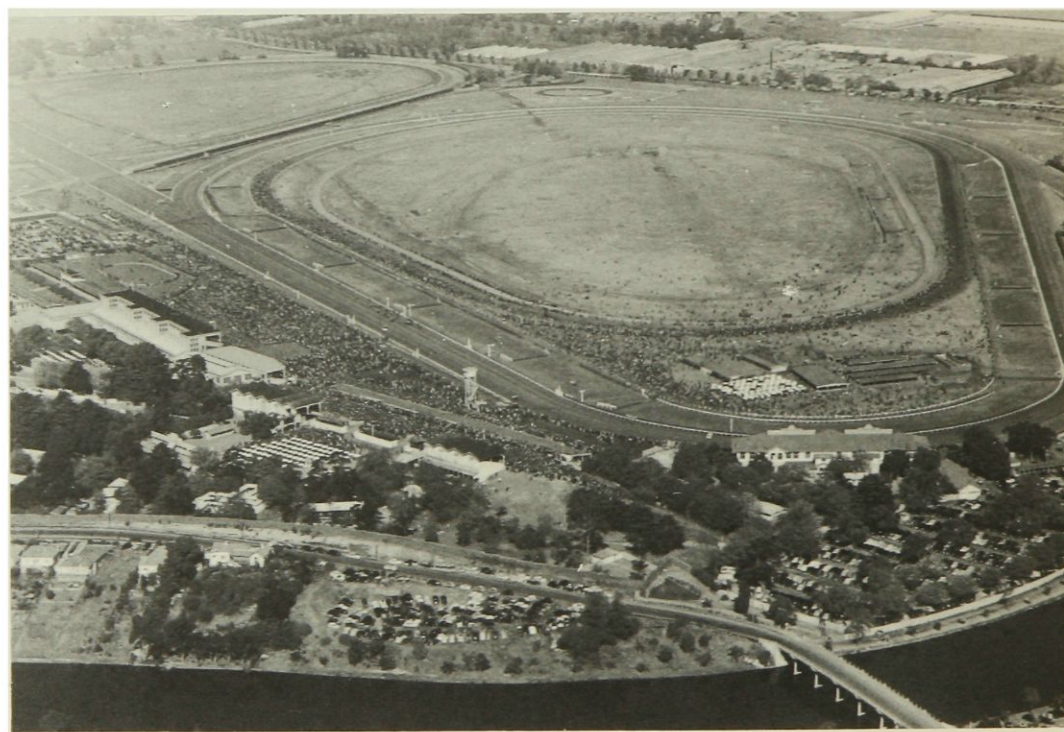


Tennis courts at Kooyong



Flemington Race Course



Princes Park, Carlton

PLAYING FIELDS AND SPORTS ARENAS

The excess in the central district is insufficient to offset the deficiencies in the neighbouring municipalities surrounding it. The excess in the eastern district is largely caused by the Yarra Bend National Park (185 acres) in the municipality of Heidelberg which is also used by several surrounding municipalities. Although there is an excess shown in the western district this area includes a considerable number of partially developed reserves. The deficiency in the northern district is partially but not fully offset by the excess in adjoining suburbs. The excess in the outer suburbs is largely due to the number of partially developed reserves.

In general, then, it can be seen that with the exception of the western district there is a deficiency of playing field space in many of the closer settled municipalities which is partially offset by the large parks in the inner suburbs and the partially developed reserves in some of the outer suburbs. There are, however, a number of reserves suitable for playing fields which are held or proposed to be acquired by municipalities which, if developed, would be adequate to satisfy the present needs. These areas total some 1,100 acres, including 363 acres in the north, 67 in the west, 223 in the southern and 436 in the east.

