

Open Space Plan 2016-2026



Melton
City
Council



February 2016





3.2 Open space provision

Current open space provision

Melton City Council's open space network includes approximately 300 open spaces as well as large areas of land for environmental and stormwater management purposes. Across the City, there is more than 1,000 hectares of Council-managed open space. From environmental areas, sporting grounds and recreation parklands to small local parks and creek-side linear open space opportunities, the open space network is an essential element in delivering and enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors.

City-wide open space supply

An assessment of the existing supply of open space has been undertaken for the City as a basis for beginning to assess future demand. This assessment is based on the '2015' population and the existing supply of open space across the City. The open space network has been broken down into core and non-core open space. This split helps to show those types of open space that can be planned for (and may be sought through a precinct structure plan (PSP)) - referred to as *core*, and the other open spaces that, while they provide a valuable benefit to the community, are not necessarily central to the active and passive recreation needs of the City of Melton's residents and visitors - referred to as *non-core*. The core open spaces are the focus of the Open Space Plan.

Classification framework

The open space classification framework is an agreed system that allocates open space, based on land and activity use within the City. Various open space types possess different values, functions and settings. Open space can be assessed in terms of its existing and likely future function (classification) and its role (hierarchy) within that function. The classification system is detailed in the table below.

Table 2. Open space classification framework

Core function and purpose	Classification	Hierarchy	Description
Passive recreation <i>Provides a setting for informal play and physical activity, relaxation and social interaction</i>	Passive recreation open space	<input type="checkbox"/> Local (core) <input type="checkbox"/> District (core) <input type="checkbox"/> Regional (core)	Provide a range of passive recreation activities in a predominately informal setting. The sites can also contribute to the amenity and environmental values of the City
		<input type="checkbox"/> Linear ¹ (non-core)	Long and narrow interconnected open space that can contain natural creek lines and associated riparian vegetation. Linear reserves can also play an important secondary role providing cycle and pedestrian pathways, and values consistent with other open space categories
Active recreation <i>Provides a setting for formal structured sporting activities</i>	Active recreation open space	<input type="checkbox"/> District (core) <input type="checkbox"/> Regional (core)	Sites predominately used for active or competitive recreation including grassed or synthetic playing fields and courts
		<input type="checkbox"/> Specialised active (non-core) ²	Open space provided for sporting activities where the nature of the sport precludes the easy transfer of use to an alternative sport, or the nature of the activity precludes free, unrestricted access to members of the public, or where the land and facility requirements result in provision of high level provision of sport (e.g. large stadia)
Environmental protection <i>Provides a setting where biodiversity is the primary purpose of the reserve</i>	Environmental open space	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental ¹ (non-core)	Reserves that contain biodiversity features of local, regional, state or federal significance. As the primary use of the open space is for environmental protection, the area is likely to be significantly encumbered and may preclude unrestricted public access. The reserve may provide a natural backdrop to a neighbourhood and/or recreation opportunities as a secondary function

1 The development of environmental and linear open space is generally not a planned approach. Rather, the specific land characteristics dictate that open space parcels should be developed or preserved in a particular manner. It is noted that whilst encumbered land is required for other purposes (i.e. drainage), it can have a significant recreation and amenity benefit to the community and should be recognised as such (yet not substituted for unencumbered open space).

2 Specialised active sport is not considered core open space as the nature of the sport precludes the easy transfer of use to an alternative sport; or the nature of the activity precludes free, unrestricted access to members of the public; or where the land and facility requirements result in high level provision of sport (e.g. stadia).

