



CITY OF BELMONT

DRAFT Public Open Space Strategy

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PICTURE
PLACEHOLDER

Contents

Purpose	3
What is public open space?	4
Why is public open space important?	5
What types of public open spaces do we have?	6
How much public open space do we have?	7
What does our Community say?	8
What are our future needs?	9
How will we respond?	10
Our objectives	11
Implementation	18

Alternative Formats

This document is available on the City of Belmont website and can be requested in alternative formats including electronic format by email, in hardcopy both in large and standard print and in other formats as requested. For further information please contact the Parks, Leisure and Environment team on (08) 9477 7257.

For language assistance please contact TIS (Translating and Interpreting Service) on 131 450.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

“The City of Belmont acknowledges the Noongar Whadjuk people as the Traditional Owners of this land and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We further acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs, connection, and relationship with this land which continues today.

We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living within the City of Belmont.”

Purpose

This Public Open Space Strategy aims to provide a strategic framework to guide the provision of public open space within the City of Belmont (City), including new public open space development and the upgrade of our City's existing public open space.

With population growth and reducing lot sizes to facilitate a sustainable urban environment, public open space is a critical part of liveable urban environments supporting the health and vibrancy of our Community and our connection to our culture and heritage values.

This strategy includes regard for our future demographic needs and consideration of our climate and environmental challenges to help protect and enhance the opportunities of our unique riverside City.

Supporting this strategy is the *Public Open Space Strategy Part 2*, which contains more detail about the research, definitions, analysis, and recommendations.

What is public open space?

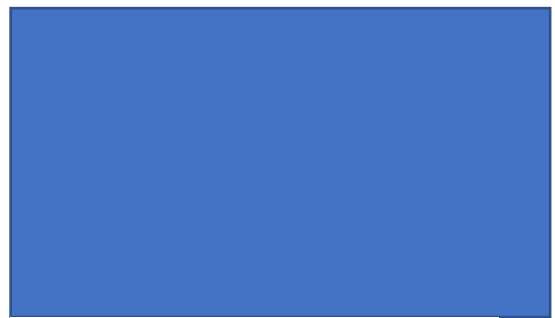
Public open space is generally described as land set aside for public enjoyment and protection of unique, environmental, social, and cultural values for existing and future generations.

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries 2012.

Public open space is officially recognised in Planning Schemes and reserved for 'Parks and Recreation' purposes. The intent is to retain these spaces for public access, sport, leisure activities (play and exercise), and recreation.

Traditionally, in the context of a public open space strategy, any park, sporting area, river walk, or open vegetated green space is considered public open space.

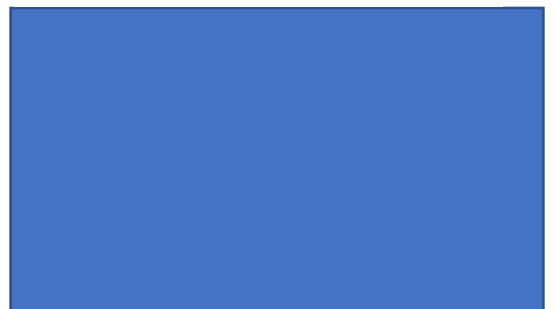
Today, access to and the useability of public open space has greater importance. Incorporating built elements to support community activity is growing in importance, as the demand for public open space and the requirement for this space to be flexible and meet diverse needs increases. Spaces that combine both green and built elements can often support our Community as much as traditional open green spaces like parks or ovals.



Public parks



Public gardens



Natural reserves



Sporting venues



Streetscapes

Why is public open space important?

Public open space is integral to the City's liveability.

Some of the City's public open space benefits are described below.

