

PRECINCT G: UPWEY AND TECOMA

Description

Upwey and surrounds is mainly residential, with some rural areas. This precinct includes the localities of Tecoma, Upper Ferntree Gully and Upwey. Major open spaces include Glen Fern Valley Bushlands, Upwey Recreation Reserve and Upwey South Reserve.

What population changes will affect the need for open space and recreation facilities?

The residential population of Upwey and surrounds is 9 779 people, based on the 2011 Census data. The population has declined marginally since the 1990s as a result of little change in dwelling stock and a decline in average household size.

Analysis of the age structure of Upwey and surrounds in 2011, compared with Yarra Ranges as a whole, shows a similar proportion of people in the younger age groups (0 to 17) but a smaller proportion of people in the older age groups (60+).

Increases in age cohorts since 2001 were recorded in the age groups 18 to 24 years (an additional 48 people) 50 to 59 years (additional 243 people) and 60 to 69 years (an additional 152 people). These statistics show an ageing population and it is expected that the older adult age group (60+) will increase, and that the number of people under 15 years of age will decrease in the future.

The precinct's ageing population will place greater demand on accessible recreation opportunities and facilities in the future.

What future housing developments are planned?

There is continued demand for residential development within Yarra Ranges, catering both for people moving from Melbourne and for households being formed from within the existing population of Yarra Ranges.

The current population for the precinct is 9 779 (Yarra Ranges Community Profile 2011). The projected population in 2031 is 10 000.

There are plans for a modest increase in housing density for the Upwey and Tecoma precinct.

What open space do we have?

There is more than 62.9ha of open space in the precinct. Parks Victoria owns and manages the natural bushland areas, while Council owns and manages the recreation reserves.

Key sports reserves and facilities

Upwey Recreation Reserve consists of Gillies Oval, a senior-sized sports field, pavilion, a bowls facility and tennis facility. The reserve is located adjacent the Thompson Recreation Reserve. Each reserve provides a district sports facility for the precinct.

Thompson Recreation Reserve consists of a sports field and a number of other sporting facilities on education land including cricket practice nets, outdoor fitness station and netball courts. The reserve is located adjacent the Upwey Recreation Reserve with both reserves providing a district sports reserve for the precinct.

Upwey South Recreation Reserve is a local sport and social recreation reserve with tennis facility, basketball and netball courts, play space and picnic facilities.

Upwey Skate Park is located behind the main street beside Girls Guides and the Anglers Club.

Sherbrooke Archers club occupies part of Glenfern Bushland Reserve to conduct archery competitions.

Social recreation parks

The local sports reserves provide social recreation activities including play spaces and picnic facilities.

Trails

Off-road trails are provided in Dandenong Ranges National Park and the conservation reserves.

Flora and fauna conservation reserves

Dandenong Ranges National Park covers 3215ha of significant bushland and is a major attraction to Yarra Ranges. The park is located north of Upwey and plays an important role in protecting a population of lyrebirds and other fauna, as well as protecting the forests and fern gullies of the Ranges. There are bushland trails for walking, mountain biking and horse riding, nature appreciation activities and lookouts.

Glen Fern Valley Bushlands provides opportunities for relaxation, bushwalking and nature appreciation in a varied bushland environment ranging from riparian forest and wetlands along Ferny Creek to woodlands and grasslands on the slopes.

Is our existing open space sufficient?

The quality and distribution of open space in the precinct is relatively good. Only a couple of residential areas lie beyond the recommended range of 500m to open space.

Open space takes the form of natural bushland. A range of sporting reserves, outdoor courts and community parks offer social recreation and relaxation opportunities.

“PARTNERSHIPS WITH PARKS VICTORIA AND OTHER OPEN SPACE MANAGERS MAY BE FOSTERED TO ENCOURAGE MORE NATURE-BASED TOURISM IN THE PRECINCT.”

Issues

There is a need to improve the quality of existing open space in the Upwey and surrounds precinct to provide diverse recreation opportunities.

The undulating topography and accessibility of the precinct is a barrier to recreation participation. It is therefore important to connect open spaces with the main streets of townships, and with education institutions, with safe on- and off-road trails.

The Burwood Hwy is considered a barrier to accessing open spaces in Upwey and surrounds.

Opportunities

Consideration should be given to improving access to the open space available in this precinct, particularly to residential properties which fall outside a 500-metre radius from open space.

It may be possible to develop a shared use facility at Upwey and Thompson Recreation Reserve to serve local sports users, Upwey High School and broader Upwey community.

Partnerships with local sports clubs and schools may be available to manage the use of existing sports facilities and promote the connection of young people to local sport and recreation.

Partnerships with Parks Victoria and other open space managers may be fostered to encourage more nature-based tourism in the precinct.

PRECINCT G - ACTIONS

Council is acting to realise its planned development projects for the precinct in the following ways.

