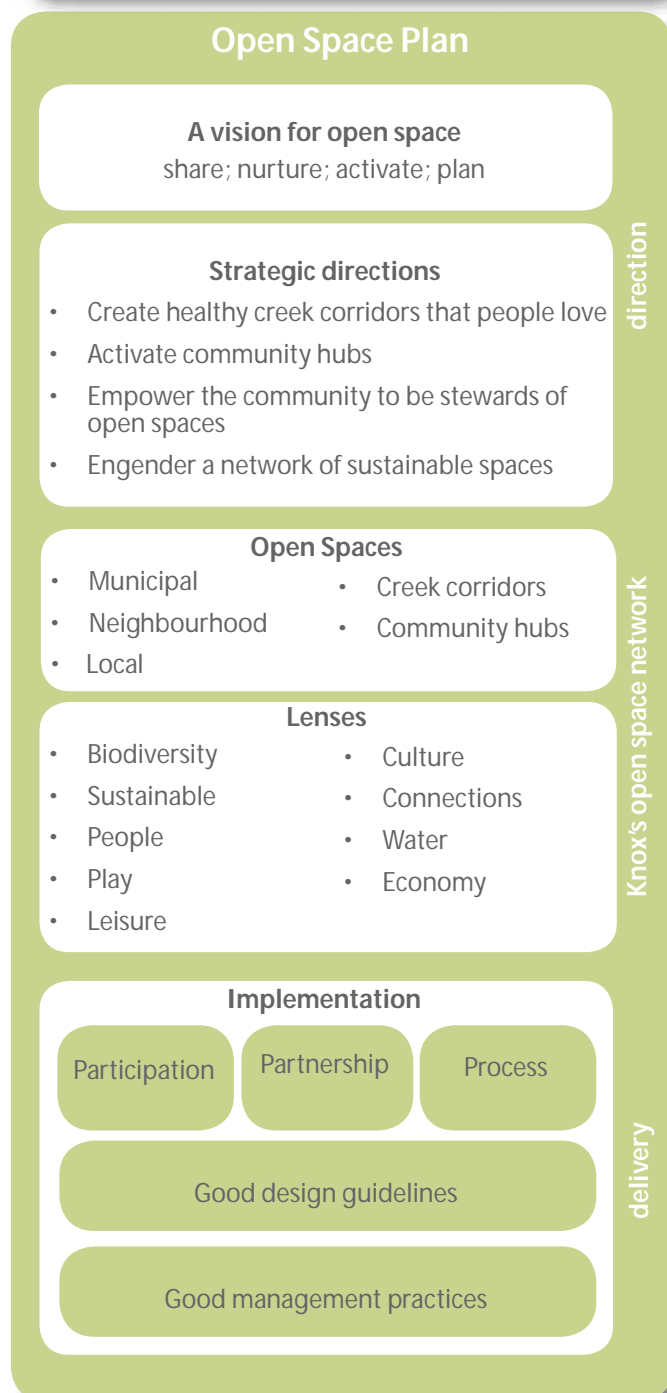


Diagram of how to use this document

'A high-quality public environment can have a significant impact on the economic life of urban centres big or small... As towns increasingly compete with one another to attract investment, the presence of good parks, squares, gardens and other public spaces becomes a vital business and marketing tool.'

CABE, UK

2. Vision for Knox's open space

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This section explains how the Knox Open Space Plan will help deliver Vision 2025, the guiding vision for our City. It summarises important city-wide changes, looks at the Vision 2025 framework and proposes a vision and strategic directions for open space.

Drivers for change

Cities today are changing rapidly. For the first time in history more people live in cities than in rural areas. Our cities are growing, producing and consuming at an unprecedented rate. Melbourne is considered one of the most liveable cities in the world but is not immune to these global drivers of change. Knox is no exception and needs to respond to both local and global changes: climate change, peak oil dependence, available agricultural land, loss of biodiversity, urbanisation and demographic changes.

Knox aims to be a sustainable city. Resilience – that is the ability to adapt, respond and rebound in the face of expected and unpredictable changes – will become increasingly important.

Our open spaces support our well-being. They are the places where people can meet and gather, enjoy active recreation and leisure activities, learn and experience

arts and culture. Our open spaces are equally vital for our environment: providing habitat and helping create our 'green and leafy' city landscapes.

Open space is a platform for sustainable living. To do this, it needs to be able to respond to four key changes that are affecting Knox:

Our population is changing: Knox continues to attract new residents and our community is ageing; both these changes mean more and a greater diversity of types of housing will be needed, which may effect the way open space is used.

Community aspirations are changing: people want to be more involved in making decisions about their local area and community.

Work and leisure is changing: changes in the nature and location of work, the increase in part-time and casual employment, and changing technologies are affecting our patterns of work and leisure. Open space needs to be available to us at home and at work.

Natural systems are at risk: with the environment under increasing pressure from the effects of climate change and urbanisation, our open space network will need to play a stronger role in sustaining natural systems.



Open space is increasingly multi-functional: each part of the open space network already serves many purposes: it provides public infrastructure (e.g. drainage), supports natural systems, creates a platform for economic activity and offers places for leisure; in the future these will include demonstrating new ways of managing water, energy and waste, producing food, providing walking and cycling links.

These drivers are considered further under each of the nine lenses in Section 4.

A vision for Knox

Vision 2025

Vision 2025 describes our community and Council's long-term vision for the future of Knox. It was originally developed in 2003, and updated in 2006 and 2010 to ensure it remains relevant and focused on current community priorities.

Our vision for Knox is for a sustainable city.

Knox City Council and the community: a partnership in progress; creating a safe, healthy and connected community with high quality services, transport options, facilities and culturally rich experiences; committed to protecting our green, leafy neighbourhoods and natural environment; and enhancing economic sustainability for future generations (Vision 2025).