Physical health and wellbeing



Informal exercise and relaxation

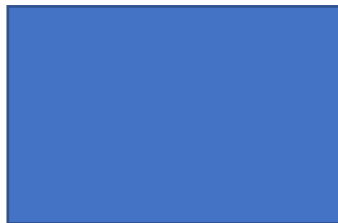


Participating in organised sport

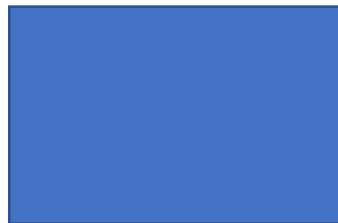


Children's physical development

Mental health and wellbeing



Mindfulness, relaxation,
unwinding

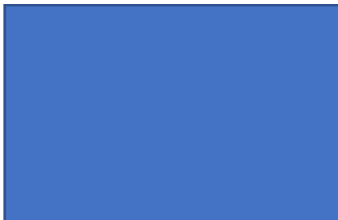


Socialising, belonging



Children's social and cognitive
development

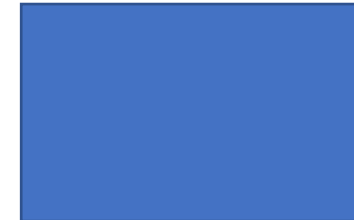
Cultural and historical connections



Whadjuk people's cultural heritage
and connection to Country



Post-European historical and cultural
heritage



Local identity

Social connectedness and creativity



Festivals and community events



Public performances



Public art displays

Protecting and enhancing our environment



Habitat for native fauna

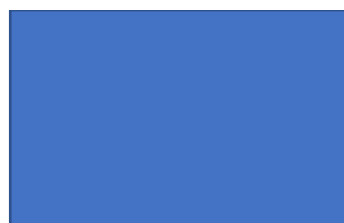


Conservation of native vegetation



Protection of eco-systems

Reduction of urban heat island effect



Tree canopies for shade and cooling



Open spaces where heat can radiate out at night



Creating cool spaces with permeable surfaces

What types of public open spaces do we have?

Public open space is divided into four main types based on their size and average walkable distances.

Classifying public open spaces is useful when assessing the accessibility and desired use for public open spaces. It helps ensure that public open spaces are accessible to all users.

	Type	Features
[Insert pictures]	Local Open Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Usually includes small parks about 0.4 to 1 hectare in sizeService residents who live nearby, usually within 400m or a 5-minute walk.
	Neighbourhood Open Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Usually includes parks about 1 to 5 hectares in sizeProvide recreational and social opportunities for residents who generally live within 800m or a 10-minute walk.
	District Open Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Usually includes spaces about 5 to 15 hectares in sizeMainly designed for organised sports and often has some recreational and nature areas includedResidents typically live within 2km or a 5-minute drive.
	Regional Open Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The spaces are usually larger than 20 hectaresUsually provide recreational, organised sports and natural spacesWalkable access is not essential as these spaces serve a regional area.

How much public open space do we have?

The City has a total of approximately 284 hectares of public open space.

The City's public open space is made up of:

- 94 hectares of recreational space - Neighbourhood Open Space
- 47 hectares of sporting space - Regional Open Space
- 117 hectares of nature space - District Open Space
- 26 hectares of other space used, for example, stormwater drainage.

The City covers a total area of approx. 4,000 hectares and is located 6 kilometres east of the CBD. The City includes the suburbs of Belmont, Cloverdale, Kewdale, Redcliffe (with a portion of Perth Airport), Rivervale and a small area of South Guildford.

Land uses within the City vary, and include residential, retail, commercial, industrial and mixed-use such as residential-commercial use. Public open space is officially recognised in Planning Schemes and reserved accordingly.

Public open space traditionally included parks, sporting areas, river walks, and open vegetated green spaces. As our population grows, we need to secure other opportunities to complement public open space, such as the enhancement of streetscapes and the integration of built elements with green spaces, to ensure our Community continues to enjoy the greater value of public open space.



Environment	309 Hectares of parks and gardens 9km Of waterway along the Swan River	58 Hectares at Ascot Racecourse 12.5% Tree canopy coverage (inclusive of Perth Airport)	5 Main storm water catchment drains 5 Sites containing locally significant vegetation
Location	6 Suburbs 40 Square kilometres	3 Wards (East, West, South) 7 Heritage Sites*	234 Kilometres of road 1 Museum

What does our Community say?

The City's green spaces are the most loved aspect of living in our City.

Strategic Community Planning Survey, Nov 2019.

Consistently, community surveys and workshops show that our Community values our public open space.

Since 2019, the following key surveys and workshops have been conducted:

- MARKYT® Community Scorecard 2019
- MARKYT® Community Scorecard 2021
- Strategic community planning consultation workshops, 2019
- Resident survey 2020 regarding the local planning scheme review.

The findings of these surveys support the importance of protecting and enhancing our public open space.