Implementing the Hike and Bike Strategy

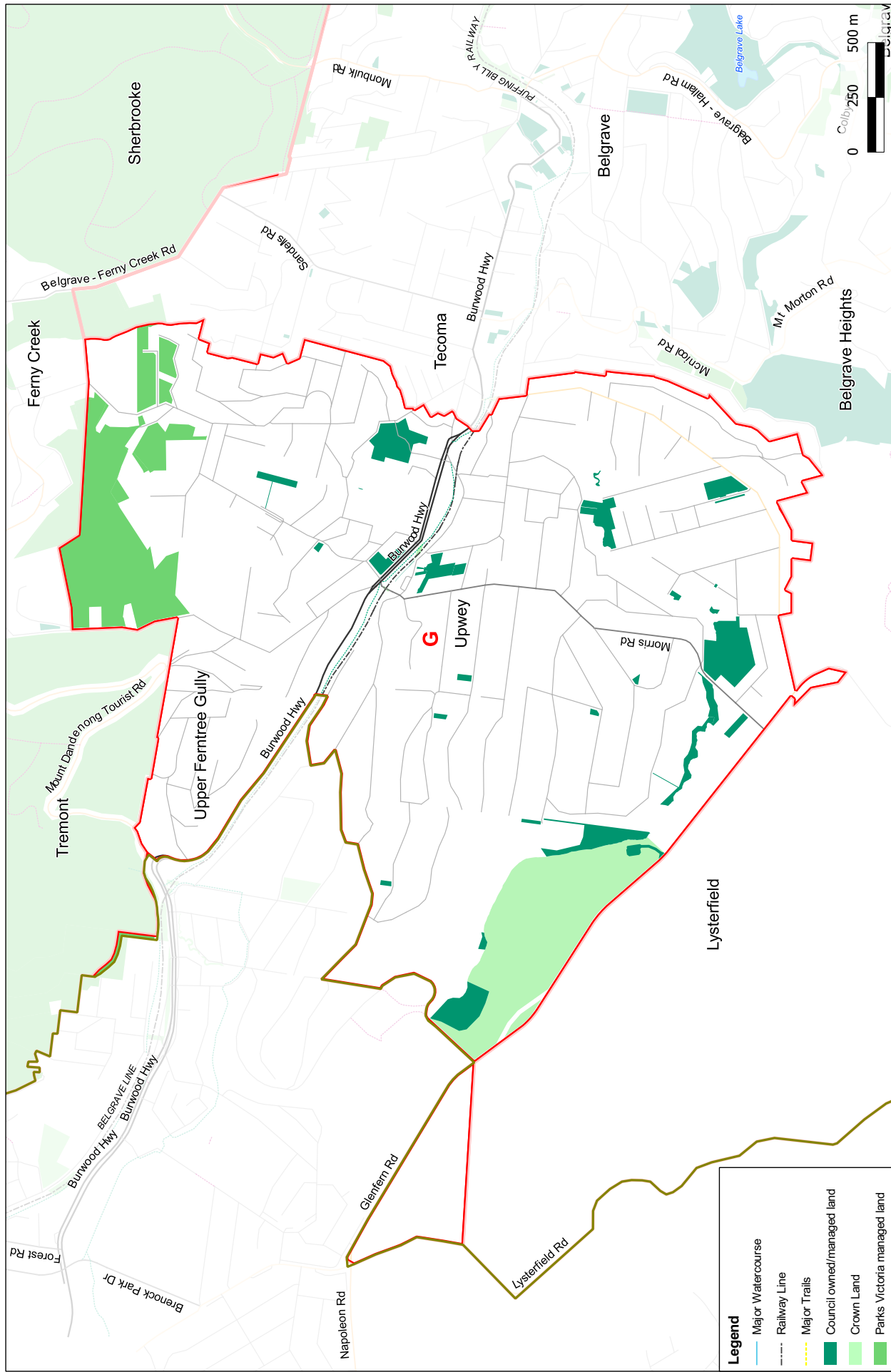
- Upwey: creation of walking trails and footpaths.
- Bicycle lanes: construction.
- Road shoulders: sealing.

Developing facilities at Upwey Recreation Reserve

- Pavilion: Develop a business case for new community sports pavilion at the Reserve.
- Gillies Oval: upgrade to main sports field and lighting.

Other planned actions

- Social recreation parks: exploration of acquisition of land for local in areas underserved, and investigation of options for surplus open space in areas oversupplied.
- Social recreation parks: improvements to quality and diversity of recreation opportunities.
- Upwey High School: development of the partnership to jointly use the school's sports reserves and facilities.
- Parks Victoria and other open space managers: exploration of partnerships to investigate nature-based tourism in the precinct.