This shared vision is premised on the belief that we can positively shape our future through the concerted efforts and joint commitment of individuals, organisations, businesses and governments.

Vision 2025 will directly influence the decisions and actions of the City of Knox so as to move us towards a

sustainable future for our city. Vision 2025 focuses on seven key themes:

1. Healthy, connected communities
2. Culturally rich and active communities
3. Dynamic services and facilities
4. Accessible transport choices
5. Sustainable natural environment
6. Attractive and vibrant places
7. A prosperous modern economy

To help achieve Vision 2025, three key strategies have been developed to guide the City of Knox. These are:

- Social: Community Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Environment: Sustainable Environment Strategy
- Economy: Economic Development Strategy

Vision 2025 is also reflected in Council Plan and the Municipal Strategic Statement. The Appendix provides a short introduction to the purpose and content of each of these documents.

A vision for open space

Knox Open Space Plan (2012-2022) is part of delivering Vision 2025. The vision for Knox open space is:

Knox open space will be sustainable, attractive and green. It will provide for a diversity of leisure activities, and enable people to enjoy nature, engage with others, learn and play. Our open space network will be well-connected and accessible.

Put simply, this means:

- Share our open spaces
- Nurture our natural places
- Activate community use
- Plan for great open spaces

Knox Open Space Plan 2012-2022 turns this vision into tangible outcomes through the four strategic directions (below) and then, in Section 3, through a vision, goal and approaches for each of the nine lenses to create a holistic approach to the complex task of open space planning.

The strategic directions outline open space innovations that respond to the drivers for change in Knox. These are:

Strategic Direction 1: Create healthy creek corridors that people love

Healthy creek corridors that people love means focusing on our major creek and drainage lines to improve biodiversity, habitat, and water quality, and to create a network of well-designed shared paths linking key places and offering enjoyable experiences.

Open space innovations

- Rehabilitate our creek corridors holistically, involving the community and other stakeholders.
- Enhance and revegetate creek corridors, plant more indigenous shade trees and vegetation – especially near hard surfaces.
- Encourage the community to plant local shade trees and plants in their gardens to extend the habitat links provided by our creek corridors.
- Protect our creek corridors as the lungs of the city.
- Invest in infrastructure that will support increased use and enjoyment of creek corridors: for example, drinking fountains, benches and shade trees.
- Develop and innovate 'green infrastructure' in creek corridor open spaces.

Strategic Direction 2: Activate community hubs

Activating community hubs means bringing together services, infrastructure and activities at key locations – community hubs – and activating the interface between buildings, open space and other infrastructure.

Open space innovations

- Encourage a diversity of open space activities so as to increase usage at all times of the day.
- Broaden the variety of open spaces – for example, more plazas and urban squares – suited to new styles of living and types of housing.
- Accommodate new technologies such as wi-fi access and interactive forms of communication.
- Develop community hubs as a focus for a range of indoor and outdoor community activities, with good connections to shared paths and links to other key community destinations and facilities.

Strategic Direction 3: Empower the community to be stewards of open spaces

Empower the community to become stewards of open space means developing a framework through which Council will engage with the community, and listen to and work with them in improving local, neighbourhood and municipal open spaces.

Open space innovations

- Promote play as an activity for all ages, encouraging people to be active outside.
- Use open space as links to encourage people to walk and cycle to work and the shops.
- Enable the community to take an active role in their open spaces, driving sustainable projects.
- Invest in infrastructure to encourage activity: drinking fountains, benches, and facilities for informal group activities such as bocce and outdoor gym equipment.
- Provide access for all.
- Promote and develop Knox's open spaces as a venue for cultural community activities such as events, food, and public and community art.

Strategic Direction 4: Engender a network of sustainable open spaces

Engender a network of sustainable spaces means valuing the variety of spaces found in Knox and recognising their value as a network of diverse and connected spaces that support a range of activities and the city's economy. This network of open spaces will provide opportunities for new sustainable infrastructure such as local energy production, community education and engagement in sustainability activities.

Open space innovations

- Retain water in our open space areas, and capture, reuse, and recycle it. Install passive water treatment systems such as Water Sensitive Urban Design.
- Seek ways that open space can support sustainable transport options.
- Value open space for its role in countering the 'urban heat island effect'.
- Plant fruit trees in our open spaces and streets, foster community gardens and explore other local-scale productive uses in our open spaces. Invest in local treatment of sewage where water and waste products are recycled locally.
- Create multi-sector partnerships between the community, commercial and industrial sectors, Council, authorities and institutions to broaden and connect the network of open spaces.
- Protect and invest in our open spaces and enable them to produce ecosystem services.
- Invest in local means of production and reduce our consumption of energy, water, etc.

3. Knox's open spaces – a spatial framework for Knox

Knox's open spaces are a vital asset for the community. Open space provides habitat, links people to places, creates spaces for meeting, places to feel healthy and exercise. Open spaces are drainage corridors, shared trails, opportunities for coffee, art and recreation. Open space includes urban plazas and squares.

Streets are an important part of Knox's public open space and are discussed in detail in the Draft Liveable Streets Plan.

Put simply, the sum of the parts is greater than the whole.

Moving from the community's aspirations expressed in Vision 2025 to the actual creation, management and maintenance of an area of open space is a complex task, requiring careful planning and the involvement of many parts of the whole Knox City Council organisation.

This section describes a framework of open space types that guide Council in the assessment, planning and management of open spaces.