The 2021 MARKYT® Community Scorecard survey also indicated concern for the maintenance and enhancement of the Swan River foreshore.

Overall, our Community is keen to support the enhancement of streetscapes, trees and verges and the improvement of parks, playgrounds and reserves.

Community Feedback Summary

Based on the feedback received from our Community, our Community would appreciate and support:

- ✓ An increase in the provision of amenities, such as barbecues, picnic areas, water fountains and exercise equipment, within public open spaces
- ✓ An increase in trees and native vegetation within public open spaces and streetscapes
- ✓ Improved access to children's play areas and youth plazas
- ✓ Enhanced access to the Swan River foreshore
- ✓ Community engagement initiatives such as community gardens, markets and pocket parks within streetscape spaces
- ✓ Continuing with the installation of underground power to enhance streetscapes in a manner that complements public open space.

What are our future needs?

Demographic trend analysis is an essential aspect of planning public open space.

In 2020, the City's estimated population was 44,462. Our population is expected to grow to about 65,600 by 2041. Redcliffe and Rivervale expect the greatest increase in people following the completion of two significant development projects in the Springs around 2026 and longer-term growth within Development Area 6 surrounding Redcliffe Train Station.

The parents and homebuilders age group (35–49) is expected to increase the most over the next twenty years by approximately 70%. This age group will be closely followed by the young workforce (25–34), which is predicted to rise by 40%.

Increasing population density will likely reduce private open space, through a reduction in lot sizes and access to private backyards, which would put emphasis on the importance of quality public open space. The demand is also likely to change as pressure is put on high-use open spaces, creating a need for utilising non-traditional areas such as streetscapes and civic spaces.

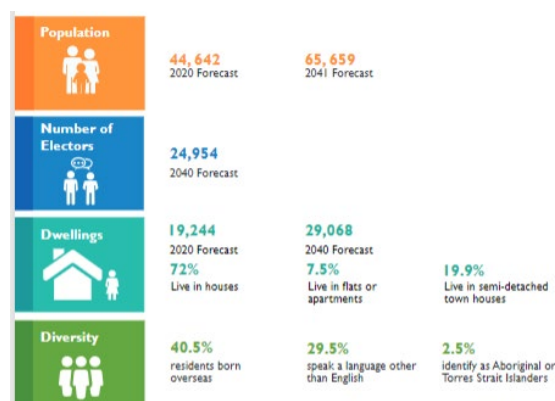
Beyond parks, playgrounds, sporting ovals and reserves, the integration of urban liveable spaces, streetscaping, community gardens and a range of other open spaces will be expected by modern communities.

The growth of more diverse open spaces will enrich the character of our City and better reflect the needs of our diverse communities.

Key Considerations

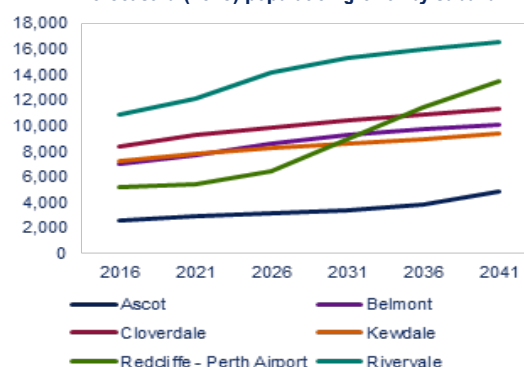
Based on the demographic analysis, it will be necessary for the City when making decisions to:

- ✓ Monitor and review on an ongoing basis that there is adequate public open space provision, particularly for Rivervale and Redcliffe
- ✓ Consider suitable public open space for the parents and homebuilders age group
- ✓ Continue to maintain a balance of services and amenities that suit all age groups
- ✓ Provide diverse open space types to reflect the needs of our diverse Community
- ✓ Enhance the connection between private and public space.



Infographic Source: 2020 – 2040 Strategic Community Plan

Forecast id (2018) population growth by suburb



How will we respond?

When responding to the needs of our Community, the City is guided by Local and State Government legislation, policy, and strategies.

