

OPEN SPACE

GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL FACT SHEET

The challenge: Open space shortages

Glen Eira faces a critical shortage of open space. As one of metropolitan Melbourne's most densely populated municipalities, our community has less open space per person than any other in the region.

Rapid population growth, urban development, and changing community needs are intensifying demand for parks, gardens, and recreational areas. Without urgent investment, Glen Eira risks falling further behind in providing the green, accessible spaces essential for health, wellbeing, and liveability.

Our advocacy priorities

1. Deliver new open space in Elsternwick:

Seeking \$10 million to transform the Elsternwick Club site into a vibrant, inclusive public space, or \$5 million to convert the heritage home into accessible community facilities.

2. Transform Mackie Road Reserve: Seeking \$5.85 million to revitalise this key Bentleigh East reserve, including an all-abilities playspace, expanded green areas, and improved accessibility.

3. Create new parks in growth areas: Complete the Ames Avenue/Rosstown open space in Carnegie (\$3 million ask) and deliver Porter Road Park in Bentleigh (\$2 million ask) to address critical gaps.

4. Upgrade existing facilities: Progress the Glen Huntly Park Pavilion upgrade (\$500,000 ask) to promote fair access and strengthen community sport.

5. Enhance connectivity and access: Invest in projects like the Elsternwick Green Link (\$150,000 ask) and Murrumbeena pedestrian crossing (\$350,000 ask) to improve access to open space and active transport.

6. Expand and implement the *Urban Forest Strategy*: Seeking \$550,000 to increase urban tree canopy, boost biodiversity, and support climate resilience.

Policy outcomes sought

- Stronger planning frameworks that mandate inclusion of open space in high-density developments.

- State and Federal policies that prioritise equitable access to open space in urban growth areas.
- Integration of climate resilience and biodiversity requirements into planning and design standards.
- Adoption of inclusive and accessible design principles for all public open spaces.
- Sustainable funding models for councils to acquire land and deliver open space infrastructure.
- Formal collaboration mechanisms between State, Federal, and local governments to align open space planning and investment.
- Policy support for urban greening initiatives, including tree canopy targets and biodiversity corridors.



Why government partnership is essential

Local government cannot meet the growing demand for open space alone. Glen Eira City Council is committed to delivering our community and ensuring equitable access to open space, but State and Federal support is vital to:

- Fund land acquisition, design, and construction of new parks and green spaces.
- Ensure equitable access to open space for all residents, especially in high-density and rapidly growing areas.
- Deliver infrastructure that supports population growth, community wellbeing, and climate resilience.
- Leverage local investment and community engagement to maximise the impact of every dollar spent.

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Community impact

Investment in open space improves health, wellbeing, and social connection for all residents. Quality parks and green spaces encourage active lifestyles, support mental health, and provide vital places for community gathering and recreation. Expanding and enhancing open space will ensure Glen Eira remains a liveable, resilient, and attractive place for current and future generations.

Key data and context

- **Critical shortage:** Glen Eira has the least open space per person in metropolitan Melbourne, making access to parks and green areas a pressing issue for residents.
- **Population growth:** With Glen Eira's population expected to grow by 30,000 by 2036, demand for open space will continue to intensify.
- **Urban density:** Carnegie, for example, is projected to grow by 22 per cent by 2031, with most new residents living in high-density housing and limited access to private outdoor space.
- **Limited green space in activity centres:** Elsternwick's activity centre has just one public green space, highlighting the need for new parks in key locations.
- **Local investment:** Council has already invested millions in land acquisition and design to secure and create new open spaces, but further support is needed to deliver these projects and meet community needs.



New open space in Ames Ave, Carnegie.



Playground upgrades at Mackie Road Reserve.

Council contacts

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