Types of open space

Knox's open spaces can be categorised into five major types:

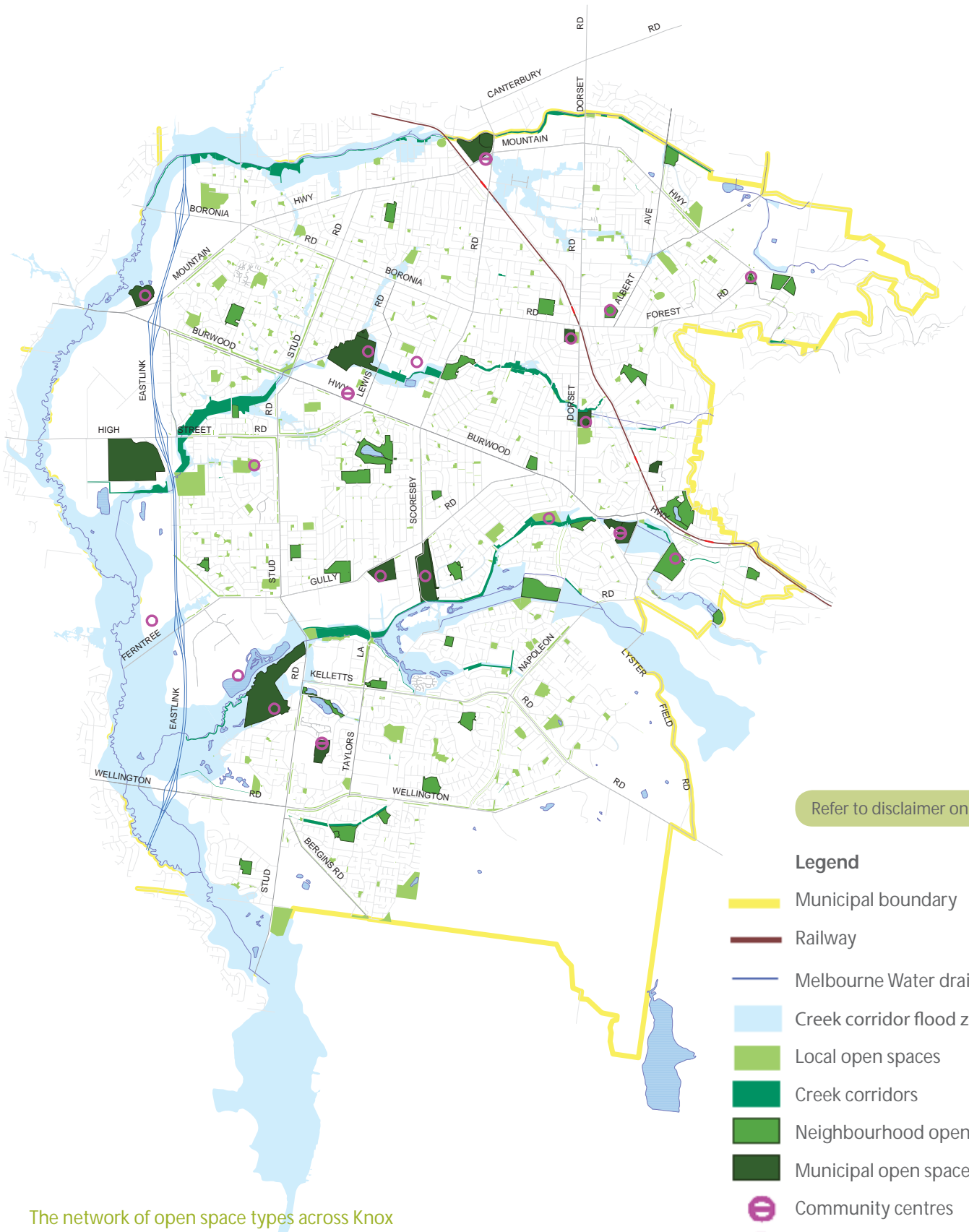
- **Municipal**
- **Neighbourhood**
- **Local**
- **Creek corridors, and**
- **Community hubs.**

Each type of open space plays a specific role in the overall open space network, supporting particular activities and uses.

It also should be noted that Council's Sporting Reserve and Facilities Guidelines Policy identifies that Council's active sporting reserves are defined into four classifications:

- Regional
- Local
- Municipal
- School

These classifications reflect the standard of competition and accompanying provision of supporting infrastructure. Consequently there are examples where a reserve may be classified in a different category from an active and passive perspective.



Refer to disclaimer on page 5.

Legend

-  Municipal boundary
-  Railway
-  Melbourne Water drainage
-  Creek corridor flood zones
-  Local open spaces
-  Creek corridors
-  Neighbourhood open spaces
-  Municipal open spaces
-  Community centres
-  Community hubs

The network of open space types across Knox

This map illustrates the network of Knox's open spaces. It shows the distribution of open space types – municipal, neighbourhood and local – together with community hubs and creek corridors. Open spaces, roads and drainage are part of the wider creek system.

Municipal open space

Definition

Municipal open spaces are defined primarily by their relationship to an activity centre, their unique character or unique function of the space. Generally, they accommodate a large number of people and can be considered a destination that people would travel from across the municipality or beyond to visit. Municipal open spaces have a place based relationship.

