Media Release

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Minister for Early Childhood & Pre-Prep
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DELIVERING BETTER OPEN SPACES FOR BURWOOD

The Andrews Labor Government is upgrading playgrounds and revitalising 52 parks and reserves across Melbourne, ensuring everyone has access to green open space.

Member for Ashwood Matt Fregon today visited Scott Grove Reserve in Burwood – the newest local park in Burwood – as part of the Government's \$315 million Suburban Parks Program.

In 2019 Whitehorse City Council purchased two residential properties on Scott Grove, which have now been transformed into a new public space for locals to enjoy.

The new park is home to a nature play area, fitness equipment and mature trees to provide more shade – giving families and visitors a great place to relax, unwind and spend time outside.

The Suburban Parks Program is delivering inclusive and all-abilities play spaces right across Melbourne, with up to \$300,000 in funding allocated to local councils to breathe new life into playgrounds and local parks.

There are already 36 revitalised local parks being enjoyed by communities, with works on the remaining five well underway.

To date, 87 new and upgraded open spaces have been delivered through the Suburban Parks Program, and there's more on the way thanks to a \$20.8 million investment in the *Victorian Budget 2023/24* for new and upgraded parks and playgrounds.

Once complete the Suburban Parks Program will create up to 6,500 hectares of new parkland, walking trails, bike trails, pocket parks and dog parks – the equivalent of more than 170 Royal Botanic Gardens.

For more information about the Suburban Parks Program, visit environment.vic.gov.au/suburban-parks.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Environment Ingrid Stitt

"It is so important that we make sure Melburnians have access to as much open green space as possible – so that they have a chance to exercise or simply enjoy the great outdoors."

"Whether its utilising the new outdoor fitness equipment or sitting in the shade, this funding will ensure visitors of all ages can enjoy Scott Grove Reserve."

Quote attributable to Member for Ashwood Matt Fregon

"We're supporting local councils to provide our communities with unique and inclusive playgrounds, and Scott Grove Park is a fantastic example of what can be achieved."

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