Estimate of Future Needs for Playing Fields

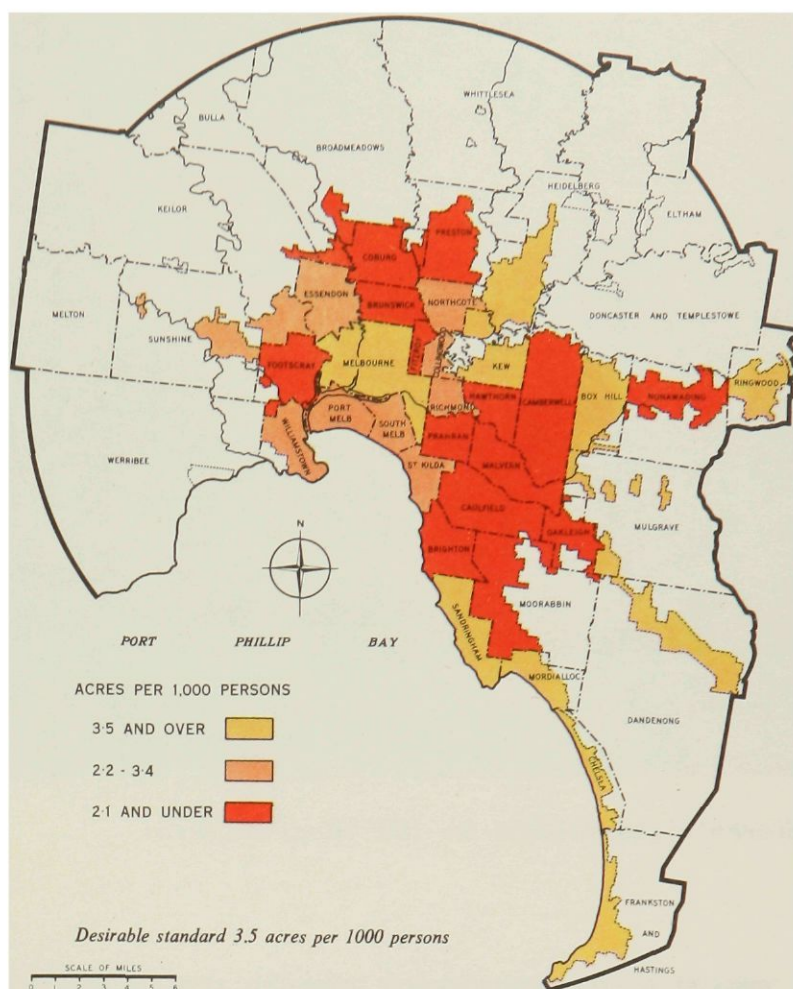
Field Sports (excluding golf and racing): At the standard of four acres per 1,000 persons to cover the overall requirements of all outdoor field sports, including tennis but excluding golf and racing, a future population of 2,500,000 would require some 10,000 acres. The present total area used for this purpose amounts to about 5,000 acres including sports areas under five acres. This leaves an additional 5,000 acres to be provided for the future population.

Future Needs of Golf: The total acreage used by all existing golf courses within the metropolitan planning area is 5,700 acres, of which 856 acres are used by public courses and 4,844 by private golf courses. These facilities indicate an existing standard of 4.2 acres for each 1,000 people. It is difficult to estimate to what extent these facilities meet existing needs, but in view of the deficiency of golf courses in the western and northern districts together with the fact that most private clubs have waiting lists for additional members it would seem reasonable to base future needs on

Table 79

COMPARISON BETWEEN GROSS AREA AVAILABLE AND STANDARD AREA REQUIRED FOR PRESENT NEEDS

District	Actual Gross Area	Gross Area Required	Excess or Deficiency
Central	933	780	+ 153
Western	486	327	+ 159
Northern	720	870	— 150
Eastern	1,099	789	+ 310
Southern	1,282	1,356	— 74
Total	4,520	4,122	+ 398