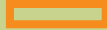



Example: Marie Wallace Park, Bayswater

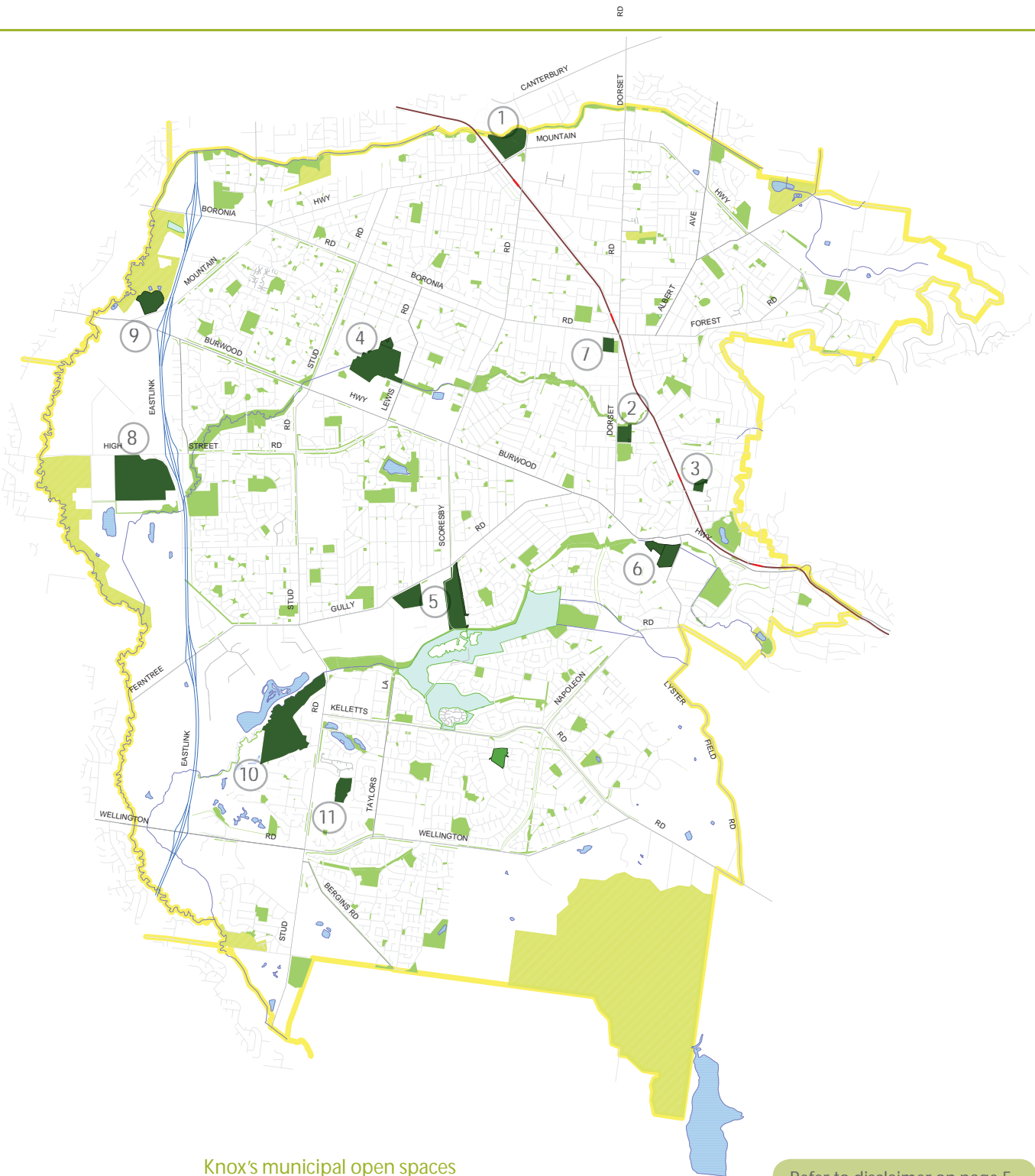


Marie Wallace (Bayswater Park) is a municipal type of open space because of its:

- Relationship to Bayswater Town Centre
- Proximity to Bayswater Train Station
- Connection to a shared path
- Location on two major roads
- Facilities – for example, two large ovals
- Significant play space
- Significant vegetation
- Connection to community facilities

Legend

-  Town Centre
-  Train Station
-  Shared path
-  Play space



Knox's municipal open spaces

Refer to disclaimer on page 5.

- ① • Marie Wallace Park (Bayswater Park)
- ② • Tim Neville Arboretum
- ③ • Ferntree Gully Cemetery
- ④ • Lewis Park
- ⑤ • Gilbert Park and Knox Park (considered together)
- ⑥ • Wally Tew Reserve (Ferntree Gully Reserve)
- ⑦ • Boronia Park
- ⑧ • Eastern Recreation Precinct (to be completed)
- ⑨ • Wantirna Reserve
- ⑩ • Stamford Park
- ⑪ • Stud Park Reserve

Legend

- Municipal boundary
- Railway
- Knox open spaces
- Knox owned - not maintained open space
- Municipal open space
- Regional open space - Parks Victoria

Neighbourhood open space

Definition

Neighbourhood open spaces are large parks that are used by a suburb-scale catchment. They can accommodate multiple users and types of activities. They should have some special features unique to the suburb. These open spaces have place based relationship involving immediate family, neighbours and friends.