Key State Government documents include:

- Plan for the Metropolitan Region Stephenson & Hepburn Report 1955
- Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS)
- The State Planning Strategy
- Western Australian Planning Commission - Liveable Neighbourhoods (2009)
- Department of Sport and Recreation - Classification Framework for Public Open Space (2012)
- Directions 2031 and Beyond (2010)
- Perth and Peel @ 3.5million (2018)
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage - Bush Forever (2000).

Guiding policy and strategies at the Local Government level include the City's:

- Local Planning Scheme
- Belmont On the Move (March 2017)
- Environment & Sustainability Policy and Strategy 2016-2021
- Reconciliation Action Plan 2015-2017
- Access and Inclusion Plan 2018-2021
- Age-Friendly Plan 2017-2021
- Asset Management Plans
- Community Infrastructure Plan
- Recreation Strategy.

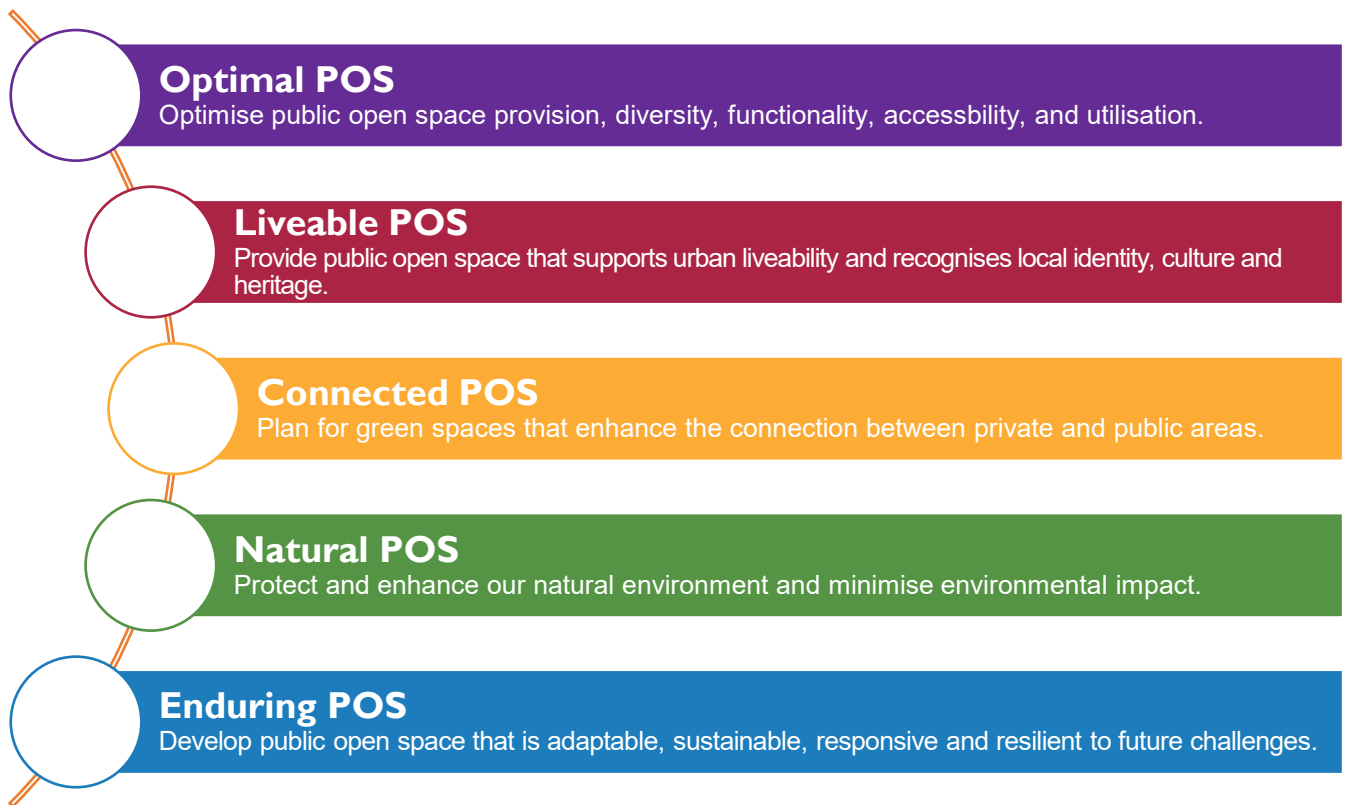
Principles

Based on the guiding legislation, policy and strategies, the City will adopt the following principles:

- ✓ Public open space in residential areas should aim for 10% of the gross subdivisible area
- ✓ Provide suitable alternatives or advanced enhancements for areas with less than 10% public open space
- ✓ Public open space should include a balanced mix of conservation, active, and passive recreational uses in a range of settings and locations
- ✓ Regional open space should include important recreation and organised sport, alongside significant conservation and/or environmental features
- ✓ Public open space should be accessible to all, connected, and sustainable while supporting art, heritage, and culture
- ✓ Public open space will be designed to be safe and incorporate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles
- ✓ Promote Anyone Can Play, creating play-based experiences for children regardless of ability
- ✓ Design age-friendly spaces to ensure the inclusion of all, regardless of age
- ✓ Encourage Green Space for All
- ✓ Promote the shared use of open space and integrate facilities and activities
- ✓ Encourage sustainable and environmentally friendly concepts and products when designing open space.

Our objectives

The City has developed five key objectives to help achieve a vibrant, desirable, and liveable City for all that demonstrate our care for and appreciation of our natural environment.



Objective 1

Optimal POS

Optimise public open space provision, diversity, functionality, accessibility, and utilisation.

The need to house a growing population can present a challenge in public open space provision that meets the diverse needs of the community. While one option is to increase the provision of public open space through land acquisition, this is not always possible.

Initiatives

How we will deliver our objective.

We will:

- Do more with what we have by increasing the level of service in existing public open space, where there is a shortfall of public open space (for areas with less than 10% public open space)
- Collaborate with the Water Corporation to convert or enhance existing water supply and drainage lands to become more accessible
- Investigate opportunities to co-locate and develop green spaces in activity centres, schools, and within high-density areas
- Actively engage with our Community when renewing or developing district and regional spaces and in areas where there is a shortfall of public open space
- Proactively manage issues related to over or underuse of ovals and sporting facilities
- Ensure new and upgraded public open space includes a strong focus on the Green Space for All and Anyone Can Play approaches
- Focus on a variety of social inclusion and interactive opportunities when designing open space areas
- Consider the needs of companion animals when planning public open space.

Standard Levels

What we want to deliver.

Typically, for **sports spaces**:

- Sporting equipment and associated infrastructure, for example, wickets, practice nets, goal posts, line-markings
- Club rooms and related facilities
- Wayfinding signage
- Turf fields of sufficient size to accommodate a range of sporting activities
- Lighting
- Park benches, bins, drinking fountains, barbecues, and toilets
- Water-wise and energy-efficient irrigation systems

-
- Complementary recreational/sporting infrastructure like pump tracks, skate parks, and basketball courts
 - Carpark and bicycle facilities
 - CCTV and other security initiatives.

Typically, for **recreational spaces**:

- Recreation and leisure equipment that enable informal sports and physical activity, relaxation, and social interaction, such as playgrounds, and outdoor exercise equipment
 - Recreational/sporting infrastructure like small-scale table tennis, small bike tracks, and basketball half-courts
 - Wayfinding signage
 - Gazebos, park benches, bins, drinking fountains, barbecues, and toilets in larger district or neighbourhood parks or parks in high-density areas
 - Appropriate footpath and bollard lighting
 - Trails and nature walks
 - Community vegetable gardens, where community facilities exist
 - Water-wise and energy-efficient irrigation systems.
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Objective 2

Liveable POS

Public open space that supports urban liveability and recognises local identity, culture, and heritage.

The City's green spaces play a critical role in supporting urban liveability and community wellbeing by providing attractive spaces, relief from built-up environments, and places to socialise, exercise or relax and unwind from our busy lives.

Initiatives

How we will deliver our objective.

We will provide a balanced mix of attractive spaces for:

- Physical activity, including organised sports and informal physical exercise opportunities
- Leisure activities and social interactions
- Ecological conservation and opportunities to connect to our natural environments.

When considering the best-balanced mix of attractive spaces, we will:

- Design spaces that are accessible to all and include multi-generational activities
- Provide a specialised all-ability play space within the City
- Produce agreed levels of service and equipment provision for green space development
- Identify opportunities for community gardens, particularly where high-density housing limits the feasibility of planting private edible gardens
- Design green spaces to reduce urban heat and provide cooling opportunities through the provision of irrigated turf surfaces, natural shade, increased tree coverage, green corridors, and the development of blue-green spaces (vegetation with natural or created water bodies)
- Recognise Aboriginal culture and historical significance in the design and upgrade of green spaces
- Continue to work closely with the City's Museum to use the City's green spaces as an opportunity to highlight the historical significance of the place
- Provide educational signage to recognise the importance of Aboriginal culture, the City's history, and ecology.