Map scale: 1:15000 @ A3
 Map last updated: 12/08/2013
 Datum: GDA94 MGA Zone 55
 Job reference: HD101781



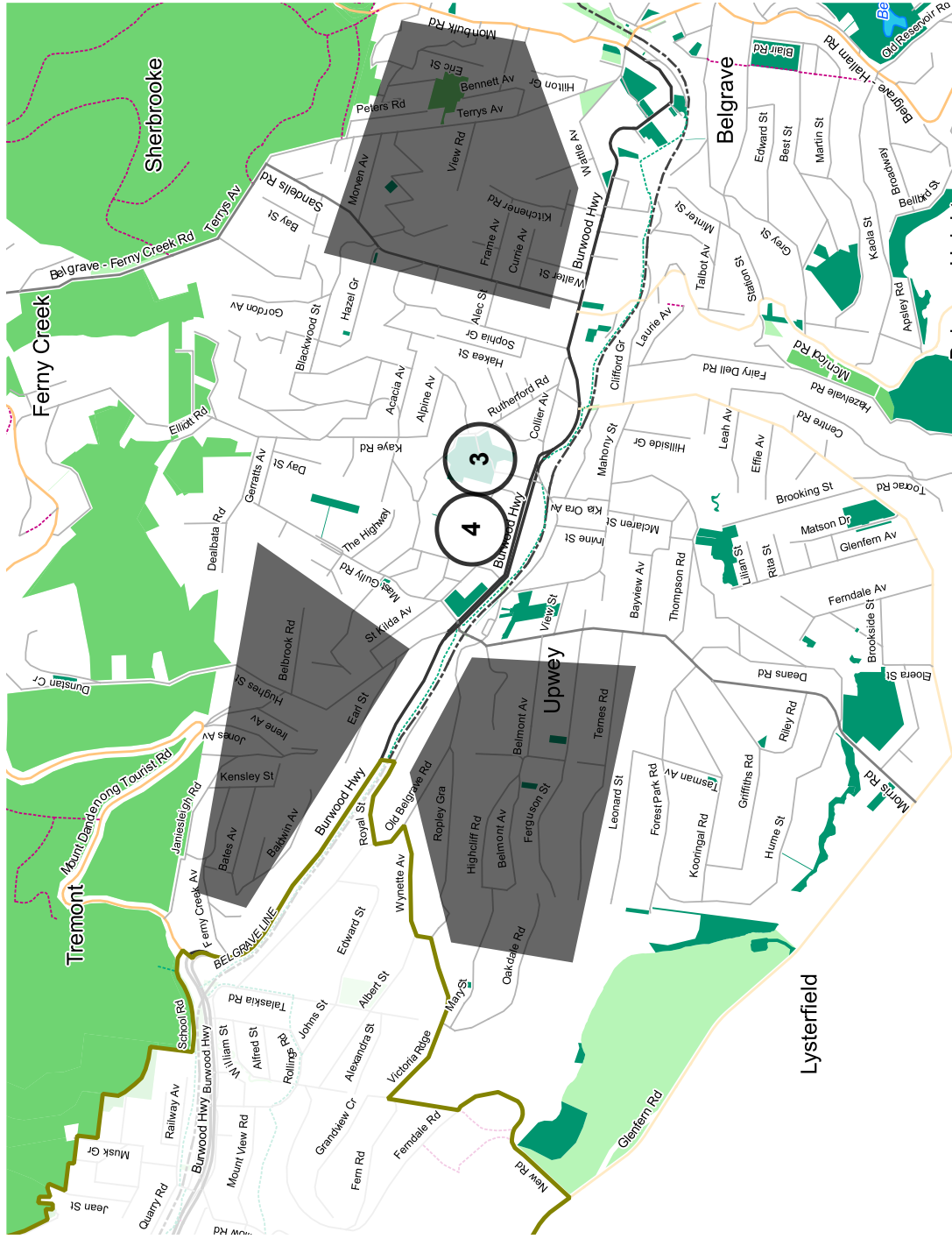
RECREATION OPEN SPACE STRATEGY PRECINCT G

Legend	
	Major Watercourse
	Railway Line
	Major Trails
	Council owned/managed land
	Crown Land
	Parks Victoria managed land
	Lake/Reservoir
	Precinct Boundary
	Yarra Ranges LGA Boundary

RECREATION OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Recommendations

1. Create walking trails in Upwey.
2. Create bicycle lanes.
3. Develop facilities at Upwey Recreation Reserve.
4. Continue to develop partnership with Upwey High School for joint use of school's sports reserves and facilities.
5. Improve the quality and diversity of recreation opportunities at neighbourhood parks.
6. Explore partnerships with Parks Victoria and other open space managers investigating nature-based recreation and tourism activities.
7. Explore acquisition of land for local open space in areas with undersupply and options for surplus open space in areas oversupplied.



Precinct G Recommendations
Upwey

Key

Proposed trail

Area under-served by public open space