Example: Kent Park, Ferntree Gully

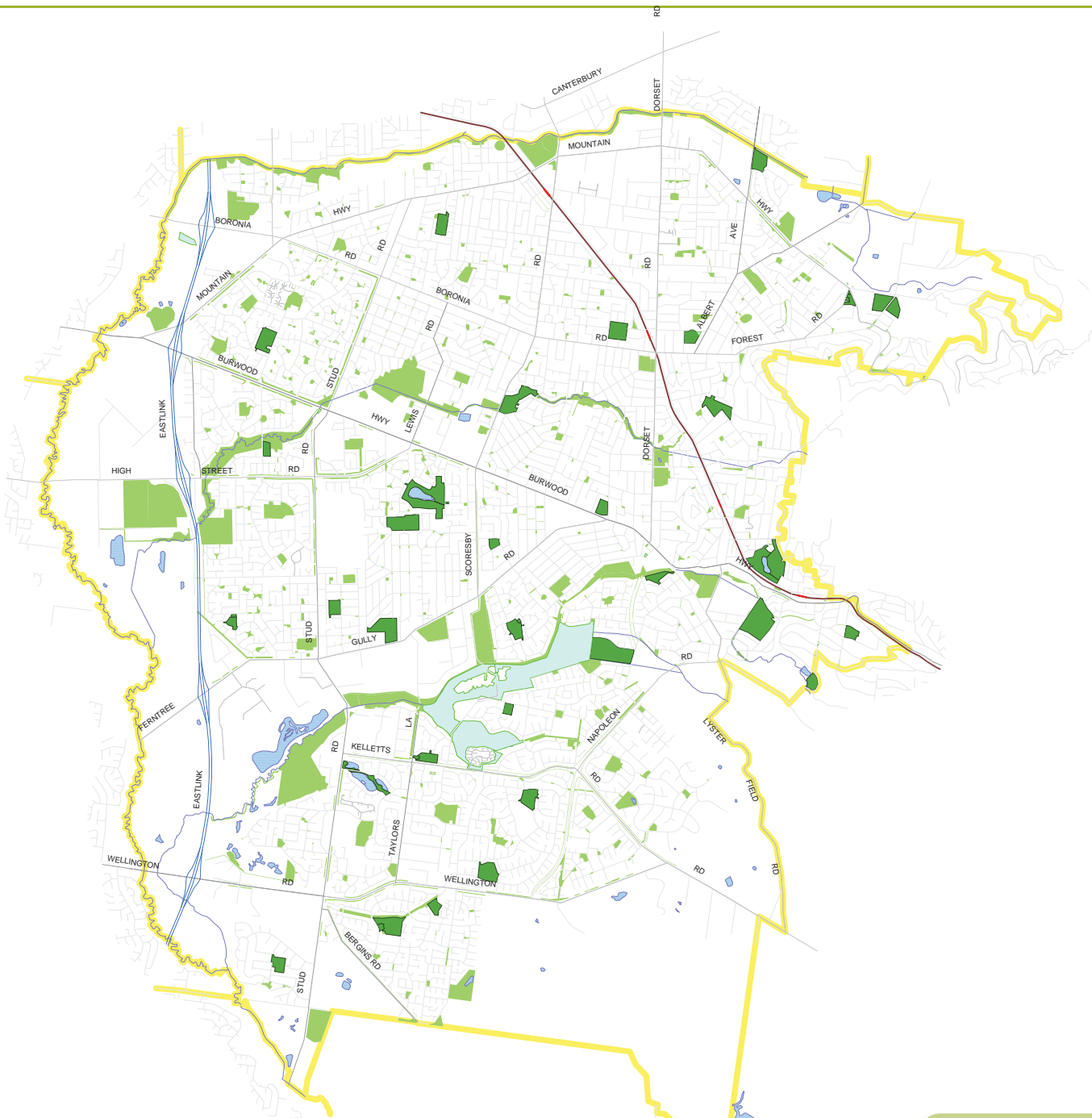


Kent Park: Is a neighbourhood open space because of its:

- Location on a busy road
- Accommodation of multiple user groups
- Accommodate of a range of activity types
- Significant play space
- Proximity to local shops
- Special character

Neighbourhood open spaces

- Liverpool Road Retarding Basin
- Wicks Reserve
- The Basin Triangle
- Old Joes Creek Retarding Basin
- Colchester Park
- Chandler Park
- Koolunga Reserve
- Tormore Reserve
- Guy Turner Reserve








