



Erosion at Sandringham



A quiet corner in the Botanic Gardens

Standards: An overall standard of $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres for each 1,000 persons to provide for parks and gardens and children's playgrounds other than those covered by primary school sites of five acres, is thus considered reasonable for estimating overall future requirements. This would involve a total of 8,750 acres to provide for a population of 2,500,000. As the existing area amounts to approximately 4,000 acres, an additional 4,750 acres would need to be provided.

FORESHORES AND BEACHES

Within the metropolitan planning area there are 47 miles of foreshore, stretching around Port Phillip Bay from the south-western boundary to Mount Eliza in the south-east. In this length there are about 35 miles of beach, including 30 miles of almost continuous, good sandy beach along the east side of the Bay and some five miles of less attractive beach on the south-western side between Williamstown and Altona. The beach on the east side consists mainly of clean white sand and provides most of Melbourne's bayside recreation facilities. The beaches on the western side have a poorer quality, silty sand.

The use of beaches for swimming and other summer recreation, including yachting, boating and fishing, has increased considerably since the war years as a result of increased leisure time and the growing degree of car ownership. It is estimated that about 250,000 people visit the

beaches in the planning area on a peak day during the summer. Others use the bayside beaches further south around Port Phillip Bay or Western Port Bay.

It is evident that the use of beaches for recreation will continue to grow with the population, and that an increasing proportion of the future population will have to travel further south along the bayside to beaches outside the planning area. It has been estimated that each mile of beach will normally provide for approximately 5,000 people, although a considerably larger number are crowded into the more popular inner beaches on peak days. The principal deficiency is on the western side of the bay, where the available beach space is limited and generally less attractive than the beaches on the eastern side. The facilities in this area, however, could be considerably improved.

One of the chief problems in conserving beaches is erosion, which is constantly taking place and is causing many bayside municipalities considerable concern. In view of the increasing importance of Melbourne's beaches in the light of rapid population growth, it is imperative that all existing beaches should be protected from erosion and alienation in any form.

There is adequate beach space within a radius of 60 miles to provide for Melbourne's future needs, but there will be an increasing demand for space along the foreshore in the inner areas as the population increases, so that every effort should be made to improve and expand the existing facilities wherever possible.



Transport — the lifeblood of the community