21.08 SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

21.08-1 Overview of Key Issues - Social and Physical Infrastructure

The Key Social and Physical Infrastructure Issues for Moonee Valley are:

Physical Infrastructure

A lack of investment in key infrastructure (such as roads and drainage) could in time adversely affect the City’s competitive position. In a climate of increased road congestion, rising fuel costs and limited investment in infrastructure, the pressure is on local, state and federal governments to sustain growth and maintain high employment levels. In most instances this requires substantial investment in associated infrastructure.

Community Infrastructure

Council has prepared a ‘Community Wellbeing Strategy’ which aims to improve the health and wellbeing of all people who live, work and recreate in Moonee Valley. This requires planning and action to reduce the impacts caused by issues including low income levels, poor housing options and language barriers. Improving the health of the community requires:

- At a personal level, people having the skills, commitment and resources to take action for their own health and that of their families.
- At a local community level, effective strategies to connect neighbourhoods and to support families and individuals including the most vulnerable and least able through an integrated targeted approach.
- At a municipal level, effective planning, coordination and delivery of care and service.
- At a state and national level effective policy, initiatives and resource distribution to secure the health and wellbeing of the whole community.

Open Space and Recreation

There is an increasing range of sporting opportunities available to the community and, therefore, a greater demand to participate in a wider range of sporting pursuits. Some more traditional sporting clubs now have small and/or declining memberships and there is increasing pressure for sporting clubs to organise alternative uses and activities so that they remain financially competitive. Sporting clubs in public parks are becoming more commercial and include liquor licences and longer trading hours which creates land use tensions.

Major recreational and cultural facilitates are concentrated in the southern part of the City, with fewer resources in the northern/western part of the City. There is need to provide and encourage participation in both structured and unstructured activities. There is a general lack of resources to build any major new facilities or effectively maintain existing facilities. Changes to the way open space is used can impact on surrounding residential properties. There is need to preserve, manage and maintain open space areas for safety, aesthetic and conservation reasons and for future generations.

21.08-2 Objectives & Strategies – Physical Infrastructure

Objective

- To ensure that the infrastructure system is able to accommodate new development.
Strategies

- Continue to invest in public infrastructure at the local level to improve and maintain the City’s competitive advantages which will support business and employment growth.
- Review infrastructure provision (e.g., utilities, telecommunication) and identify gaps in provision and develop priority plans for projects.

21.08-3 Objectives & Strategies – Community Infrastructure

Objective

- To provide access to community facilities.

Strategies

- Enhance community life through effective service delivery and the creation of community centres.
- Develop community life and local identity in the planning for all activity centres.
- Develop flexible multi-purpose and adaptable facilities which could incorporate a range of commercial and community uses instead of stand alone or specialist facilities.

Objective

- To minimise the impact of community facilities on their surrounding areas.

Strategies

- Consider the amenity of surrounding residential areas when assessing the expansion or creation of a community facility.

21.08-4 Strategies – Open Space and Recreation

Objective

- To significantly enhance open space areas.

Strategies

- Improve the City’s recreation and open space areas, particularly the infrastructure (pavilions, playing areas).
- Ensure recreation resources reflect the changing recreation preferences of the community, particularly community cultural activities and women’s sports and indoor recreational pursuits.
- Support the use of recreation facilities and public open space for recreation and community activities provided they do not impose significant off-site impacts such as traffic, lighting, hours of operation and noise.

Objective

- To increase and enhance areas of value for flora and fauna.
Strategies

- Complete the development of continuous linear pathways to function as trails for movement and to provide wildlife biodiversity corridors along the three major watercourses within the City (the Maribyrnong River, Steele Creek and Moonee Ponds Creek) in partnership with adjoining municipalities.

21.08-5 Implementation – Social and Physical Infrastructure

- Apply PUZ 1 to water courses and Public Park and Recreation Zone to adjoining parkland.
- Apply the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay, Environmentally Significant Overlay and Heritage Overlay in appropriate locations.
- Apply Incorporated Plan Overlay 1 to the area covered by the Lower Maribyrnong River Concept Plan and Moonee Ponds Creek Concept Plan.

21.08-6 Further Strategic Work

- Prepare Development Contributions Plan
- Investigate Multi Use of Sporting Facilities
- Monitor and review Schools Master Plans
- Develop Community Services and Facilities Plan

21.08-7 Reference Documents

- Asset Management Strategy
- Recreation Plan (June 2007)
- Community Engagement Framework Implementation Plan 2007
- Conservation Strategy 1997
Social and Physical Infrastructure Plan