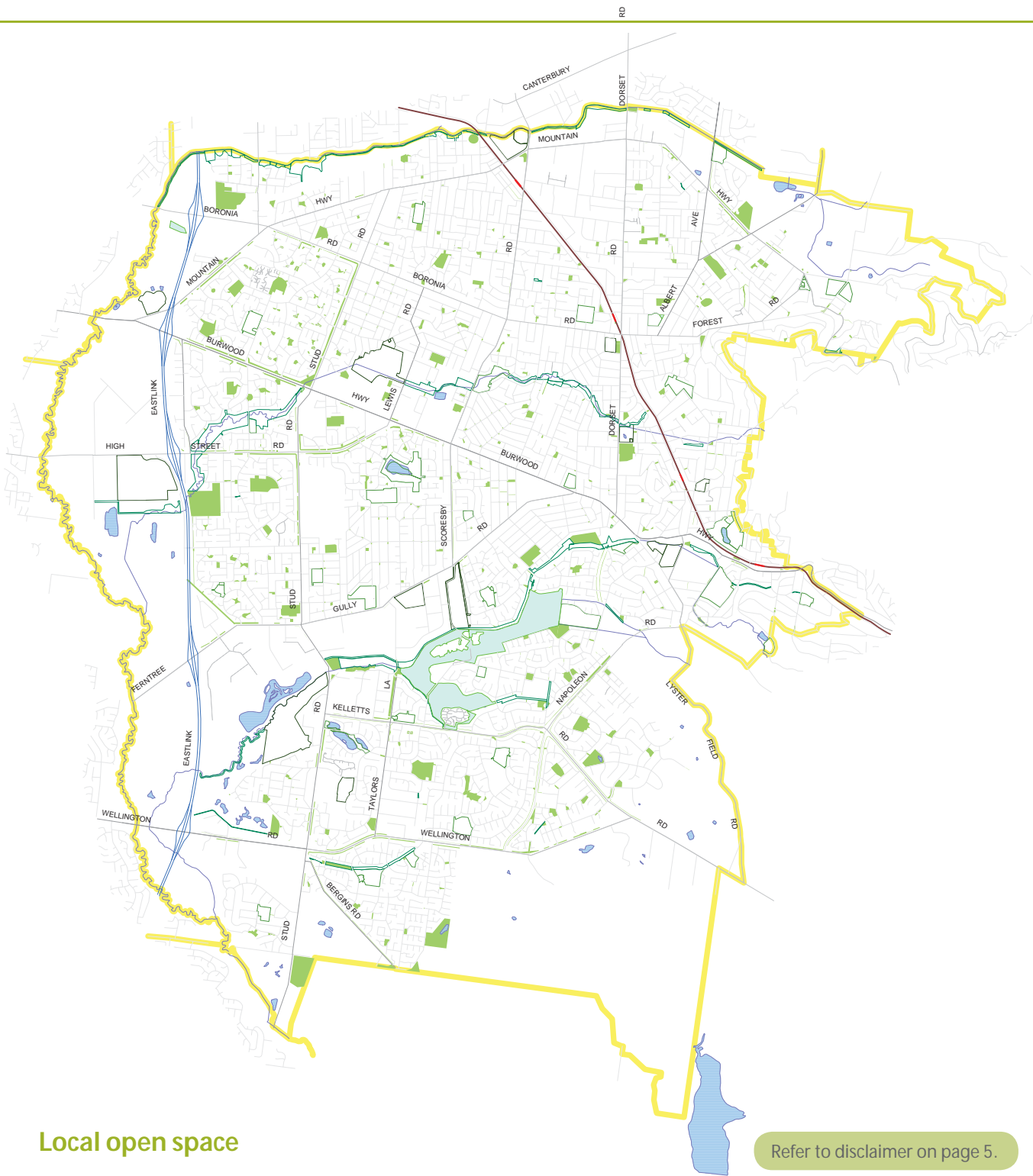
Knox's neighbourhood open spaces

Refer to disclaimer on page 5.

- Redcourt Reserve
- Benedict Reserve
- Kent Park
- Lakewood Reserve
- Carrington Park
- Glenfern Park
- Koolamara Waters
- Karoo Park
- Windermere Reserve
- Pickett Reserve
- Greenbank Retarding Basin
- Hillside Park
- Sutton and Hill Lake
- Kings Park
- Quarry Park
- Talaskia Reserve
- Gilmore Park
- Starlight Reserve
- Liberty Avenue Reserve
- Emerson Reserve
- Peregrine reserve
- Pine Hill Reserve
- Egan Lee
- Fair Park
- Jenola Reserve
- Templeton Reserve
- Park Ridge
- Ferntree Gully Square

Legend

-  Municipal boundary
-  Railway
-  Knox open spaces
-  Knox owned - not maintained open space
-  Neighbourhood open space



Refer to disclaimer on page 5.

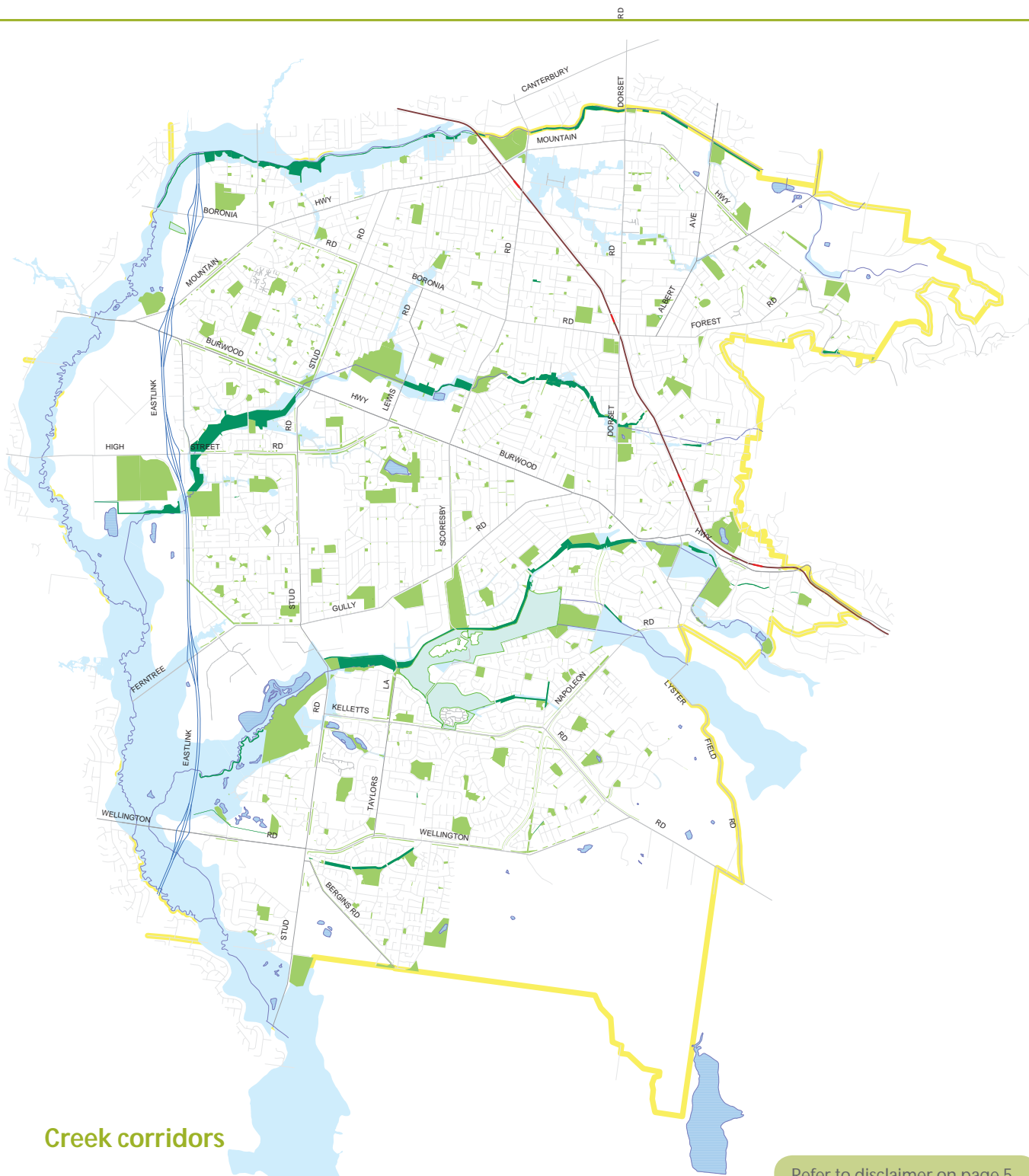
Local open space

Definition

Local open space serves the local neighbourhood. Local open spaces can be a range of sizes. Generally, local open space is designed to accommodate a maximum of 3 groups. These open spaces have a place based relationship that may involve immediate family and neighbours.