Objective 3

Connected POS

Plan for green spaces that enhance the connection between private and public areas.

By enhancing the integration of private green spaces with streetscapes and public open space, streetscapes can take on several functions, such as providing shade, planting edible gardens, and creating opportunities for connecting with others.

Initiatives

How we will deliver our objective.

We will:

- Support the inclusion of significant shade trees and gardens when designing infrastructure
- Design streetscape and green spaces to support pedestrian movement and connectivity
- Encourage green space designs that promote social interaction, such as pocket parks, community gardens, and shade trees
- Review planning policies and strategies to support the connection between public-private green spaces.

Objective 4

Natural POS

Protect and enhance our natural environment and minimise environmental impact.

The retention of green spaces as public open space ensures the conservation of our natural environment, including native vegetation complexes, plant and animal species, and ecosystem services and functions.

Initiatives

How we will deliver our objective.

We will:

- Continue to protect and enhance our City's priority conservation areas, that is, P H Dod Reserve, Noble Park, Redcliffe Park East, Hassett Street Bushland, the Swan River foreshore, and our Bush Forever sites
- Use these sites to help educate and foster an appreciation for our natural environment
- Promote ecological conservation and provide opportunities to connect to our natural environments.

To conserve our natural assets, we will:

- Reduce the number of artificial assets within these areas and opt for assets that complement the natural environment. For example, use dirt pathways and avoid lighting that may adversely affect the native animals in the area
- Control weeds and revegetate with seeds and plants native to the area, wherever possible, to help restore pre-European vegetation complexes
- Reduce mechanical disturbance when constructing infrastructure like footpaths
- Implement interpretative and information signage that promotes living with wildlife
- Restrict domestic animals that may threaten native plants and animals by using means such as physical barriers or legislative controls
- Protect sensitive areas by using designated walkways to control public access and restrict or prevent vehicle access
- Plant local and native plant species in green spaces, including the revegetation of Environmentally Friendly Areas
- Implement controls to deter feral animals from accessing conservation areas
- Include water-wise plants and energy-efficient assets when designing green spaces
- Use water-wise and energy-efficient methods when irrigating green spaces
- Follow best practice guidelines when using fertilisers and pesticides to reduce potential adverse environmental impacts
- Monitor and trial alternative and non-chemical weed control.

Objective 5

Enduring POS

Develop public open space that is adaptable, sustainable, responsive, and resilient to future challenges.

To ensure the City is adaptive to change, key risks and challenges must be continually considered.

Initiatives

How we will deliver our objective.

We will:

- Ensure key risks and challenges are considered when developing business cases for green space enhancement
- Include Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles when developing and upgrading green spaces
- Ensure the future demographics of the area are considered when creating new and upgrading existing green spaces.

The key risks and challenges for ongoing assessment include:

- Predicting future demand and user-specific requirements
- Meeting community expectations in relation to CPTED principles and perceptions of safety
- Responding to community expectations and lifestyle changes
- Supporting and improving community health and wellbeing
- Recognising identity and cultural and historical connections within and for our public open spaces
- Evolving demand for public open spaces because of changes in property types, density and population
- Addressing environmental concerns and ensuring our resources are used wisely and our environmental impact is limited
- Protecting our vegetation, including increasing tree canopy cover and the diversity of our native plants and animals
- Connecting private and public areas to improve the functionality and diversity of our green spaces.

Implementation

The implementation of this Public Open Space Strategy will be guided by an Implementation Plan.

The Implementation Plan will identify the strategic actions required to enable the City to achieve its vision and outcomes for public open space.

The City will continue to consult with our Community to understand their needs and aspirations for public open space and review the Strategy and Implementation Plan at least every two years, or sooner as required, to help refine the strategy outputs.

The success of the Public Open Space Strategy will be measured by our Community's satisfaction with parks and open spaces. This will be undertaken through customer satisfaction surveys on a regular basis.