51 OPEN SPACE AVAILABLE FOR PARKS, GARDENS AND CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS

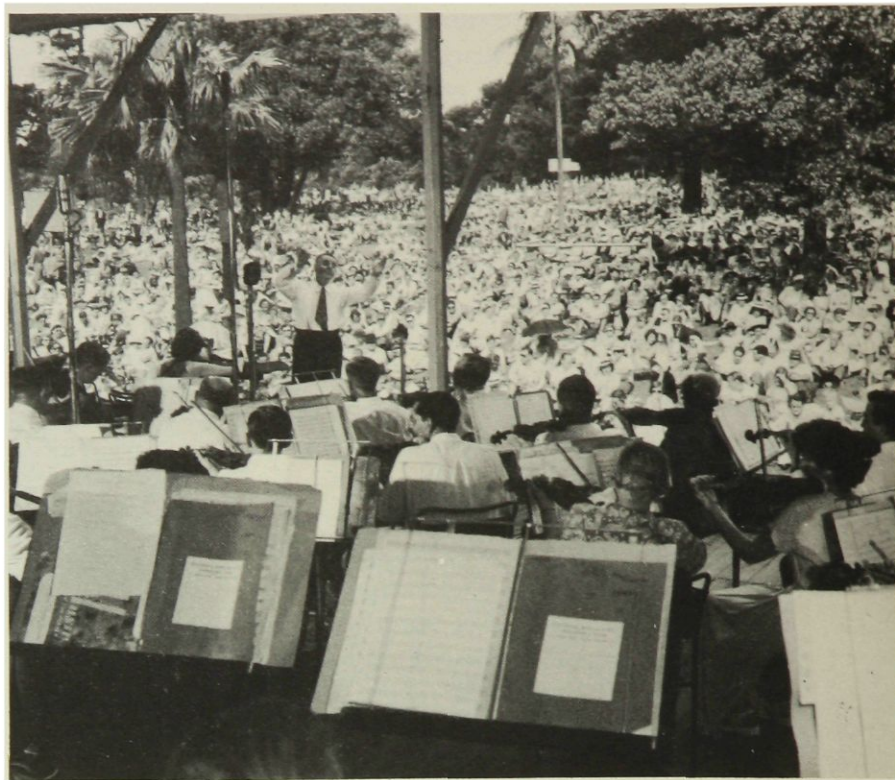
a minimum standard of four acres for each 1,000 persons. Based on this figure, a population of 2,500,000 would require 10,000 acres for golf courses. Assuming that the existing relationship between public and private courses remains, this would eventually involve an additional 3,550 acres for private courses and 750 acres for public courses, a total of 4,300 acres representing 35 to 40 additional courses.

PARKS AND GARDENS AND CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS

Parks and Gardens: Melbourne's inner parks and gardens have long been a feature of the city's beauty and character. The Botanic, Alexandra, Fitzroy, Exhibition and Flagstaff Gardens adjoin the city centre and are evidence of the wonderful foresight of the city's early planners. Melbourne's soil and climate are highly suitable for flowers and garden cultivation and the lovely public gardens developed over many years are among the city's best examples of civic development. Other fine gardens and public rest parks have been developed in the suburbs. The one possible deficiency with regard to the city centre is the absence of any open space within the 320 acres of the central business area. The great



A children's playground in the inner suburbs



"Music for the people"

mass of workers and shoppers using this area are thus deprived of convenient rest places.

The areas at present used exclusively for parks and gardens within the metropolitan area total 3,911 acres which is equal to 2.8 acres for each 1,000 persons. The most deficient areas are the western and northern suburbs, where the average standard is below two, while in the central, eastern and southern suburbs it is over three. Map 51 shows the relationship by municipalities.

Although the use of the central public gardens will no doubt increase with the population, the increased demand for active recreation and the increased mobility of the population, as a result of increased leisure time and rising living standards, may well result in a declining use in the future of purely passive recreation parks and gardens in the outer

areas. A standard of two acres for each 1,000 persons would appear adequate for estimating future needs.

Children's Playgrounds: There are at present a total of 273 children's playgrounds spread throughout the metropolitan planning area as shown in Table 80.

The public demand for properly supervised children's playgrounds has increased throughout most suburbs of Melbourne, although the greatest need for such playgrounds is in the congested inner areas where individual house allotments are small and school playing space inadequate.

Because of the close relationship of children's playgrounds with primary schools, it is necessary to consider the two together. It is desirable that playgrounds be located as near as possible to primary schools and in new areas they should adjoin such schools. In such instances it can be taken that a primary school site of five acres would include adequate space for a children's playground. In the old settled areas where most primary schools have insufficient space it is necessary to make separate provision for children's playgrounds and the Playgrounds Association considers this should be provided on a minimum standard of 1½ acres per 1,000 persons. Apart from being located near primary schools, the most desirable area for children's playgrounds is adjoining a public park or garden and it would seem necessary to provide for an additional proportion being located in public parks in many of the settled areas. The ideal size for a properly supervised children's playground is considered to be three acres.

Table 80
DISTRIBUTION OF CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS,
1952

Sector	Supervised Playgrounds	Un- supervised Playgrounds	Total Playgrounds	Playgrounds per 10,000 persons
Central	7	40	47	1.8
Western		27	27	2.4
Northern		56	56	2.0
Eastern	3	70	73	2.7
Southern	2	68	70	1.5
Total	12	261	273	2.0