Legend

- Municipal boundary
- Railway
- Knox owned - not maintained open space
- Local open space
- Creek corridors
- Neighbourhood open space
- Municipal open space



Creek corridors

Definition

Creek corridors can provide a continuous network of linking open spaces for movement and destinations for flora, fauna, water and people. Open space along creek corridors can serve a variety of functions: they provide key links through trails and circuits, and may provide municipal, neighbourhood and local open spaces. Over time, creek corridors can be extended to include drainage and swale lines that are currently underground or have no paths or vegetation.

Refer to disclaimer on page 5.

Legend

- Municipal boundary
- Railway
- Knox open spaces
- Knox owned - not maintained open space
- Creek corridors
- Creek corridor flood zones

Community hubs

Definition

Community hubs can be created in any type of open space, and house multiple users and multiple activity types. The kind of space can be in any form such as grassy parkland or paved urban spaces. Community hubs should have the ability to host community meetings, community events and community programs in open space. Connections to shared path and bicycle networks are strongly recommended. Connections with a building are desired. A sense of place will develop as people develop stewardship of the place. Community hubs must respect the overall role or function of the open space whether it be municipal, neighbourhood or local. As the city changes community hubs will become more important to the community. Urban community hubs such as Ferntree Gully Square is an example of an important space that is at the heart of the community. Any future development should include these public open spaces in the form of promenades, piazzas and squares. For open spaces identified, refer to the Activity centres section in the appendix.

Example: The Basin Triangle



The Basin Triangle is an example of a community hub as it is:

- Located in an neighbourhood activity centre
- Is adjacent to main roads
- Encompasses multiple community uses including festivals and events
- Is in close proximity to community facilities



Knox's community hubs

Refer to disclaimer on page 5.

- ① • Marie Wallace Bayswater Park/ Bayswater
- ② • The Basin Triangle
- ③ • Lewis Park/Knox Central
- ④ • Chandler Park
- ⑤ • Gilmore Park and Knox Park (precinct)
- ⑥ • Community gardens (Multiple locations)
- ⑦ • Lakewood Reserve
- ⑧ • Braeburn/Wellington Village
- ⑨ • Boronia Park/Dorset Square
- ⑩ • Ferntree Gully Square
- ⑪ • Rowville Community Centre
- ⑫ • Alchester Village

Legend

- Municipal boundary
- Railway
- Knox open spaces
- Knox owned - not maintained open space
- Community centres
- Community hubs
- Urban community hubs

Stakeholders perspectives of open space

Across the city, there are other landholders, authorities and stakeholders who care for open space and contribute to our public open space network.

The three major landholders play an important role in open space provision: Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and VicRoads. Each operates under state government legislation and policies.

Melbourne Water's principal open space responsibility is to provide safe and healthy waterways and to control major drainage and flooding. Their management is generally confined to the waterway itself up to the top of the banks in creek corridors and drainage lines, and to the perimeter of retarding basins.

Parks Victoria manage land primarily for recreational and conservation purposes. The majority of their landholdings are located along the Eastlink corridor. They manage a series of highly significant wetlands, shared path networks, Chesterfield Farm and Jells Park, a regional destination in the adjoining City of Monash. Parks Victoria also manages land on the south-eastern and eastern perimeters of the municipality including Churchill National Park, Lysterfield Lake Park, Dandenong Police Paddocks Reserve and Dandenong Ranges National Park.

VicRoads manages major road infrastructure and safety is a key focus. In Knox, VicRoads either manages or controls roadside vegetation and designated road easements. There are also highly significant tracts of vegetation along Council-managed roads.

Living Links is a large-scale environmental improvement program in Melbourne's South East. It is a collaborative project involving municipal councils, government agencies and community organisations. Living Links aims to build collaboration so as to establish a world-class ecosystem in the urbanised and industrialised landscapes between the coast of Port Phillip Bay and the foothills of the Dandenong's. The municipality of Knox occupies a large part of the study area, including Dandenong Creek, Corhanwarrabul Creek and Blind Creek catchments. The Living Links Master Plan will become an important consideration in open space planning in Knox (CMA, 2011).

For the development industry, open space can be a major driver of land values and demand if it contributes significantly towards a lifestyle message that is underpinning sales momentum. This is particularly true in the residential market, but can also be a factor in industrial and commercial real estate transactions.

Knox Council also leases land to groups for different purposes including golfing, horse agistment and to schools.

In order to realise the above drivers the timing of the delivery of open space is a critical factor in creating these place based outcomes. However balancing the issues of timely delivery, quality and finish standards that meet with the communities aspiration and Council's capability, are key factors to a mutually beneficial approach to open space and new development.

JW Manson Reserve owned and Managed By Maroondah City Council



Refer to disclaimer on page 5.

Legend

-  Municipal boundary
-  Railway
-  VicRoads vegetation corridors
-  Melbourne Water drainage
-  Knox open spaces
-  Knox open spaces managed by others
-  Accessible government land
-  Melbourne Water retarding basins

Major government landholders and managers in Knox

This map illustrates the wider open space network available to the community. Knox's spaces are complimented by Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, VicRoads and other agencies that manage land that is open for use to the community.

provision of open space

In the *Knox Open Space Plan 2004-2014* eighteen areas were identified as being under provided for in terms of access to open space. The benchmark used is a maximum distance of 500m between a residential property and an open space. This benchmark is employed across Australia as a good practice guide.

Of the areas identified, five were in industrial areas and one was in a rural area. Three residential areas have subsequently gained access to open space ('informal recreation facilities') through the development of new reserves.

This Plan recognises that most industrial areas are underserved by passive open space and/or have barriers such as fences that limit access. This Plan recommends that partnerships between private landholders are investigated to provide access to open space for workers.

There are nine areas shown on this Plan where provision of open spaces needs to be addressed:

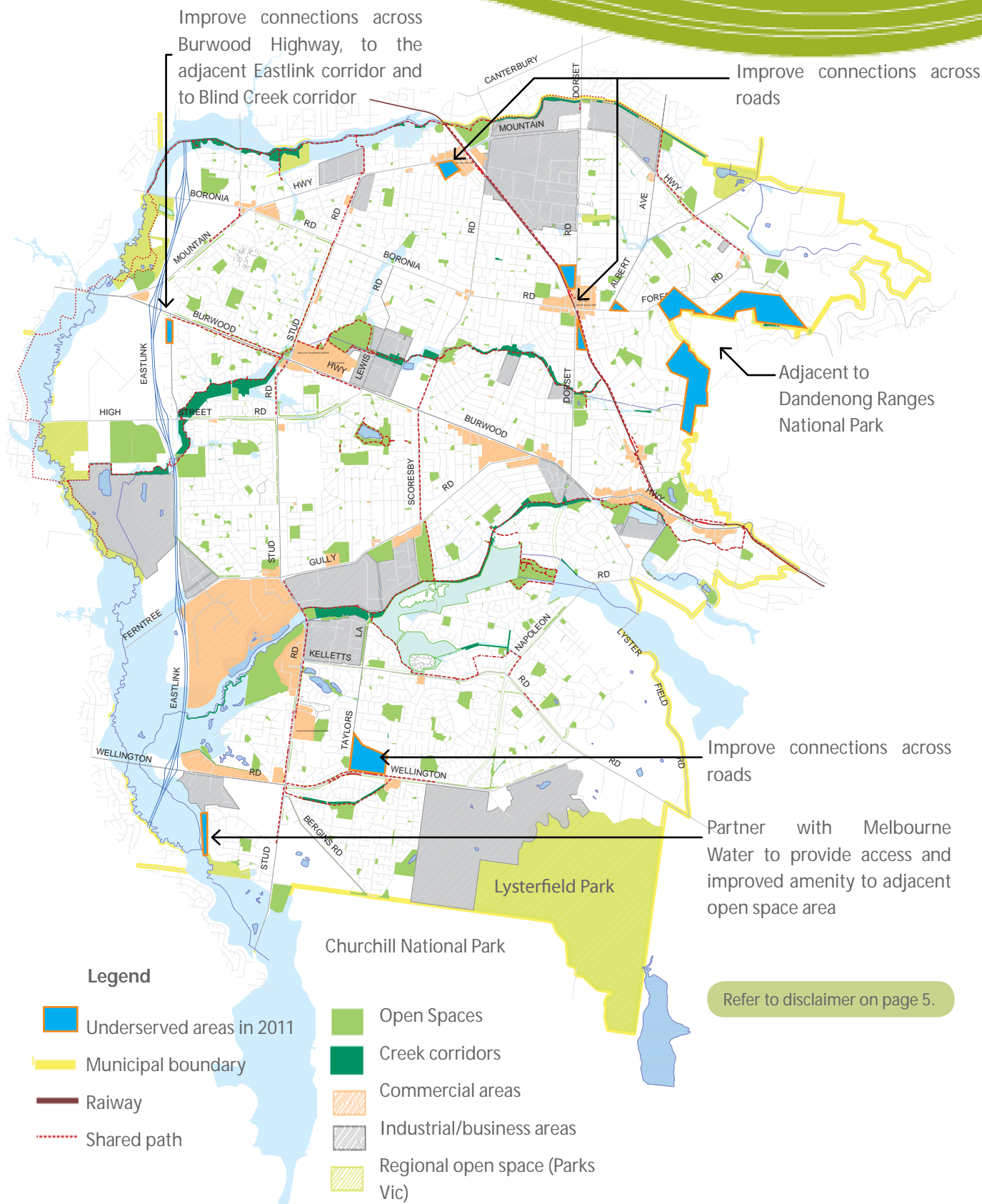
- In four of these areas, access to open space is restricted by barriers such as main roads and railway lines. These barriers can be overcome by better pedestrian crossings;

- Two of these areas have access to open space regional open space along Dandenong Creek and Eastlink, however the quality of the amenity may need to be improved; and
- Three areas are adjacent to the Dandenong Ranges National Park just outside of the municipal boundary.

Open Space provision in areas of change will be addressed in individual structure plans and urban design frameworks. It is worth noting that the existing open space provision in these areas may be deemed as adequate to accommodate change, given the potential to improve the functionality of these open spaces through better design and management. However this potential to accommodate change is dependent on the level of change proposed.

Provision of open spaces across Knox and relationship to commercial and industrial areas

The map over shows the proximity of open spaces within different areas of the municipality. It is important to consider the types of open spaces needed in different areas, such as industrial areas, and how these spaces contribute to the health of the overall network. Open spaces are shown together with shared paths to demonstrate sustainable transport accessibility.



Refer to disclaimer on page 5.